

SIB Funding

How the money has been spent

Staffing cost

- We do not have as everyone does this on a voluntary basis.

Equipment for youth sessions

- We have bought art and crafts materials that have been used in all sessions
- Computer and printer along with internet access which the young people have the opportunity to use looking for information on educational trips that they found interests and also used it for planning their sessions.
- Educational resources including books, board games, sports and dance equipment, DVD, TV, etc.

Special events,

- CRUS first birthday we had a party that included entertainment buffet, fundraising and craft stall demonstrating what the young people had been learning in the sessions. This was all planned and delivered by the young people themselves. Their achievements appeared in the Sunderland echo. The young people at the dance club also performed at the birthday celebration for the first time.

Volunteer expense

- were used to support the volunteers when their where on training play work level 2, community development and book keeping including bus fares, taxi with equipment, child care etc.

Educational trips

- Hall hill farm and white house farm, which let the young people get up close to the animals and hold certain animals including spiders. Snakes etc
- Sunderland Empire to see Chitty Chitty Bang Bang, Lazy Town, Cinderella.

Operating costs

- Were used for insurances and licences and the hire of the community centre, where we are based.

Outcomes and Future Plans

150+ registered members

Community r us celebrated its **first birthday** in July. Leading up to the event the young people worked extremely hard to organise the event. They used their session times plus Saturdays to meet up and plan. They decided on various fundraising stalls, stalls which displayed the work they had been doing along with demonstrations, buffet, tuck-shop, café, decorations etc... They also researched the internet and yellow pages for entertainment on the day and came up with magic Andrew. Through doing this the young people developed a wide range of skills, budgeting, comprising, communication, problem solving, working as a group but most of all was their confidence. The young people had not done this before and it was fantastic to see them come together as a group and deliver a fantastic day. This was enjoyed by all. The response from the public on the day was fantastic and praised us for all the hard work we had done but were very surprised that the work had actually come from the young people.

Community R Us,s Ethos is to bring ownership to its members and this was clearly met on that day.

The **youth clubs** are going extremely well.

The young people have been involved in The **Village in Bloom** competition.

At the community centre, we had a garden patch which had been out grown by weeds. Again the young people had decided to work together and design a mini garden for their club. We were donated some flowers off the village in bloom and the young people using their designs and planted them. They are also responsible for the up keep of the garden. At the beginning of each session, the young people water the surrounding areas and their garden. Following this the young people have concerns about the surrounding areas of the community centre which is again overgrown by weeds and have expressed interest in developing a vegetable garden. I am to approach the council to see if this is possible.

The **dance club** is at its best, they performed for the first time on the celebration day, which brought tears not only to me but the public, watching them on the day proved with just a little hard work and determination things can be done. Back in February these young people would hardly dance, they had little confidence and did not believe they would have got to the stage where they are at now. Performing on the day opened a gateway for them, now they can only move forward. They are now going to be performing at the Arts Centre for the second time.

We developed a **Hungry Caterpillar project with the drop in session**, parents and their children were able to make a variety of projects on this topic. The young children were able to meet new friends and develop a variety of skills and gain knowledge and understanding of their world, such as life cycles of animals and creatures. We purchased live caterpillars and the young

children were able to witness them growing into beautiful butterflies while understanding the need of looking after their environment. Although some of the children will be attending full time school in September, the parents are still going to meet up at the drop in and develop some ideas of how the group could move forward. The young children themselves will be moving up into the 4-8yrs Youth Club.

The volunteers have completed their childcare course and have successfully passed. They have also enrolled on the Childcare level 3 Course which started in September.

Does the project need to continue

All the sessions we have available at the moment are growing each week therefore the need for this project to continue is paramount. We offer a friendly environment for all ages to do activities in a safe and stimulating environment. The success of the session is visible by the number of young people attending with more each week.

We are currently looking for other funding at present including awards for all and community foundation etc.

Upcoming Plans and Ideas

Family Fun days

Develop a family fun group where families can come together and have fun with their children, whilst learning about a particular subject related to them.

Through doing a Family learning course with my child through SAFC foundation, I was able to identify the work I was doing with Community R us. I had a meeting with them and we are to work alongside each other with themselves possibly putting a course on with our members. As a taster they are coming to the centre in August to do a variety of sport related activities for our family fun days. Then another meeting in September to discuss possible ideas from both organisations.

Gardening Project

I have also had meetings with Washington old Hall to discuss possible work with themselves and the members of Community r us to encourage Planting/ growing/ cooking your own food.

Rickleton – Possible detached work

We were approached by a member of the public who lived in Rickleton, and she had identified the need of youth provision in her area. Following a

meeting we looked at the issues and came up with some possible detached work to start with and start to look for suitable premises around the area.

Network Group

Been opened a year now, it has give us the confidence to move this project forward. There are a lot of people approaching us now asking about what we do etc and commenting on how well we doing. We are proud of our success but it would not have happened without its members.

We are hopefully going to setup a network group with various organizations (fire, police, health, employment agencies etc.) to meet and discuss particular issues.

Other funding

We have secured funding from Community Chest for a new equipment for the kitchen to enable us to run the Community Café.

Thank you
Michelle Russell