

YOUTH

Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council

Motiv8 Projects

Sandwell MBC run a number of projects to help young people under our Motiv8 programme:

The Motiv8 Challenge was developed to tackle Anti-Social behaviour being carried out by young people with the aim of improving our communities, tackling youth unemployment and raising the aspirations of young people in Sandwell. The project is specifically aimed at young people in Sandwell who are Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) that may need support in gaining self-confidence, self-esteem, employability and life skills.

The Challenge is delivered four times a year in partnership with many agencies including West Midlands Fire and Police Service, HMP Oakwood, Connexions, Job Centre Plus and voluntary community organisations i.e. Sandwell Women's Aid, Bangladeshi Women's Association. The project offers a mix of thought provoking workshops and physical activities which then leads to a work experience placement within Sandwell Council or with one of our partners. The project consists of one week mix of practical workshops, covering equality/diversity, healthy eating, budgeting skills, drug/alcohol abuse and employability skills. The physical activities include canoeing, climbing skills, a community "digging day" and a night away from Sandwell in a residential/camping area.

We try to help the young people to become more confident in their own abilities, to believe in themselves and aim high to become a positive member of the community. Our first aim is to support young people that are in or have left the looked after care system and we have had some fantastic success stories of young people that have gone into apprenticeships, full time jobs, volunteering or even back into education.

Since June 2011 we have worked with over 200 young people, 49 have gained apprenticeships or secured jobs, 64 have progressed back into education. While these figures show a positive impact on unemployment, we have also made a positive impact by helping on a personal level i.e. help with family and relationship issues, personal finance and generally offering support and mentoring.

The Motiv8 Makeover project is aimed at improving tenancy sustainability and helping young tenants to manage their home successfully. This offers practical training in DIY and workshops on Personal Finance, Employability skills, Healthy Lifestyles. To date over 100 people have engaged with this project.

For further information contact:

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