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POVERTY



The Active Wellbeing Society working with
Birmingham City Council

Share Shacks: a holistic, place-based approach to tackle inequalities & support wellbeing

Share Shacks are community-led initiatives providing a welcoming space where people can borrow a wide range of household and sporting equipment for free to help save money, reduce waste, and promote a continual use of resources. Share Shacks also run different co-produced sessions where people can teach and learn different skills such as upcycling, woodwork or clothing repairs.

We've been working with Birmingham City Council and other voluntary and community sector organisations to help grow a network of free-to-use Warm Welcome sites in response to the cost-of-living crisis.

"I started coming here every week just before Christmas. I never felt so confident in myself for many years... I found everybody so friendly, no judgement. I felt safe and it's a fantastic place." Natasha, Share Shack visitor

Using a circular economy model and anti-poverty response, Share Shacks create safe spaces where the local community can meet up, connect with others, take part in activities, access a



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social welfare model of support with links to food provision or specialist support. We've provided slow cookers for free on long-term loan alongside our popular, weekly slow cooker sessions that show community members how to cook affordable and nutritious new recipes.

"This is the only place I come to, part from home. It's the only place I feel safe." Anon., volunteer

Share Shacks help to protect the wider environment and advocate a more sustainable way of living. They are there to benefit everyone, particularly people experiencing barriers from being more physically and socially active. Over 89% of Share Shack users and visitors are from the top 20% of the most deprived households nationally.

We work effectively with partner organisations such as MIND, Age Concern, housing providers, social prescribers and other local groups. Share Shacks host activities delivered by different organisations to create a holistic, wraparound model of support.

We know that people feel better connected to the places and people around them when visiting a Share Shack. The sharing of skills and meeting people helps to build confidence to manage and prioritise self-care, reduce loneliness and isolation, and supports people to live happy, healthier lives.

For further information contact:

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