

Appendix Two: Link4Life Case Study/Service Update

Skills4Sport and Volunteering Update

Volunteering

This area of work has blossomed over this last 18 months with regular quarterly Volunteer festivals/events held in various sites around Rochdale.

Link4Life have now hosted 6 events and each event grows in stature and organisation from the last.

Each event has around at least 20 to 30 Charity's, Community groups, Voluntary organisations, Clubs and Societies, as well as a whole range of other organisations who work in the Borough with volunteers in attendance.

It has established itself on the calendar, and is an event that all who attend value (organisations and the passing public) as it allows groups to network with each other on a regular basis, and also provides interested members of the public with information that allows them to make decisions about how best to volunteer in their local communities.

It allows them to market who they are, what they do, where they operate from, what services they offer/provide and most importantly it enables groups to identify people who enquire at these events on how they can engage with them as volunteers, offering their time and their skillsets, to assist the groups to expand or continue to deliver the valuable services they provide in the Borough.

The most recent event was our most ambitious venture yet as we held a big open air festival on June 1st on the Butts in Rochdale Town Centre, with the Fire service (who turned up with an Engine and a fully enclosed 5 a side kick pitch), The Fusiliers and the Police also attending (for the 1st time) alongside all the other 20 plus groups.

This coincided with the last day of the school half term so loads of families were around, and also it was the 1st day of National Volunteers week, so we had great coverage on social media and locally with the Mayor attending and supporting this initiative that we have developed gradually over the last 18 months with these quarterly events.

We also are running a Sports themed event on June 16th to coincide with the start of the Football World Cup where we are focusing on community volunteer sports clubs where once again we will have the 5 a side kick pitch open for use.

Skills4sport (In partnership with RBC/Hopwood Hall NLDC (community) and Creative Sports and Leisure)

This last 12 months has seen a growth in the number of courses we offer on this highly in demand pre-employment programme.

The funding protecting this delivery is predominantly from external grants

Link4life has seen recruitment into its workforce of around 40 staff from these courses, with some really life-changing case studies in this number, where individuals would never have found work without our delivery of this valuable project over its lifetime.

Other successful students (around 10) have moved to other areas of work with numerous other local employers in Health, Care, Retail and Warehousing to name just a few.

If you go back to the calendar year from April 17 to June 18 we have run 10 courses with 120 students in total

In this academic year (Sept 17 to July 18) Link4Life have:

- Hosted 7 courses
- 2 of these were targeted at 14 and over and were opened to candidates in Work and in Education (to any upper age) a new element to the project.
- 5 of the established mainstream events have been run for 16+ candidates (to any upper age), Unemployed and not in Education
- Delivered to 85 students
- All taking 5 qualifications/certificates
 - i. Principles of Coaching
 - ii. Community Sports Leaders
 - iii. Emergency 1st Aid
 - iv. Coaching Disabled performers
 - v. Safeguarding and Protecting Children

All participants are completing extensive volunteering/work experience of at least 20 hrs each (so a total of 1700hrs volunteering/Work Experience provide via this project).

For more information on the Skills4Sport Course or Volunteering with Link4Life please contact:

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