



## **ANNUAL REPORT**

**FOR**

**vinvolved team Sheffield**

**2009 - 2010**

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# Introduction

This report covers the period from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2009 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2010.

The report has been produced by Fiona Ross, Youth Volunteer Development Manager for the SOVA vinvolved team Sheffield.

## *History of the Project*

In April 2008 the vinvolved team Sheffield was launched, led by SOVA in partnership with Sheffield Futures. The project followed on from the previous Millennium Volunteers and v funded projects in Sheffield.

## *Aim of the project*

The vinvolved team has been created to achieve the following aims and objectives in the 3 years it is currently funded April 2008 – March 2011):

- Create 6,925 youth volunteering opportunities including full time, part time and short term opportunities
- Broker 3,065 new young people into volunteering opportunities
- Broker 1,226 existing volunteers into new opportunities
- Champion youth led action through a Youth Action Team
- Work with 100 new agencies per year as well as existing organisations to provide training and capacity building to increase quality volunteering opportunities and enable them to engage and work with young people effectively
- Ensure that young people from diverse backgrounds have the opportunity and are actively encouraged to volunteer

The vinvolved team will support any 16-25 year old in Sheffield who wishes to find a volunteering opportunity in Sheffield and any organisation who wishes to have young people placed with them as volunteers.

## *Funding*

The project is funded by v, the national youth volunteering service. v has funded 107 vinvolved teams across England and Wales from April 2008 until March 2011.

## *Staffing*

The SOVA project is staffed by:

- 1 full time Youth Volunteer Development Manager (YVDM)
- 1 full time Youth Volunteer Advisor (YVA)

1 part-time (0.6) Youth Volunteer Advisor (YVA)

In August 2009, the YVDM left the project and was replaced in September 2009. In November 2008, the part-time YVA left the project and was replaced in December 2009.

The project also hosts the Youth Action Team (YAT), a group of 16 – 25 year olds who act as ambassadors for youth volunteering in Sheffield. Their mission statement is:

*“We are a group of creative young people who aim to inspire and enable a culture of volunteering amongst young people in Sheffield whilst raising the profile of youth volunteering and celebrating its achievements”.*

### **Partners**

SOVA are working in direct partnership with Sheffield Futures (SF). The SF team is made up of:

- 1 full time Youth Volunteer Development Manager
- 1 full time Youth Volunteer Advisor
- 1 part-time (0.6) Youth Volunteer Advisor
- 1 part-time (0.2) Administrative Support

In April 2009, the part-time YVA left the project and was replaced in July 2009. In December 2009, the part-time YVA left the project and was replaced in January 2010.

A steering group consisting of the SOVA YVDM and SOVA Area Manager and the Sheffield Futures YVDM and the Managing Director of Sheffield Futures meet quarterly to review the progress of the project.

The involved team also works in partnership with various groups across Sheffield to provide volunteering opportunities.

# Objectives and Targets

## *Targets for 2009 - 2010*

The involved team will develop:

1250 short term (taster) volunteering opportunities

1000 part-time volunteering opportunities

50 full time volunteering opportunities

The involved team will broker:

1030 new young people into volunteering opportunities

410 existing young volunteers into new volunteering opportunities

For 2008-9, the team did not achieve the target of young people successfully brokered into volunteering by 131, therefore the total number of young people to be brokered for 2009 -10 is **1571**.

The involved team will work with 100 new organisations to develop new volunteering opportunities for young people.

The following targets were achieved during 2009 - 10:

1571 / 1571 Young people brokered into volunteering opportunities

**100% achieved**

1465 / 1250 Short term opportunities developed

**17.2% exceeded target**

1309 / 1000 Part time opportunities developed

**30.9% exceeded target**

13 / 50 Full time opportunities developed

**74% under achieved target**

We under achieved on the full time volunteering opportunity due to:

- Concentrating on meeting the increased demand for short term and part time volunteering opportunities
- Organisations have limited interest in having full time volunteers
- The impact of Future Jobs Fund has influenced many organisations to use this funding rather than recruit volunteers

Over the past 12 months we have brokered and developed opportunities to over 100 new organisations. However, it has sometimes been difficult to get organisations to formally register with our service.

## **Achievements of period**

### ***REACH Achieved***

In January 2010, the involved team achieved REACH, a self-assessment framework designed and developed by Youth Action Network to support organisations in developing the quality of their work with young people.

### ***Events***

Our Youth Action Team has become an effective and dynamic part of the Project. They have raised awareness about volunteering to young people and the wider community through a variety of events.

- **The Hopper Dash**

Over 75 young people volunteered for the Hopper Dash, a space hopper relay race held in a local park. The YAT organised the event with support from the involved team and in the process raised over £1400 for the Sheffield Children's Hospital Charity.

- **The Festive Wrap**

The YAT asked local businesses and people to donate goods in aid of two local organisations; The Cathedral Archer Project, a homeless charity and Sharrow Sure Start, a project that supports families. Over 90 young people volunteered for the event by sorting and wrapping the donations ready for distributing to the organisations. Comments from the organisations in the feedback letters included:

*"the smile on parents' faces said it all"*

and

*" ..will make such a difference to our service users this winter, and to know other people are thinking of them"*

- **The vBig Thank You Celebration Event**

This high profile event gave the YAT and the involved team an opportunity to showcase the impact of youth volunteering in Sheffield. The event was held at the Millennium Gallery and was opened by the Rt. Hon. David Blunkett MP. Other dignitaries at the event included MPs, Meg Munn and Clive Betts, alongside Leader of Sheffield City Council, Cllr. Paul Scriven. Organisations including Art in the Park, Girlguiding UK and Get Hooked on Life showcased their volunteers and paid tribute to the amazing work they have achieved.

### **SOVA Survey**

Due to the nature and size of the project, we were unable to issue every young person with the SOVA survey who accessed the service in Jan - March 2010. We issued the survey to every young person who visited our office to access the service during this period.

The survey was issued to 24 young people aged 16 - 25 years. The findings from the SOVA survey were as follows:

Please rate the quality of help you have received from SOVA  
Good = 24      Satisfactory = 0

How likely would you be to recommend SOVA to other people  
Likely = 23      Possibly = 1

## Participants

The involved team work with any young person aged 16 – 25 years in Sheffield who is interested in volunteering.

We deliver our service via:

- One-to-one brokerage interviews
- Group presentations and discussions
- Email, postal and telephone brokerages
- Providing recognition to young people through the national awards
- Signposting to other youth organisations, where appropriate
- Referrals from other agencies e.g. Connexions, Youth Offending Service and Transitions Team
- Producing print media to promote specific opportunities
- Developing a website and other e-communications to promote volunteering to young people i.e. Twitter

## **Project development**

We have created links with the following organisations:

A Mind Apart Theatre Company  
Activity Sheffield  
Age Concern Sheffield  
Alzheimer's Society – Sheffield  
Amy's Retreat  
Art in the Park  
ASSIST Sheffield  
Big Lunch – Eden Project  
BTCV  
Cancer Research UK  
Catch 22  
Cathedral Archer Project  
Chilypep  
Creative Action Network  
Ellesmere Youth Project  
Embrace – The Children's Society  
Emmaus  
Endeavour  
Five Weirs Walk Trust  
Friends of Richmond Park  
Get Hooked on Life  
Girlguiding UK  
Hallam FM Cash for Kids  
Heeley City Farm  
Highfields Adventure Playground  
Joint Learning Disabilities Service – Sheffield City Council  
Lane End Farm Trust  
Lowedges Community Safety Forum  
Macmillan Cancer Support  
Major Sports Events Unit – Sheffield City Council  
Marie Curie Cancer Care Sheffield  
Parks & Countryside Unit – Sheffield City Council  
PASH (Peer Activities in Sexual Health)  
Peace in the Park  
Pitsmoor Adventure Playground  
Playing for Success  
Project Buzz  
Rambler's Association  
Reading Matters – Sheffield & Rotherham  
RSPCA – Sheffield Animal Centre  
SAVTE (Sheffield Association for the Voluntary Teaching of English)  
Sheena Amos Youth Trust  
Sheffield Children's Hospital Charity  
Sheffield Churches Council for Community Care  
Sheffield LINK

Sheffield Mencap & Gateway  
Sheffield Mind  
Sheffield Royal Society for the Blind  
Sheffield Samaritans  
Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust  
Sheffield UK Youth Parliament  
Sheffield University Nightline  
South Yorkshire Clubs for Young People  
South Yorkshire Energy Centre  
South Yorkshire Police  
St. Luke's Hospice  
Streetforce – Sheffield City Council  
SYEDA (South Yorkshire Easting Disorder Association)  
Trading Standards – Sheffield City Council  
Whirlow Hall Farm Trust  
WRVS  
YASY (Youth Association of South Yorkshire)

Please note this list is not exhaustive.

### ***Conferences & Events Attended***

#### ***v Regional Forums***

The YVDM attends the Forum every quarter to receive updates from our funder on new marketing campaigns, discuss issues facing teams and look at areas of good practice.

#### ***Volunteering Together Event, October 2010***

The aim of this event was to encourage younger and older people to work together in volunteering.

#### ***Jobs Fair & Advice Days, January 2010***

The aim of this event was to encourage young people, particularly NEETS into volunteering, employment and education.

### ***Training Undertaken***

Fiona Ross, YVDM has attended:  
ILM Level 3 in First Line Management – Pass  
SOVA Safeguarding Training  
SOVA Safer Recruitment Training

Tamar Wharam, YVA, has attended:  
SOVA Safeguarding Training  
SOVA Safer Recruitment Training  
1 day VAS Training in Volunteer Management

Jess Macnair, YVA, has attended:

SOVA Safeguarding Training

***New initiatives undertaken***

**vinvolved team website**

<http://www.vinvolvedteamsheffield.co.uk/>

As e-communication is becoming more important to young people, we invested in the design of a website to promote the project and publicise the work of the YAT. Since the website went live in June 2009, it has had over 5000 hits and continues to be a great way for young people to refer themselves to our project.

**Twitter**

Other vinvolved teams and our funder, v, use Twitter to publicise events and news. We have piloted the use of Twitter within our project, whilst following IT usage guidelines to engage both young people and organisations.

**Publicity & Merchandise**

We have utilised our links with Get Hooked on Life, to develop and design information booklets for young people and prospective partner organisations. These have proved very popular and have been particularly useful at events and presentations to promote our project.

We have also used a range of promotional merchandise including pens, canvas bags and key rings that have proved popular with young people to promote volunteering. Every young person that starts a volunteering opportunity is issued with an "I ♥ Volunteering" bag, as well as an information pack of the national awards. The awards are part of a national scheme that provides recognition for volunteering.

## **Objectives and targets for next year**

For 2010 -11, the involved team will develop:

1500 short term (taster) volunteering opportunities

1250 part-time volunteering opportunities

100 full time volunteering opportunities

The involved team will broker:

1035 new young people into volunteering opportunities

416 existing young volunteers into new volunteering opportunities

The full time volunteering target for 2009 -10 was not achieved but the team exceeded the target for short term and part-time volunteering opportunities. We have requested clarification from our funder, v, as to whether our targets will be revised for 2010 -11 to reflect this but have received no update.

## **Conclusion**

We have experienced a very challenging but successful year. Staff changes have created a new team dynamic that has achieved and exceeded in nearly all our target areas. We have attracted a diverse group of young people to volunteering and supported local, regional and national organisations to engage effectively with young people.

## Appendices

### Appendix A Diversity Data

The following information is collated as part of the monitoring process required by our funder, v. It is based on the number of young people Counted as Actively Volunteering.

#### By gender

Male	508	32.3%
Female	1057	67.3%
Preferred not to say	4	0.3%
Not completed	2	0.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1571</b>	<b>100%</b>

#### By age

Age 16 - 17	588	37.5%
Age 18 - 19	318	20.2%
Age 20 - 25	665	42.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1571</b>	<b>100%</b>

#### By disability\*

Learning difficulty	45	2.8%
Learning disability	24	1.5%
Long term or life-limiting illness	4	0.2%
Mental health issue	20	1.3%
Multiple disabilities	4	0.2%
Physical disability	10	0.6%
Sensory disability	5	0.3%
Preferred not to say	57	3.6%
None of the above	1280	81.0%
Not completed	134	8.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1583</b>	<b>100%</b>

\*volunteers can report more than one area; total responses is 1583

### By ethnicity

<b>Asian or Asian British</b>		
Indian	41	2.6%
Pakistani	89	5.7%
Bangladeshi	16	1.0%
Other Asian background	26	1.7%
<b>Black or Black British</b>		
Caribbean	22	1.4%
African	54	3.4%
Other Black background	11	0.7%
<b>Chinese</b>	46	2.9%
<b>Other ethnic group</b>	39	2.5%
<b>Dual heritage</b>		
Black Caribbean & White	21	1.3%
Black African & White	3	0.2%
Asian & White	14	0.9%
<b>Roma &amp; Travellers</b>		
Roma	0	0%
Irish Traveller	2	0.1%
Other Traveller	0	0%
<b>White</b>		
White British	1079	68.7%
White Irish	7	0.4%
<b>Other White background</b>	28	1.8%
<b>Preferred not to say</b>	20	1.3%
<b>Not completed</b>	53	3.4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1571</b>	<b>100%</b>

### By employment status

Employed	198	12.6%
NEET	148	9.4%
In education/learning	1040	66.2%
In training	13	0.8%
Self-employed	1	0.1%
Other	18	1.1%
Preferred not to say	49	3.1%
Not completed	104	6.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1571</b>	<b>100%</b>

### By highest educational achievement

No Qualifications	76	4.8%
Below Level 2	128	8.1%
Above Level 2	358	22.8%
NVQ or equivalent	62	3.9%
A Level	386	24.6%
Degree	224	14.3%
Post-graduate	53	3.4%
Other	67	4.3%
Preferred not to say	55	3.5%
Not completed	162	10.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1571</b>	<b>100%</b>

### By Sexual Orientation

Bisexual	25	1.6%
Gay	23	1.5%
Heterosexual	1145	72.9%
Lesbian	13	0.8%
Other	13	0.8%
Not sure	0	0%
Preferred not to say	152	9.7%
Not completed	200	12.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1571</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Appendix B Case Studies

Members of the YAT were asked to feedback on their experiences of volunteering. The three case studies have not been amended in any way.

### Case Study One – Anna

#### YOU THE VOLUNTEER

- **What inspired you to take part in this volunteering activity?**  
I'd been part of YAT for a while and it was a great opportunity to physically help needy people and see loads of young people willing to do so as well!
- **What did you enjoy about this volunteering activity?**  
Taking a bigger role as I was more experienced from the previous project
- **Has it helped you improve your job prospects and if so, how?**  
Definitely. I learnt a lot about organising events and because I've had practice at it. I've had much more experience than some friends my age.
- **How has this project helped you develop personally and in ways that might help you at work?**  
I've grown in confidence and done things I normally wouldn't have done.

#### THE PROJECT – Hopper Dash 09

- **What sort of things did you get up to on the project?**  
Flyering, helping at the actual event, writing letters, I can't really remember!
- **Was the project everything you expected?**  
I was sceptical about the number of young people and the number of presents we would get. But it was overwhelming! So many more than expected came.
- **Will you continue to be involved? Why?**  
Yes, I've got a few months before I start university.  
I like volunteering because I get to meet loads of new people and develop my skills which will help me in the future.

### **THE LOCAL COMMUNITY**

- **What impact do you think this project has had on your local community?**

I think the 2 charities were very pleased with the amount of donations, and it must have helped them and saved them a lot of time having to collect them themselves. Also, the amount of young people who came and helped just shows a different side to young people that we're shown in the media.

- **What feedback have you had from your local community?**  
They were very grateful.

### **Case Study Two - David**

#### **YOU THE VOLUNTEER**

- **What inspired you to take part in this volunteering activity?**

The idea of the YAT seemed appealing and I was looking for a form of volunteering. This type of volunteering suited my university course, as other forms of volunteering (Samaritans etc) I was interested in had night shifts and was less flexible.

- **What did you enjoy about this volunteering activity?**

Meeting new people has been great and a lot of fun. Knowing that I'm having a good time working on a positive project is also great. I enjoyed working on a project which has an end result which we could aim towards.

- **Has it helped you improve your job prospects and if so, how?**

I think it has. I'll be able to use the YAT experience to show that I'm good at working in a team and working on projects. I think working in the YAT shows some willingness to do extra, rather than just doing what's necessary, for example doing more than what's expected of us at university and college etc.

- **How has this project helped you develop personally and in ways that might help you at work?**

Being able to work in a team and get along with other people is a good personal development. It's also given me more of an idea on how to organise projects such as the hopper dash.

## **THE PROJECT – Hopper Dash 09**

- **What sort of things did you get up to on the project?**

I was involved in organising the entertainment and the caterers for the event as well as the track and equipment. During the run up to event I was emailing and contacting different entertainers to sign up performers. Our group also gathered donations of gifts for our raffle.

- **Was the project everything you expected?**

The caterers and entertainers all dropped out so that was disappointing; however the actual event was great! People seemed to enjoy the day and we raised lots of money which was great. Being able to see the project happen was good.

- **Will you continue to be involved? Why?**

Yes I'm going to continue working in the YAT. It's good fun being part of the YAT and I've made some good friends as well. Also it will continue to help me in my personal development and skills which will help in getting a job.

## **THE LOCAL COMMUNITY**

- **What impact do you think this project has had on your local community?**

For the local children's hospital the event has had a great impact, but for the YAT it has raised our profile along with Vinvolved. For future events, hopefully there'll be more people recognising us.

- **What feedback have you had from your local community?**

I'm not sure. For the hopper dash there has been good feedback, with all the attending people mentioning that it was a great event.

## **Case Study Three - Zaosh**

### **YOU THE VOLUNTEER- Celebration Event**

- **What inspired you to take part in this volunteering activity?**

I thought it was important to highlight the great work volunteers are doing to relevant members of organisations. I think that the

more people realise this work is being done the more we can get others to join in as well

- **What did you enjoy about this volunteering activity?**  
I enjoyed drafting and tendering my speech so that I had something for all relevant groups and keeping the register at a balance between formality and openness
- **Has it helped you improve your job prospects and if so, how?**  
It has definitely improved my job prospects as it has given me exposure to politicians and taught me how to address dignitaries. It has improved my organisation and project management skills as well as my team working

### **THE PROJECT**

- **What sort of things did you get up to on the project?**  
I first helped out with general admin and organisational tasks. One of the major items was chasing up all the local organisations and getting them to fill in an rsvp form. This was tedious but having the teams overall goal of a successful event in mind helped me power through.
- **Was the project everything you expected?**  
There were definitely some changes to my expectations as for instance I had never seen the hall before the day of the event, I didn't know what the stage would look like. But I don't think any of the expectations I had were downgraded, simply altered
- **Will you continue to be involved? Why?**  
I definitely will continue as I can see that the projects we undertake end up being great successes and I want to continue being a part in their future.

### **THE LOCAL COMMUNITY**

- **What impact do you think this project has had on your local community?**  
I think it helped show the depth of projects we have running in Sheffield and the kinds of successes there have been in the past
- **What feedback have you had from your local community?**  
The people I spoke to said the event was well organised and would love to be a part of it again.