

Organisation Name	Reference	2022-05-YC13
Solihull Carers Trust		

Visit Date	Visited By
28 May 2024	David Loudon

Grant Summary
<p>TT granted Solihull Carers Trust (SCT) £65,000 in October 2022 to fund an individual who would be responsible for developing and managing a Peer mentoring and befriending service for young carers in the Solihull area.</p> <p>The service is developing well and consists of one-to-one meetings, group meetings, drop ins, training sessions and a Young Ambassador Award for young mentors.</p>

Visit Details (People met, premises visited etc.)
<p>I visited SCT's office in the centre of Solihull and met Gina Ward who is responsible for courses at SCT and Ruth Geoghegan who is responsible for the mentoring program. I also met the CEO Brandon who I had met at a Charity lunch the previous week. On both occasions he expressed his gratitude for our grant and was complimentary about the support they had received from Cranfield Trust which of course we had introduced.</p> <p>I also met three of the young mentors, Tally, Theo and Shakiel. It was fascinating to hear them talk about their experiences as mentors and it was clear they thoroughly enjoyed their roles and found it particularly rewarding when some class attendees who started off being withdrawn and nervous, soon joined in. A great example of young people helping others within the framework established by SCT to improve young carers confidence and often school attendance too.</p> <p>Ruth has nine mentors whom she works with and the project operates in 6 schools in the area. They analyse the results of their efforts and in year 1 of this project had helped 58 young carers and hope to repeat this during the current year (year 2).</p>

Information about the Organisation
<p>There are approximately 1000 young carers in the Solihull area (aged 5-25) and SCT is clearly well respected locally.</p> <p>They are actively involved in Carers week (10-16 June) and I was given a copy of the activity program for this important week. Input for the activities comes from the young carers and includes, a trip to Weston Super Mare, a charity walk, a cinema afternoon and a pamper day.....a varied program with opportunities for SCT's health engagement team to promote an awareness of the support which SCT can provide.</p>

Issues and Comments
<p>Clearly a very energetic group who are making a difference to young carers lives. They produce a quarterly program of activities too, to engage with the community and I was pleased to see Triangle Trust's support was recognised on an advertisement for their Volunteer Young Mentor program.</p>

Gina and Ruth expressed their thanks to us at TT and I noticed they rely on local Rotary, Lions and had received a donation from Jaguar Land Rover, Solihull (£3k) to support young adult carers.

A thoroughly worthwhile visit and good to see TT funds at work.

Other Feedback

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