

Kent Challenger Games

The Kent Challenger Games works to advance the lives and relieve the needs of young people in Kent in particular those that are vulnerable and disengaged from society due to physical disability, a medical condition, intellectual difficulties, emotional or behavioural problems, or learning difficulties. They do this by running specialised leisure activities which develop their skills and promote new hobbies and interests.

The grant - £5,000 was awarded to the group the 2021 games costs, based at the Julie Rose Stadium in Ashford.

The impact - The grant allowed the organise to cover the core running costs of the games, including the venue hire and equipment needed to allow 590 children and young people to take part. 50 schools took part bringing students to the games where they were able to compete and take part in sporting activities no matter their skillset or ability.

The games allowed the children and young people the opportunity to build skills but also foster new friendships as students were able to work with other students from local schools. The day was a great success and brought many who would not normally have access to these kinds of sports or activities a new learning experience.



Step-Out Outdoor Learning, Training and Therapy CIC

Step-Out aims to make the woodland environment accessible to anyone. They do this by running a variety of woodland activities for families, children and young people who are from the most disadvantaged backgrounds across the county.

The grant - £7,243 was awarded to the organisation to support the Cycling Academy.

The impact - The funding allowed the costs of staff, bicycles and equipment to be purchased to run the academy. This allowed 40 at risk youth access to the woodland to create their own cycling tracks using wood and the natural landscapes of the countryside where the organisation is based.

Part of this work also included workshops and courses to allow the young people to gain skills and qualifications in mountain biking and bike maintenance. All those who took part were able to gain these qualifications and have been able to take part in a new activity that they could not access in mainstream education. It has enabled some to reintegrate in education and raise aspirations.



M is a victim of domestic abuse and his father is in prison. He has not been in a traditional educational establishment for about 6 years. He consistently got expelled for physical violence towards his teachers, mentors, etc. I have been working intensively with him for 2.5 years and he has never had a 'formal' lesson in that time. He has done bushcraft and woodland working but refused to work indoors.

He was the first student to attend Cycling Academy and has really been the driving force behind the progression of the Project. He has learned to repair and maintain bikes, how to order parts, how to speak on the phone to book sessions, how to ride a bike safely and wear the correct PPE. He has helped build the track and spent four sessions riding with an Instructor he didn't know from Quench Cycles. More than that, he has started relating to other students on the Project and got the confidence to attend some maths lessons at his specialist school to help him do the accounts for his Bike Business when he leaves school (he is 13 at the moment).