Shared Values – Celebrating Similarities and Understanding Differences

Olchfa School, March 6th 2023, 9.30am-2.30pm

29 Young People aged 14 –18 attended from four Secondary Schools / 6th forms.

The purpose of the workshop was for young people to work together under the guidance of facilitating council staff and engage with Small Steps, undertaking discussions and activities throughout the day that aimed to celebrate the group's similarities, respectfully discuss differences, and promote shared values.

Favourite part of the day – Creative tasks that give us time to discuss what we had learnt previously

Small Steps provide training for schools and communities to educate young people about the dangers of far right extremism.

Small Steps Website

Schools were made aware that Small Steps would be providing a guest speaker for this workshop.
The young people who attended found the guest speaker's session to be highly engaging, interesting, relevant, and worthwhile.
Please read on for more detail about this part of the workshop...

Context and Rationale

This workshop session was arranged commissioned by the Council's Prevent Co-ordinator and arranged by Beth Thomas the Community Engagement and Partnerships Officer against a backdrop of request from young people to discuss topics within a safe & facilitated environment, in addition to addressing requests from pastoral staff for young people to experience opportunities to respectfully express differing views and raise their awareness of the risks of radicalisation.

Members of staff who supported the delivery of this workshop:

- Sandra Perrett, Channel, Prevent, and Hate Crime Co-Ordinator
- Emily Bullingham, Community Cohesion Officer
- Carys Jones and Danielle Rickson, Children and Young People's Partnership and Involvement Officers
- Josh Price, Participation and Children's Rights Officer

Making It Work

Collectively set the rules for the session

Most people are more likely to abide by rules/norms that they themselves have been a part of setting.

Check-In and Icebreaker

Build rapport, and express feelings and emotions

Participants largely find that having established interpersonal connections helps ease them into working together.

Workshop 1 – Source Squares Speed Debating

"The Three Little Pigs video was very relatable from another perspective"

Source Squares

Young people have asked for opportunities to discuss potentially controversial topics through safely facilitated means. Source Squares encourage Critical Thinking and Problem Solving.

Speed Debating

Speed Debating encourages Critical Thinking and Problem Solving Skills, and Communication Skills whilst allowing young people opportunities to discuss a wide range of topics.

"My favourite part of the day was Speed Debating!"

Workshop 2 – Where's The Line? Art Murals

"I was the only person in my group who did not agree with the statement"

Where's The Line?

The purpose of this task is to allow free expression of emotions and gather the group's views on a range of topical issues. Including physical movement allows quieter voices the opportunity to express their views non-verbally.

Art Murals

Participants worked together to create a lasting resource conveying positive messages that will be displayed in areas of high footfall as a counter-narrative to hateful messages or offensive visuals.

"Look up the old saying 'the old ways are the best ways'"

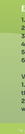
"The message we want to convey is that we are all equal and we should be treated as such"

Small Steps

The guest speaker shared personal experiences of his childhood and teenage years growing up in the UK.

He shared details with young people about how he became involved in supporting and later promoting far right extremist ideology and hateful narratives.

The speaker engaged young people in discussions about the impact of this lifestyle on himself and the local community before talking about his conscious efforts to move away from extremism and the restitution that he has endeavoured to undertake since.



"I used to hit you about so much I feel sick"

Breakfast, Lunch, and Snacks...

Healthy options available at the start of the day helped the young people to settle in and provided them with energy for the session.

Tea, coffee, hot chocolate and water were available throughout the session.

Fresh fruit and juice was available throughout the session to provide a quick energy burst.

Despite the fire alarm interrupting the lunch break, everyone enjoyed the food and drinks.

A wide variety of healthy lunch options were available that catered to everyone's dietary needs.

"The food is amazing here, I wish I could eat this every day!"

"Thank you for providing us with a delicious lunch"

"I enjoyed the food and drinks"

"I enjoyed the food and drinks"

"I'm convinced we be could extra before for seconds! lol xxxx"

"I enjoyed the food and drinks"

"I enjoyed the food and drinks"

Evaluations, Comments, Feedback...

Young people were offered opportunities to share their views about the session overall and were invited to provide specific details about the impact of the session on themselves and their school community.

Evaluation Questions:

1. What went well today?
2. My favourite part of the day was...
3. Something that made me think today was...
4. Something I will mentally take away from today is...
5. Today would be even better if we had more/less of...
6. What could we improve on next time?

Votes:

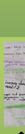
1. I would / would not like to come to more sessions like this in the future.
2. Today was a worthwhile use of my time/was just ok/was a waste of my time.

"It gave me a low you never know what's in it, especially if it's really sweet"

Check-In
Participants introduced themselves, saying their name and pronouns, what school they attended, and how they were feeling.

'Two Truths and One Lie' Icebreaker
Participants individually made three statements, two of which were true and one of which was a lie. The others guessed which statement was the lie.

Making It Work Rule Setting
The group norms that were suggested encouraged participation and respect for each other and the workspace.



Source Squares
Source Squares have a stimulus/source in the middle with questions around the outside like a dartboard. The questions get harder the further out from the source, thus increasing the critical thinking and problem solving skills required to answer worked through the task. We used seven Source Squares in total - five images and two videos.

Speed Debating
Participants sat in two circles, facing each other. Each pair had a debating topic at hand. Each pair debated/discussed the topic before moving one chair to their left. In this new seat they found a new debate partner opposite them, and a new topic at their feet. The groups worked their way around the circle, debating each of the available topics.

Art Murals

Where's The Line?
A continuum line was established with signs saying 'Acceptable' at one end of the room, 'Unacceptable' at the other, and 'Ambivalent/Unsure' in the middle. Statements were read out before participants moved to the position of the continuum that conveyed their opinion and discussion of the reasons.

Evaluation Questions

Voting Questions

What went well?
- We had a lot
- Everybody talked
- Spoke to new people and heard opinions
- Learnt new things
- We had good discussions
- Everyone was nice
- Dynamic talk - interesting and exciting
- Good to have a break from school - fun
- Good to have people from other schools of Derby
- Fun activities
- Free pizza!
- Free food
- Good to have a break from school
- Interesting topics
- Good to have a break from the normal lessons
- Activities - The pizza was the 100k joke
- Free food
- How hard it was to call Bryan one of my partners xx

My favourite part of the day was...
- Speed Debating - quick, easy, able to express opinions easily, listed to other people's opinions, learnt about other people's views
- Lunch - free pizza! Yum! Thank you! xx
- Breakfast and discussion
- Breakfast and Speed Debating
- Chat with people - Speed Debating, Breakfast, Lunch, Workshop, other
- Creative Cloud - Speed Debating, Breakfast, Lunch, Workshop, other
- Speed Debating - Speed Debating, Breakfast, Lunch, Workshop, other
- Free food - Speed Debating, Breakfast, Lunch, Workshop, other
- Speed Debating x 3
- Speed Debating x 2

Something that made me think today was...
- The Speed Debate - it's so hard to think of a response in the time allotted
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- How hard it was to call Bryan one of my partners xx

Something I will mentally take away from today is...
- You can be anyone you want to be - you don't have to be what the world wants you to be
- Everybody is different - everybody's different and that's what makes us all unique and beautiful
- Everybody is different - everybody's different and that's what makes us all unique and beautiful
- The importance of being open to other people's views
- Be open minded
- Be open minded
- Be open minded
- Be open minded
- Be open minded
- Be open minded
- Be open minded
- Be open minded

Today would be even better if we had more/less of...
- Nothing
- Nothing
- Nothing
- Nothing
- Nothing
- Nothing
- Nothing
- Nothing
- Nothing
- Nothing

How could we improve on next time?
- More opportunities like this - I'm sad it's over!
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Actions and Next Steps:

Action	Personnel	Completion Date
Share what happened here today with school council to share with KS4/5 year groups.	Young people and school staff	Throughout this week
Share participants' feedback with Small Steps	Sandra Perrett	By March 20th 2023
Increase awareness of future sessions and opportunities for young people and young people of colour by promoting sessions to a range of Secondary Schools and Sixth Forms.	Beth Thomas, Sandra Perrett, Sandra Perrett, Carys Jones	More staff will be involved in promoting the future opportunities.
Consider competitions, challenges and prizes in future sessions.	Beth Thomas	Prizes will be subject to budget conditions but this will be considered.
Include activities that involve young people explicitly mixing with others from other schools	Beth Thomas	Ongoing
Include more interactive games and activities that don't require talking.	Beth Thomas	Ongoing
Allow more time for debating	Beth Thomas	Ongoing
Include more icebreakers. Include less icebreakers.	Beth Thomas	Will provide an option extra ice-breaker in future.
Provide a detailed trigger warning including sensitive/difficult topics that will be used during the session.	Beth Thomas	Ongoing

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THANK YOU FOR DELIVERING!