







Social Creatives Case Study

Our Story:

⇒ The first session was held in 2022 and the group was called 17-24ers at that time.
⇒ At first, we met monthly for creative and wellbeing activities. We now meet twice a month and are able to invite other staff to join us and share their skills.
⇒ The sessions became very popular and the growing group renamed itself Social Creatives in 2024.
⇒ New friendships have been made and new skills have been learnt.
⇒ Participants have gone on to find volunteering roles, University places and employment.
⇒ Some participants have led workshops for the group, including jewellery making, journalling and most recently a session on confidence and how to build it.

Aim:

To create a safe place for 17-24 year olds to socialise, make friends, learn new skills, take part in creative, nature-based activities and improve their mental health.

Background:

After noticing that a number of young people were attending some of our other regular sessions, we wondered if they might like a group of their own where they could set the agenda and share their skills and ideas. This started slowly at first but over time has become the Social Creatives group that we have today.

What We Do:

We meet on the first and third Thursday of the month from 1-3pm at S2R Create Space and anyone aged between 17-24 is welcome.

At each session, there are always refreshments on offer and time is set aside for the group to connect with each other. We also have an informal WhatsApp group to share ideas for future sessions.

We offer activities such as pizza making, printing, journalling, aromatherapy and many other creative workshops.









Outcomes:

⇒ We have been able to expand and invite other S2R staff and guests in to share skills and lead workshops for us. We have learnt woodworking, zine making, natural fabric dyeing, CV writing and had talks on bees and swifts.

⇒ We have taken part in the Art in the River project for the last two years, which has involved taking walks along the river and producing artwork to be displayed in Holmfirth.

⇒ As our participants have grown in confidence, many have felt able to share their skills and lead workshops for us. The most recent of which was all about confidence, what knocks it, boosts it and how it affects us. This was led by one of our young people who is now studying psychology at University.

⇒ Several of the group have now taken on volunteering roles, one of which has led to full-time employment, another has returned to University and one has been nominated for the Kirklees Adult Learners Awards for overcoming barriers to improving their mental and physical health.

What's next:

Future sessions include fabric upcycling where we will learn simple hand sewing and how to use a sewing machine, honing our woodworking skills through bee hotel making and exciting plans to go on a trip to a local nature reserve for a wellbeing walk and picnic.

What Our Participants Say:

"I was stuck in bed all day until my GP told me about S2R. I love this group."

"You've made me feel better, as usual, I know getting out and about helps me. I know being outside is what I need."

"I've only been coming for a short while, and it's helped me feel better. I'm new to the area and it's hard to meet people and make friends."

"I was nervous at first as this is my second time here, but I've felt very welcome. I really enjoyed it again."

"I've loved it here; I've grown so much. I'm going to miss you all, but I'm ready to move on with my life, even though I'm excited and terrified for Uni."