"Our community is creative and I love that about us!"



Street Art Saturday Art Club expands Spotlight's service to the weekends and Bethnal Green.

Overview

Spotlight has expanded its service to include Street Art Saturday Art Club. Opening on the weekends in collaboration with Numbi Arts. The workshop's themes explore narrative, community, mother tongue, and belonging.

The group are diverse and very eager and excited to be involved in the Street Art Saturday Arts Club. Showcasing very engaged and focused efforts. Many Young People were new to the arts activities and displayed positive attributes to creative learning & problem-solving.

The project has encouraged intergenerational learning and resulted in a collaborative mixed-media artwork depicting a garden-like landscape.

Outcomes

A Major Success has been enabling Young People to have access to achieving an Explore Arts Award Qualification with One member even achieving the award. The project has helped young people develop confident communication skills and pridefulness in their creative work.

- Young people supported to identify and achieve personal goals
- Improved confidence, self-esteem & resilience.
- Increased positive social interactions.
- Developing and using creative skills to express themselves.

“Spotlight offers a safe accessible environment for learning, growth and enjoyment”

Kenzy Diab, 13.



Overview

During our street work on the Isle of Dogs, we met Kenzy and his friends, a group of young people often getting into trouble. Kenzy was disengaged and at risk, avoiding local youth centers like Spotlight despite hearing about it from others. Our Detached Youth Workers worked hard to build trust and introduce him to Spotlight.

At first, Kenzy was shy, reserved, and reluctant to get involved. Past experiences with youth workers made him cautious and hard to motivate. It took patience, consistency, and care from our team to earn his trust and help him feel more confident about trying new things. Slowly, Kenzy began opening up and saw how Spotlight could help him.

Outcomes

Over time, Kenzy has grown. He now feels comfortable asking for help, speaks up more confidently, and has encouraged his friends to check out Spotlight and the Phoenix Heights Centre. Some of his peers have even earned certifications in "Food Safety & Hygiene" thanks to his influence. Kenzy is now making better use of his time, stepping out of his comfort zone, and inspiring others to do the same.

- **Increase in self-confidence.**
- **Increase in engagement.**
- **Staying safe.**
- **More empowered to make better life decisions.**
- **Developed trust and positive relationships.**
- **Learnt new skills.**
- **Achieved Level 2 – Food Safety and Hygiene**

“I enjoy Spotlight because I make new friends, and I get along with the youth workers. I also enjoy volunteering at Spotlight as it helps build my confidence”. -Thomas, 15



Overview

Thomas began attending Eastside (Bow East Spotlight) in August 2023. Initially shy and reserved, he was not a regular participant until six months ago. Through detached outreach on Roman Road.

At first, Thomas found it challenging to engage due to his reserved nature. However, with consistent 1:1 support from youth workers, he gradually built confidence and started to express himself. Attending Bow School as a Year 11 student, Thomas is now focusing on his GCSEs and demonstrates a brilliant work ethic to his studies and volunteering as a Spotlight Rep.

Over time, he has grown into a confident young individual, becoming a role model for young people at the Eastside centre.

Outcomes

Thomas has become so confident now that he looks forward to attending the sessions at Eastside. Thomas can make the right decisions for himself including knowing right friendship groups. Thomas has earned the respect of the youth workers and young people at Eastside through his likeable personality.

- **Increase in Confidence**
- **More empowered to make life decisions**
- **More determined/able to overcome problems**
- **Develop healthy relationships**

"Meeting Spotlight youth workers in Mile End has helped me and my mates grow in a positive away."
-Yasaa, 14.



Inspired to become a leader amongst his peers: Yasaa's story with Spotlight's Detached programme

Overview

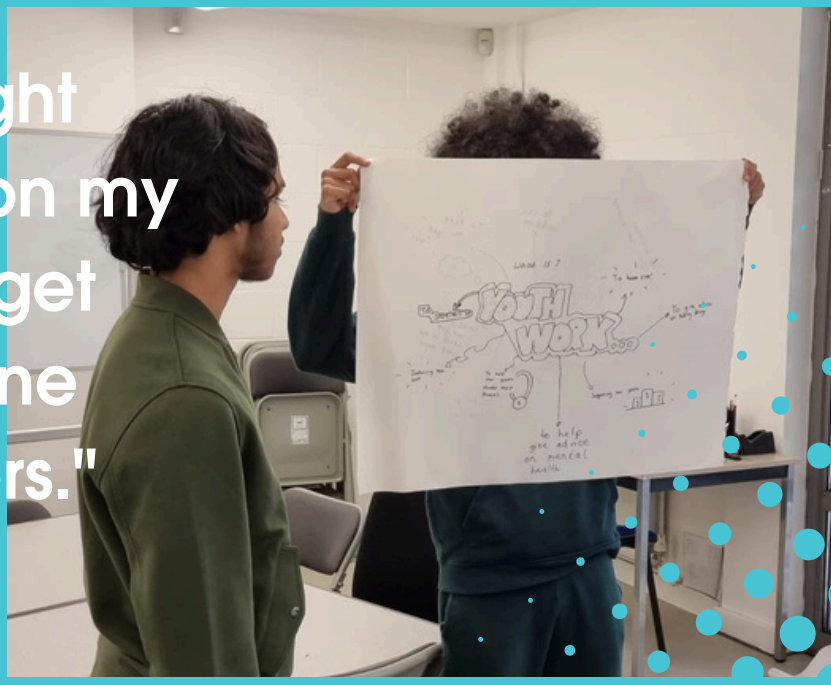
The Spotlight's Detached team met Yasaa and his friends in Stepney Green Park, where they were decent and polite young people but at risk of being groomed by local drug dealers who deal in this park. Yasaa was interested in developing his personal skills set but wasn't sure how until he met the team.

Through regular positive interactions with the team, Yasaa became more sociable and able to speak confidently and appropriately to peers and adults/professionals. He also became a leader himself, orchestrating walking his group of mates to Mile End Spotlight for Chill out and Games sessions, completing the 'Level 2 - Food Safety and Hygiene for Catering' course, and planning a Laser Tag trip. Yasaa hopes that his completion of the course will help him secure a part-time job while studying at college in the future.

Outcomes

- Empowered to make better life decisions
- Improved confidence, self-esteem & resilience.
- Increased positive social interactions and social skills
- Accreditation in Level 2 - Food Safety and Hygiene for Catering.
- Staying safe

"Working at Spotlight helped me focus on my goals and how to get out my comfort zone and to talk to others."
-Rushnan



Spotlight work experience placements in collaboration with Switch.

Overview

20 Year 10 students from Mulberry School and Stepney Green School completed work experience in youth work at Spotlight.

Goal setting and career progression:

During the team building (goal setting) workshop, young people identified their goals and learnt about the importance of being a team player including different types of communication etc.

They also learnt about the roles and responsibilities of being a youth worker and the pathway to youth work including starting off as a volunteer.

Feedback

"Working at Spotlight has helped me learn about youth work and given me social skills."

"Working here at Spotlight let me bond with others and explore other options that I enjoy."

"Working at Spotlight allowed me to meet new people and learn about others life at home. I really enjoyed my time at Spotlight and I hope to come back in the near future."



"I have now found stability in my life and feel like I am heading in the right direction. " -Taheem



From at risk of exploitation and gang culture, to gaining self belief and employment. Taheem's success story.

Overview

When we first met Taheem during detached session in Weavers ward, Taheem was heavily involved in gang culture and at high risk of exploitation, often associating with older individuals.

Initially, he was resistant to engaging with youth workers, expressing frustration and scepticism about the value of their support. However, after seeing his peers interact positively with the workers, Taheem opened up about his struggles with transitioning from school to further education or employment, feeling lost and unmotivated to engage in positive activities. He felt overwhelmed by life's challenges and believed he had to face them alone, leading to feelings of isolation.

As Taheem began to trust the youth workers, he agreed to join Spotlight and received support at Langdon Park. Initially, he struggled with low self-confidence, fear of rejection, and a lack of motivation to pursue his goals. With the guidance of Spotlight staff, he created an action plan and began attending employability workshops, gradually building his skills and belief in himself. Though the journey was challenging, Taheem also dealt with depression and low self-worth, but over time, the support he received helped him manage his anxiety and take important steps toward achieving his goals.

Outcomes

Taheem's journey reflects a remarkable transition from being an at-risk youth to a confident and employed individual with healthy relationships. Initially hesitant, he gradually built trust with youth workers, which led him to seek regular support from Spotlight, at Langdon Park, and proactively engage in personal development. Through employability clinics and qualifications, Taheem enhanced his confidence.

Taheem was successful in securing a position as an Enrolment Assistant at New City College. This role provided him with the financial stability and professional experience he had been striving for, marking a major milestone in his journey.

"Thanks to the Spotlight detached team, I have now found stability in my life and feel like I am heading in the right direction. I now have my own income and can support my family financially. This job has made me realise that I can achieve a lot more. I have settled in well and have impressed my employers already. I'm looking forward to developing further and achieving even more. I hope to pass the knowledge I've learnt to the younger generation in my area and will support them make positive choices in life."

“I enjoy coming to Eastside as I get to spend time with my friends, I have built up my confidence by making new friends I also learnt how to play games”.

– Miriam , 11 years old.



Overview

Miriam is 11 years old and started attending Eastside (Bow East Spotlight) since July 2024 and she was very shy initially. She started attending with some of her friends and slowly she started to build up her confidence and self-esteem.

Miriam lives across the road from Eastside youth centre, and the youth workers had been trying to convince her to attend. After speaking to her parents and convincing them to let her attend she started attending. She was very shy but slowing she is gaining more and more confidence and integrating well at Eastside.

She is currently being home schooled as her parents are appealing the decision not to admit her from September 2024. Miriam has been attending regularly since she first attended Eastside.

Miriam is gaining confidence by participating in various activities and she enjoys arts and craft and playing “Uno” and group setting activities helped her become comfortable around other young people especially the older young people.
The youth workers gave her 1:1 attention to build up her confidence and the trips during the summer helped develop her personal and social development.

Outcomes

- Improved confidence, self-esteem & resilience.
- Increased positive social interactions and social skills

“Miriam has become so much more confident now that she looks forward to attending the sessions at Eastside. She is confident enough to express herself without being shy like when she first started attending Eastside. She has also made so many new friends since she has started attending.”

“I think good youth work is listening to young people and listening to what they want in their services.”

– Malak, 18 years old.



Overview

Malak joined Spotlight at age 10, initially introduced by a friend. She was quiet, withdrawn, and hesitant to participate in group activities or socialize with peers. Her lack of confidence was evident, as she often struggled with her lyric writing and beat-making, expressing frustration over her perceived lack of progress. When opportunities to showcase her work arose, Malak would shy away, citing shyness and feeling inadequate. Despite these challenges, she consistently attended sessions, receiving encouragement from staff, and slowly began to engage more through various programs, including 1-to-1 mentoring, boxing, and music sessions, which helped her build resilience and self-confidence.

Over time, and now aged 18, Malak's involvement grew significantly. During the summer, she actively participated in almost all creative programs, performing at the Spotlight Festival, being in the Spotlight Documentary, and taking part in open mic sessions.

She now confidently shares her work at the end of each session, often inspiring younger members. Malak's progress is marked by notable achievements, including co-producing beats with another young person, collaborating on the Spotlight 10-year anniversary festival, and successfully completing a Bronze Arts Award. Her journey reflects significant personal growth and newfound leadership within the Spotlight community.

Outcomes

- Increase in confidence and being more sociable
- Increase in wellbeing , Malak smiles more and appears to be healthier.
- Improvement with lyric writing, production and freestyling
- Malak is actively working to improve more on her stage presence and is showing eagerness to do so.

From Quiet Observer to Confident Creator: Malachi's Journey of Growth Through Spotlight's #GetCreative programme



Overview

Malachi Clarke Green is a 19 year old who is currently not in education and employment. He is passionate about film, editing, art, and fitness. Before joining Spotlight, Malachi was very quiet and spoke minimally during sessions and was reserved. However, as he progressed through the programme, he became more vocal and confident, contributing actively to discussions and sharing his creative ideas.

Throughout his time at Spotlight, Malachi faced initial challenges with confidence and communication, as he was very reserved. However, through regular engagement, and participation in The APEX Music Project - #GetCreative, he gradually overcame these barriers.

His confidence grew significantly, and he became more vocal about his ideas, actively contributing to discussions and creative projects.

Malachi's development has been evident on multiple levels. Socially, he has become more engaged and expressive.

He has gained self confidence and professionally he has refined his technical skills in filming and editing through his work on FTG TV.

He has also transitioned into a video production course with another organisation, allowing him to further develop his passion for media.

One of his biggest successes has been recording his own single and creating his own music video, a milestone that highlights his growth in both confidence and creativity.

Outcomes

- Increase in confidence and being more sociable.
- Youth led design, leadership and participation in the programmes.
- Improved relationships with trusted adults and engagement with support services.

"I enjoy going to Eastside because I can chill out with my friends and have fun playing games. I also like the youth workers at Eastside, and I speak to them when I need advice and guidance and every time I attend. I also stay out of trouble as the youth workers remind me and my friends about being positive role models". – Bailey Atkins

Overview

Bailey was initially very shy when he first started attending Bow East Spotlight (Eastside Youth Centre). He started getting more confident as he started attending more regularly and he built a good relationship with most of the young people and youth workers.

He started attending Eastside after Shabul and his team did outreach and saw Bailey and his friends near Roman Road Market., He was also encouraged to come to Eastside by the play workers at the adventure playground as he was growing too old to go there.

Bailey is currently attending Bobby Moore Academy in Stratford, and he is currently in Year 10. Bailey attends Eastside on a regular basis and he really enjoys playing pool. Bailey was shy initially, so the youth workers gave him 1:1 support to build up his confidence and gradually he became more and more confident. He is now involved in all discussions about how Eastside is run and suggestions for improvement etc.

Outcomes

Bailey has become more sociable by attending Eastside regularly and he understands the importance of positive communication and being a good role model.
Bailey has completed the "Junior Table-Tennis Umpire Award" with us and he is looking to do some more accreditations with Eastside soon.

"Bailey has become a confident young person who understands the importance of treating people with respect to earn respect. He is also involved in decision making processes due to his confidence boost by attending Eastside."

- ·Increase in Confidence
- More empowered to make life decisions
- More determined/able to overcome problems
- Develop healthy relationships

"Thank you for all the opportunities you have given him to explore his capabilities and develop his talents. Spotlight is such an important part of his life and developing his confidence."
– Elaina, Jed's Grandmother



Overview

Jed came to Spotlight in 2021 through his twin brother Kirk who joined in 2020. Jed initially joined Kirk on trips and began regularly attending Podcastarz in 2022. Jed told staff that he didn't see himself as creative - he is studying for a degree in Maths – but was really enjoying the sessions.

Jed has autism and shared that in the past he has struggled in social situations.

According to his grandmother Jed's confidence has grown since joining Spotlight. Through Podcastarz Jed has been running interviews with staff and young people in the centre, allowing him to build relationships and develop his listening and questioning skills. Both he and Elaina credit his growing confidence in social situations to the development of these skills. Jed became a young volunteer in 2023.

Jed has taken part in a number of different programmes across 2023/24 and is always up for trying new things.

He took part in a mural making project this summer, working as part of a group to improve a family centre in East London. He achieved a Bronze arts award and a Tower Hamlets Youth Achievement award for this work. In September we launched Spot Da Light Radio, a live weekly show which Jed hosts.

Since 2023 Jed has been developing his live hosting skills and has hosted a number of live shows at Spotlight. This year he hosted Spotlight's segment at Chrisp Street Market's Xmas lights turn on. This was his first paid, external hosting job which he completed with professionalism.

Outcomes

- Improved relationships with trusted adults and engagement with support services.
- Improved social skills