

# Somerset Youth & Community Service

## Curriculum Development Grants 2017-18



### 2BU Somerset

£300

*Project focussing on different areas of living independently.*

The original plan for the project was to do some informative, issue based sessions with our older cohort of members who are approaching independence. Subjects were to include 1) managing finances 2) healthy eating and lifestyle 3) job seeking, CV writing and interview skills 4) knowing your rights and 5) accessing services, one subject per session over 5 weeks.

Typically, by the time the project started we'd seen an influx of much younger members which meant that our older young people were more reluctant to engage and their attendance was inconsistent. We still carried out the project but had to do a bit of last minute adjusting to make it age appropriate and engaging to our 13/14 year olds. A 5 week programme of discussions and group activities became 2BU's Gameshow of Life!

We used a selection of questions from Somerset Youth and Community Services session plans as the basis of our quiz and interspersed the question rounds with bonus games. Some games purely for entertainment, such as counting change blind folded, some games, such as the CV jigsaw puzzle, were followed by discussion about tailoring CV's for certain jobs and how we can translate our hobbies into skills for the work place.

For healthy eating, we made smoothies and played a few rounds of 'Play your calories right' a nutrition based spin on a Bruce Forsyth classic.

I swapped out interview skills for a more general communication skills as it seemed more suited to the needs of the group at the time. We set up stations around the space of activities such as 'Articulate', 'truth or dare Jenga', 'card game 'Sussed', as well as a blind folded communication game where they had to talk their partner through a maze. We grouped the young people away from their normal friends and gave them 10-12 minutes at each station.

Additionally, we also spent a session asking young people to design a website page offering support for anyone going through a transition, so allowing them to think about moving schools or to college rather than moving out of home as this made more sense for their age group. We have held onto the designs and intend to incorporate them into our website over the summer.

Overall, the project wasn't what we originally intended but I feel it was successful. Young people reported that they enjoyed and appeared to take on board the learning I was trying to impart! We are in the process of establishing an older 2BU group for those who no longer feel that the young group meets their needs. It is still in its infancy but I do intend to take the original project to them when the timing is right.