

Grassroot Communities

Grassroot Activators Programme (GAP)

Grassroot Communities engages, challenges and inspires young people and others in their neighbourhoods to be the changes they want to see, improving the quality of life and creating real social and environmental change.

The Grassroot Activators Programme (GAP) is a year long initiative delivered over 2 days a week for 16 to 25 year olds from marginalised communities across Bristol that seeks to raise aspirations, create role models and develop realistic pathways to future opportunities.

The key aims are to:

- Train a cohort of young people with lived experience in marginalised areas of the city in youth, community and nature based work;
- Provide stepping stones for young people to achieve their full potential in employment, education, volunteering, apprenticeships and training;
- Develop young people as active citizens within their own communities and the wider city;
- Design teaching methods and models of engagement that build young people's capacity to participate in community and environmental leadership in the city; and
- Establish a framework for others across the UK, and internationally, to enable them to run a similar programme.

The GAP modules have been developed in consultation with young people, their families and communities in South Bristol.



Connecting young people with communities, cross pollinating cultures, beliefs and backgrounds, and celebrating the differences and similarities across the city will positively impact on community cohesion, tolerance, wellbeing and quality of life for all.

Each young person will have two Mentors and space for continued reflective practice over a three week



rotation throughout the year, as follows:

- 1) Youth and Community Work - Mentor
- 2) Reflective practice and community consultation - Peer Group
- 3) Business - Mentor

The programme (based on a college term structure) is spread across six terms and focuses on:

- leadership
- mentoring
- community development and innovation
- community social action
- entrepreneurship and social enterprise
- business work experience
- nature connection
- community food growing
- wellbeing
- environmental social action... and much more.



COULD YOU SPONSOR A YOUNG PERSON TO ENGAGE IN GAP

or could you perhaps contribute towards a young person engaging in GAP?

To explore this opportunity in more detail please contact **Ben Carpenter** on **07787502232** or email **info@grassrootcommunities.org**

Tanikka Green

Young Leader Case Study:

Tanikka is a young person who has grown up in the inner city and Hartcliffe. Tanikka experienced challenging circumstances and love at home and in the community during her childhood and formative years.

Grassroot Communities engaged with Tanikka when delivering street based (detached) youth work in Knowle West. Tanikka and her friends from Hartcliffe said 'it's safer to hang out with mates in Knowle West at the moment than it is in Hartcliffe'. Over a number of weeks we continued to engage with Tanikka and learnt about her desire to become a youth worker or a midwife. Tanikka said 'I want to do some good in my community and help other kids, some who may have been through similar things as me growing up'.

Tanikka started volunteering with our Knowle West detached team. In time we were able to start paying her as a young leader (when funding allowed). Her involvement helped us engage more widely with the community.

'Having a young leader as part of the detached teams who knows the young people and is of similar age and who knows the local families and community has been really helpful in engaging and building relationships with groups of young people from all backgrounds, behaviours and abilities' Ben - Grassroot Communities Youth Worker.

Tanikka helped consult with young people in Knowle West, contributing towards developing and delivering the 'Knowle West Bike Club' and our 'Growing Streets Together' - street party project. Growing Streets Together has supported many communities such as young people from Wilmott Park in Hartcliffe to develop creative responses to problems in their area and bring people of all ages in the community together.



Grassroot Communities pays young leaders as a way of creating opportunities and supporting a pathway for young people to work towards becoming the youth and community workers of tomorrow.

There are currently no level 2 or 3 youth work courses in Bristol, and the closest Youth and Community Work degree course is in South Wales.

GAP aims practically to bridge the gap with deepened learning and experiences transferable for succeeding in life. Helping to build confidence

and providing realistic stepping stones to grasp future opportunities in employment, apprenticeships and education. Importantly, GAP builds a solid foundation for young people to become future youth and community and the wider voluntary sector workers of tomorrow and be the catalysts for the changes they want to see.



To get a visual 'flavour' of the Grassroot Communities wider youth and community provisions please check out the following social media channels:

-  **Facebook** @Grassroot Communities
-  **Instagram** @grassrootcommunities
-  **Twitter** @Grassroot_Comm
-  **YouTube** @Grassroot Communities

Yours Sincerley

Ben Carpenter
Founder of Grassroot
Communities