

Report



Graffiti Workshop January & February 2012

The graffiti youth group attracted a high number of young people and was definitely a workshop full of fun, exciting and creative ideas. The young people really engaged well with this six week programme from the very beginning. The great enthusiasm displayed really helped bring the group closer and allowed them to bond very well in terms of meeting new friends. It also enhanced many of the individual's social skills. From the first evening it was apparent many new members were engaging positively in this informal setting and a feeling of inclusion and acceptance became noticeable, especially through peer to peer learning. Teambuilding exercises were also a fantastic way to get every individual sharing information and expressing themselves in their own unique way. This not only benefitted the young people but also the staff in terms of

identifying individuals whose social skills and self belief were in need to develop over the programme and the identification of the young people's aspirations for their time at the graffiti workshop.

The words "GRAFFITI WORKSHOP" was chosen as the key three dimensional lettering on the spray wall and the young people's designs now feature around this lettering. The bright colours and fine detail really makes this wall stand out and due to this, many of the young people who do not attend this group have asked how to become part of the group. This defines the graffiti as eye catching and emphasises the great 'want' for more of these workshops to run in the future. It has not only been the young people expressing their appreciation but the parents of the children have stressed their enthusiasm for workshops like this.

An example that illustrates this clubs success is one parent stated that her child's social development, in terms of self esteem and confidence levels and the ability to mix better with other children, has been a result of attending the graffiti workshop as this young person tends to let his mum leave now whereas before he didn't feel confident enough to allow this to happen. She also stated that the young person has a keen interest in this artistic expression and is extremely keen to return to another workshop. This feeling is a reflection of many parents of the young people and we therefore believe this unique activity programme will not fade out at the Factory Skatepark as it seems to be in high demand from new and current young people that appreciate the wall designs.

