

Increasing participation in the Duke of Edinburgh Scheme



HILLINGDON
LONDON

Hillingdon's Duke of Edinburgh's Award Team offer the opportunity for young people in the borough aged between 14 and 25 to take part in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE).

Participants enrol at Bronze, Silver and Gold levels, taking part in 4 sections (5 at Gold) Volunteering, Skills, Physical & Expedition (residential).

There are 3 face to face sessions in Young Peoples Centres across the borough where we offer activities which meet the requirements of the Award. We also have expedition programs at Bronze, Silver and Gold.



HILLINGDON
LONDON

Over the past 2 years, the team have attempted to increase the reach of the Award to disadvantaged and hard to reach groups.

Working in partnership with Hillingdon Virtual School, the team developed a bespoke outreach service in 2019 for refugee and asylum-seeking young people who are looked after by the council.

These young people were not accessing services in the borough due to cultural differences and language barriers.



HILLINGDON
LONDON

A program was developed in conjunction with the Virtual School with a dedicated team member from DofE. Initially this was being delivered through the usual face to face sessions however it became apparent that this did not suit all of those they were trying to engage.

To address this, outreach sessions were delivered at Olympic House, a semi-independent unit for young people, which resulted in 12 young men enrolling for the Award.

The young people received individual support in their home environment to plan activities for each section of the Award.



HILLINGDON
LONDON

These included educational goals, learning English, personal skills acquisition, cooking & budgeting, health and fitness activities and using local facilities such as leisure centres.

They were also supported to find volunteering opportunities in the community to help them integrate and improve their English skills, including working in charity shops & food banks.

Of the 12 young men who enrolled, all of them are still engaging with the Award. They have now gained sufficient confidence to attend evening sessions to begin training for their expedition and so far, 4 have undertaken preparatory residential training.



HILLINGDON
LONDON