

Carlisle Community Development Case Study



We are interested in whether the funding of your project from the Community Grant has made a difference to the people you serve. This is a simple 2 page feedback form which we will read with a great deal of interest and share with Carlisle Local Committee members. Please be frank in your answers to the following questions.

If you have any photos of your project then we would be delighted to receive a copy by post or email to :
carlisle.areasupport@cumbria.gov.uk

Organisation: M-Unit CIC	
Contact: munitcarlisle@gmail.com	Grant Amount £3,500 COMF

PROJECT – please describe the project/service/role

As part of supporting the black and brown community in Carlisle, M-Unit delivered some summer youth sessions with young people of colour in partnership with Carlisle Youth Zone and Tullie House. This proved successful in engaging with over 15 young people from a diverse background and with a wide range of lived experience. It gave them the opportunity to access and experience different youth orientated spaces - Carlisle Youth Zone being one of them. The young people reported that Carlisle Youth Zone was one of the spaces they wanted to access in their spare time, so M-Unit was able to support the young people to sign up to memberships.

However, for some of the young people there was a language barrier and others lacked confidence in using the space and finding out what clubs they could attend. In addition, for some of the young people they felt it was quite daunting to walk into a space where very few people looked or sounded like them.

With the funding, we were able to support Carlisle Youth Zone to employ a brown Arabic speaking Youth Worker who has lived experience of growing up as a refugee young person and relocating with her family on multiple occasions. She was able to build relationships with the young people as part of the summer M-Unit youth sessions, so was a person the young people could go to if they needed additional support.

CARLISLE LOCAL COMMITTEE FUNDING – please specify exactly what our grant was spent on (e.g. salaries, equipment)

Salary for a youth worker for 6 months.

BENEFICIARIES

The M-unit young people who the youth worker set out to support were all from diverse cultural backgrounds

- The youth worker and the M-Unit young people all needed to have a space where they felt comfortable to spend time with each other and to meet other young people living in Carlisle. They all needed to build their confidence within using that space and for some of them, they needed to improve their English in order to fully participate.
- Carlisle Youth Zone needed to have a volunteer/employee who was able to speak Arabic in order to be able to communicate with some of the young people who were already attending their clubs

IMPACT

- The youth worker who received this funding as an initial 6 month salary has benefited greatly from this opportunity. This funding enabled her to have her first paid job, which has in turn helped her to expand her skillset, grow in confidence and improve her English. On the back of this project and the funding, Carlisle Youth Zone have now employed the youth worker on a permanent basis and she is still thoroughly enjoying her work.
- The young people who participated in the M-Unit summer sessions were able to join in with clubs and activities at the Youth Zone and still do.
- The young people and staff at Carlisle Youth Zone have benefitted from working closely with the youth worker who has had a very different cultural upbringing and learning about her life

Form completed by: Nicole Cottingham

Date: 10/08/2022

Thank you for taking the time to complete this form