

MOSAIC

New Forest District

1. Protected Characteristic category

Race, religion and belief

2. Partner organisations

- Forest Enterprise England – New Forest District
- New Forest National Park Authority

3. Project title and details of Initiative

Mosaic - is a national project, led by the [Campaign for National Parks](#), which aims to build sustainable links between black and minority ethnic communities and ten of the National Parks in England and Youth Hostels Association (YHA).

Evidence showed that although approx 10% of the population is of an ethnic minority background, approx only 1% of visitors to National Parks are from ethnic minorities. Mosaic works to make sure that all people have an equal opportunity to enjoy the many benefits that National Parks offer. ¹

4. Initiative/Project aims and background

The Forestry Commission's (FC) involvement began at the start of the project in 2009 and works by training influential leaders from ethnic minority communities to become "Community Champions" promoting the National Parks and the YHA in their communities. Mosaic provides intense personal development plans, training and support for Community Champions. The New Forest Ranger Team also offered a work shadow opportunity for a Mosaic Community Champion from London.

The FC joined forces with the New Forest National Park Authority in welcoming new 'Community Champions' to the New Forest. Throughout 2009 - 2011, staff led site

¹ <http://www.mosaicnationalparks.org/>

Good Practice case studies

visits to key FC recreational sites, explaining about the forest environment, what there is to see and do, answering questions etc. Key groups have included Suhuna Day Centre and the Chinese Community, both from Southampton.

In addition, promoting and supporting the project was the New Forest Communications Manager. His role involved:

- taking part in a 1-hour radio debate about the benefits of the MOSAIC project in August 2010 – Unity 101FM (the South's only Asian and Ethnic radio station, Southampton),
- writing for the national Mosaic E-Newsletter 2010, detailing experiences of working with the project, and
- having articles detailing the MOSAIC project and highlighting visits included in the FC's annual Forest Focus publication.

Since the commencement of the project:

- Repeat visits from Community Champions to the New Forest with different groups of potential 'Champions' throughout 2010-11.
- Requests from individual Community Champions for further information on the New Forest, work of the Forestry Commission (FC) and work placement/shadow opportunities.
- The building of closer links with key contacts/relationships between the New Forest and minority ethnic groups locally and further afield (Southampton-London).
- When looking for assistance with group visits and enquiries, the FC was the first point of contact for the MOSAIC Project Officer.

5. Future plans

- Maintain links with Mosaic Community Champions after the life of the project (ends 2012) by facilitating requested visits, providing information and being a point of contact.
- Ensure targeted communications are available to the above contacts.
- Contribute (via Mosaic Project officer) to legacy documents and initiatives for the Mosaic Project in early 2012.