

Interpreted practical conservation

Sherwood Forest District

1. Protected Characteristic category

Disability

2. Partner organisations

- Sherwood Forest District
- Sue Ryder
- Doncaster Primary Care Trust

3. Project title and details of Initiative

Interpreted practical conservation - A project created to engage and work with the Deaf community, involving them in practical site maintenance and conservation in South Yorkshire.

4. Initiative/Project aims and background

Community Rangers in South Yorkshire broached the Sue Ryder organisation in order to engage with the Deaf community. Funding from Doncaster Primary Care Trust enabled the team to hire an interpreter to relay all instructions, site safety and information to the group, ensuring the group was included and engaged.

Over a 4 week period the group were involved in the installation of natural play features on their local community woodland. This project not only helped with nurturing an understanding and sense of pride in their local environment but was also a huge boost in moral and social skills within the group.

There was a noticeable difference in the group member's confidence, abilities and physical fitness as the weeks went on, as well as their mental wellbeing. It is hoped

Good Practice case studies

the group will return of their own accord to the site, or at least feel more comfortable in the outdoor environment.

"The individuals' confidence and self-esteem was enhanced. They developed special friendships which I feel will last for some time. As a result they will feel less socially isolated, this boosted the groups' morale and gave them a sense of self-worth. Please, continue your great work." Social Worker, Deaf community.

5. Future plans

This project has run twice with equal success. Further funding is required to run the project again as Sue Ryder is unfortunately unable to pay for their own interpreter.