

Small Grant Fund Case Study

Fife Young Carers

What activity did you run?

We carried out a litter pick at Calaiswoods in Dunfermline. This is a forest park which is local to some of our young carers and their families. We looked at different sites and settled on the one most local to our young carers. We have since used the equipment for further litter picking in Kincardine along the shoreline of the River Forth, which is heavily polluted with rubbish washed up from the river.

Who were your main audience?

Our main audience was young carers and their caregivers, Lead Scotland staff and people from the local community. We engaged 23 people through this project.

What did you learn?

We learned from the very beginning stages of the project. We took your advice and sourced from ethical suppliers and avoided buying products containing plastics. Our litter pickers and hoops were made from recycled plastic from the ocean. Our other products were made from recycled plastic and can be recycled again.

This knowledge was shared with everyone involved and raised awareness around how we shop, how we dispose of our plastics and how we can think of reusing them instead of buying other expensive throwaway products.

By carrying out our litter pick we learned that in that area there was a lack of bins around the woods. We spoke with a member of a local group (Calaiswood Wombles) who had campaigned to get two bins from the local authority, which they maintain.

The Wombles were extremely grateful to see us out litter picking and helping with the woods, as were members of the public who engaged with us whilst we were picking, and stopped to say thank you. This gave us an enormous sense of pride and the feedback was welcomed.

It was quite surprising to see the large amount and different types of plastic washed up along the banks of the river. We had a discussion around how some of this rubbish could have ended up in the water.

Throughout the project we have also learned that the environment is something people of all ages and walks of life are passionate about. It has been lovely

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introducing people and engaging with people we wouldn't normally meet from all ages and walks of life too.

When engaging with other people we highlighted that we were doing this as part of the Fife Climate Festival through FCCAN and Climate Action Fife to help raise awareness. We were able to attend an online session on How to talk about the climate emergency, which was a fantastic presentation and a great opportunity to interact with other organisations.

Has your project increased your community's capacity to tackle the climate emergency?

By discussing the litter we collected, we were able to look at the items and discuss what affect they would have on the environment, animals, people and climate change. We collected glass bottles, cans, plastics (wrappers, bottle tops, bags and bottles), litter from McDonalds Subway and other takeaway food wrappings, used toys, cigarette butts and broken glass from Calais Woods.

Everyone enjoyed the experience and being out and about. We all felt a sense of accomplishment and pride in doing so. Our young carers all benefitted from the social interaction throughout the activity. This was a great opportunity for them to make a difference in their local community and meet new people. The discussions I had with everyone involved in the project showed to me that they are passionate about climate change and the environment.

Find out more

<https://www.lead.org.uk/fife-befriending-young-carers>



Community Climate Grants



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