

KINDRED

CASE STUDY



**BARNSELY
MUSEUMS**

**FUNDED BY: BARNSELY
METROPOLITAN
BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**SUPPORTED BY:
HEALTHIER
COMMUNITIES
SERVICES**



**WORKING TOGETHER TO
CREATE A PLACE FOR EVERYONE.**

KINDRED

The *Kindred* action-research programme developed a shared understanding of how cultural and non-cultural services can jointly identify and resolve issues for our communities. *Kindred* brought together 21 partners from arts, heritage, education and social services to support Barnsley communities. The programme demonstrated the benefits of Barnsley Museums as a commissioning service for the delivery of social outcomes for Barnsley.

Kindred responded to families at higher risk of being adversely affected by Covid-19, as demand for drug misuse and domestic abuse services rose. *Kindred* families included those with diverse ethnic origin, SEND, refugee/asylum seeking status and low socio-economic background.

Families were recruited in partnership with Barnsley Museums, Fostering and Adoption Services, Safeguarding and Family Services, Social Workers, Schools and Community Youth Services, Refugee Council, Barnsley Feels Like Home Group of refugee and asylum seekers, Northern College and the National Trust.

Kindred aimed to encourage families with multiple and complex needs with mixed age children (11 – 18yrs), to view cultural and heritage activity as something they can positively engage in together, to raise aspirations, build skills and improve individual and collective wellbeing.

Overall, 20 families attended, with 59 individuals taking part from 13 wards and districts around Barnsley. Including: Athersley South, Barnsley (Central Region), Cudworth, Darton, Dodworth, Goldthorpe, Hoyland Common, Kendray, Kingstone, Oldtown, Penistone, Wombwell, Worsbrough Bridge and Worsbrough Common.

In partnership with Cannon Hall and Worsbrough Mill museums *Kindred* offered a two-day programme of outdoor activities including craft, art, nature identification and micro-volunteering, promoting a positive learning experience and introduction to family volunteering.



OUTCOMES

Kindred supported families to increase their confidence of engaging in culture and heritage in Barnsley, embedding a sense of ownership by creating a legacy for other family visitors to enjoy, through new interpretative interventions. Participants were encouraged to build their confidence and be brave; to work as a team and strengthen family bonds across all generations; to raise their aspirations and discover new opportunities for personal development. The activities were designed to be fun and inclusive, building willingness and skills to plan and work together, discovering routes to contribute to the community in a positive way.

The following aims and objectives were met through the creative activities in a natural environment:

Teamwork and Family Bonding.

- Families compromised and negotiated. They helped each other and congratulated each other's achievements.
- There was a great sense of pride in the items the families produced.
- We saw a big decrease in arguments and frustrations as the weekend progressed.
- Families were speaking to each other more calmly and supportively.

Impacts of Nature on Families.

- Everyone had their own unique reaction to nature, each equally powerful & poignant.

Impacts on Behaviour and Wellbeing.

- Some of the teenage participants struggled behaviourally throughout the weekend but had a real breakthrough by the end of Sunday.

Inclusivity of All Cultures.

- Species identification / monocular / bug trails, allowed people of different cultures to open up and make comparisons to species in their home countries.
- Sharing knowledge helped people overcome anxieties (i.e., watching other people eat blackberries straight off the bush).

Feeling Brave Across Generations.

- The watercolour painting activity appealed to each generation.
- Everyone produced something creative and unique, the opportunity to go abstract allowed people of different abilities to engage and feel proud of what they produced.

Lead Artist & Project Coordinators feedback:

"A real highlight for me was when walking through the Walled Garden at Cannon Hall. We used an app to help identify species of plant and learn about their properties and historical uses. This bonded all the families together as we shared knowledge of the names in different languages."

"One of the biggest highlights was seeing how the families worked so well together and became closer, more cooperative, and more engaged as the weekend progressed."

"A highlight for me was the willow weaving, it was mentally grounding; as we completed the activity in a small, safe space, this helped some of the anxious families worry less about children running off across the grounds. It required a lot of patience, parents had to be patient themselves in order to help the smaller ones grasp the activity."

Families' voices were placed at the heart of the project, taking ownership of the documentation and evaluation.

To support families with multiple and complex needs during a pandemic, it was essential to be flexible; to listen, observe and implement the changes the families identified. Informal conversations between artist, coordinators and families took place throughout *Kindred*, this ensured a bespoke delivery which responded to participant needs.

Each family had their own iPad to take photos, write and draw throughout the weekend. This enabled families to document their journey from their own perspective. At the end of the programme each family received a bespoke memory book with all their photographs. This captured inspirational moments and ideas for the future.



Family's Experience Data

Emoji cards were created to enable families to express feelings and emotions in a quick and simple activity. Families were asked to choose emojis to describe how they felt when they arrived, in the afternoon and at the end of the day. This generated animated discussions between family members to understand each other's experience and agree a response for the whole family. The family's perceptions of their experiences changed throughout the day.

Day 1 Cannon Hall

	Arrival	Afternoon	End of the day
Cohort Families 1	😐😐😐👨👩👧👦	😊🌳🌸🌻🌺	😊💕🌞💕
Cohort Families 2	😡😡😡👍	🌞🌈🌳🌸🌻	😎😎😎😎
Cohort Families 4	😡😐😐👓	😐🌳🌞😐🌈	👍😊😎
Cohort Families 5	😡😐😐😐	😐😐😐😐	🌈🌈😎🌈😊🌈
Cohort Families 6	😐	😍	😐
Cohort Families 8	👍	😍😐	😎

Day 2 Worsbrough Mill

	Arrival	Afternoon	End of the day
Cohort Families 1	😐😐	😊😊💕👍😊	👍😎😎
Cohort Families 2	😡😐😐🌞😊	😊😎😎😎😎😎	💪👍😎😐
Cohort Families 4	😊😊😎😎	😊😊	😐😎💕
Cohort Families 5	😐😐😐😐	😐😐😎😐🌺	🌈😊🌞😎😊
Cohort Families 6	😡	🌞😊💕🌳	😍😎
Cohort Families 7	👎😡😎	😐🌞💪	😎😊😊
Cohort Families 8	☔💪	🌳🌺	😎





PROVIDING PATHWAYS TO PARTICIPATION

Support to access meaningful progression routes was offered to families in different ways, through partnership with Barnsley Museum sites, BCVS, Stepping Stones, Barnsley College, Northern College, National Trust, Oakwell Training, The Endorphins Group, MIND, YMCA and the Community Employability Mentor, Barnsley Council.

- An Open Day event was organised for local providers to introduce their opportunities.
- Information packs were sent to each family collating a range of volunteering and training opportunities.
- Kindred Project Facilitators collaborated with the 'Feels Like Home' cultural sharing group to disseminate progression information with 'First Language is Not English' families.
- Participants were supported to visit Barnsley CVS where one-to-one assistance was provided to access bespoke volunteering opportunities.
- One-to-one logistical support was offered to overcome barriers to access including helping with childcare and transport arrangements.



WE MADE A BOOK AND DYLAN DID IT ON THE IPAD; IT'S THE ONLY THING HE REALLY ENGAGED IN AS HE STRUGGLES WITH HAVING ASD, SO WE PRINTED IT AS IT WAS MADE ON THE IPAD AND IT LOOKED REALLY AUTHENTIC'.

One Family's Journey...

Sarah and her children attended the Kindred Project weekend after their initial reservations; one of her sons has an ASD diagnosis and finds it difficult to connect when in mainstream education. There was a fear he wouldn't engage in Kindred Project activities because of his diagnosis. However, Sarah was happy to see he was easily able to participate throughout the weekend in most of the activities, and left with a sense of personal achievement at the end.

The children enjoyed the first day so much, on the second day they invited a teenage friend to come along too! Since then Sarah and her children have attended Forest Families at Northern College where they became good friends with another Kindred Project family who also attended. The two families keep in touch and meet up independently to the project.

'Since the Kindred Project I have attended a Child Psychology course at Northern College, they put a bus on every hour to make it easier to get there. It was 2 days with food and accommodation provided. I have signed up to quite a few different things too.'

List of courses Sarah signed up to at Northern College:

- Introduction to Understanding Stress.
- Developing Mental Health First Aid Skills.
- Exploring Mental Health Issues.
- Functional Skills Maths (Level 1).
- Supporting Children and Young People's Mental Health.
- First Steps in First Aid.
- Introduction to Sociology.
- Introduction to Counselling.
- NCFE Cache Level 2 Certificate In Understanding Specific Learning Difficulties.
- Exploring the Psychology of Health and Wellbeing.
- Keeping Kids Safe Online.
- A child's world: an introduction to Child Psychology.

Sarah has attended a lot of these courses with the mother of another Kindred Project family, she described: *'We like going along together, it gives us our own time away from the kids. We both have children with special needs and we really appreciate time to talk about this together, but we also appreciate time away from it!'*

IMPACT

**50% OF FAMILIES EXPRESSED
FEELING STRESSED OR
UNHAPPY ON ARRIVAL ON THE
FIRST DAY.**



**100% OF FAMILIES SHOWED A
PROGRESSION AND EXPRESSED
FEELING MUCH HAPPIER AND
JOYFUL AFTER THE SESSIONS
AT WORSBROUGH MILL AND
CANNON HALL.**



**70% OF THE FAMILY GROUPS
THAT ATTENDED EXPRESSED
INTEREST AND ENQUIRED INTO
CAREER AND VOLUNTEERING
OPPORTUNITIES.**