

Expression of Freedom

A collaborative words and photography project for young people in North West Leicestershire

The brief

A commission from North West Leicestershire Children and Family Wellbeing Service to work with young people, capturing words, and creating photographic images for 'Expression of Freedom', an exhibition raising awareness of domestic abuse, part of the international campaign 'Sixteen Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence'

Challenges

- To design two half-day Covid safe workshops, for young people from SEND and Young Carers Groups; giving participants the skills needed to capture high quality photographic images; providing opportunities to listen, contribute and write words appropriate to their experiences.
- To create a 'flyer' with information about the workshops inviting participants to take part.
- To create a safe environment where ideas could be shared; responding to requests for 'one to one' support and presenting group demonstrations, e.g. about different photography techniques; making sure photographic equipment was used responsibly.
- To consider issues of parental consent and copyright; protecting the identity of the young people who were unable to send photographs from their mobile phone cameras to us; involving Youth Leaders transferring large files to us online, requiring careful record keeping and data protection.
- To be flexible and adaptable; making sure exhibits were suitable for the venue, which was unknown at the time of the workshops; and working within budget.

QUOTES

"The exhibition was great, very powerful and direct"

"Wow, very powerful"

"Makes you stop and think"

EXPRESSION OF FREEDOM - AN EXHIBITION



This project and exhibition developed by Safer North West Leicestershire Partnership is an artistic collaboration between Leicestershire based artists and groups supported by the Children and Family Wellbeing Service. A series of creative workshops were commissioned to explore the context of abuse in relationships with a range of people. Groups included young people and survivors of Domestic Abuse - using art to reflect, heal, empower and give a creative voice.

The resulting artworks are being exhibited for the public to view to coincide with the 16 Days of Activism against gender based violence.

25TH NOVEMBER - 10TH DECEMBER

Main exhibition at Stephenson College. Open to the public.

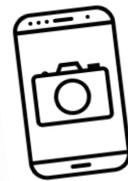
Small exhibits will be available to view in Coalville Library and in Coalville Town Centre.



Image © Jo Dope Studio

Formal viewings will be taking place on 1st, 7th and 8th December from 5 - 8pm.

CLICK CREATE CONNECT



Life Story Writing

LINDA YOUNG

We're two artists on a mission! Join us on Monday 23rd August at Green Hill Youth Centre at 10.30am to Click, Create and Connect

Click - on a phone or camera
Create - something with a 'Wow' Factor
Connect - to a national campaign raising awareness of gender based violence and find out how to use words and images together for maximum impact.

No phone/camera - no problem



Life Story Writing

your story begins here



 Rotten at the core



 New Beginnings



 Heal for Brightness

Solutions

- We engaged with experienced Youth Leaders at Green Hill Youth Centre who knew our potential participants, made the Centre's large indoor space available to display an earlier inspirational photography exhibition project, and erected outdoor gazebos for writing, and worked closely with us throughout.
- We planned a flexible day of practical learning, reassurance and encouragement, prioritising process over outcome.
- We accessed the skills and goodwill of the commissioning team and the Youth Leaders, who facilitated contact with participants and parents, acted as intermediaries, used their own mobile phones to forward participants' photographs to us, and attributed images to individuals.

Outcomes

- The young people gained experience using a variety of mobile phone cameras, and a Canon SLR digital camera. They learned skills they can put into practice in the future, heard about career opportunities within the creative industries, and learned about the domestic abuse campaign.
- The young people captured a large number of images from a variety of unlikely locations and wrote insightful titles for those selected for the exhibition. By adding powerful words to meaningful images they demonstrated a clear understanding of the themes.
- A local artist contributed to the graphic design of the exhibition providing the rainbow hearts design adding a positive message of hope and optimism, using the heart theme to bring the collection together.
- A well-attended public exhibition at Stephenson's College, Coalville, attracting attention from local radio and press; raising awareness of the national campaign and the work being done locally to reduce the impact of domestic abuse on families and communities.
- Exhibits will be displayed in other locations in the future, to encourage those affected by domestic abuse to seek help from the dedicated teams working in N.W. Leicestershire.

