

‘Finding Nemo’ – Migrant Help

CSP: Kent Sport

Deliverer: Graham Dunkerley – Migrant Help

Activity: Sailing

Location: Conningbrook Lake, Ashford

Introduction

Migrant Help is a UK based charity that helps integrate migrants into the local community. They, in conjunction with the Royal Yachting Association (RYA), wanted to make dinghy sailing accessible to all elements of the community where possible, especially children and young people. They applied to the Kent Sport Small Grant Fund after working out the costings of the potential project from lake access to dinghy hire.

The Project

Migrant Help were awarded £210.00 towards their project, specifically for the hiring of dinghies and two days’ access to the lake for children in the local community. They organised a two day course with the aim of getting participants to a basic level of sailing (launch, sail, turn and get back safely).

The sailing course was organised in June to coincide with Refugee Week. Initially the course started with some land based training before the participants were allowed on the water with Topper Dinghies.



The Young People

Throughout the course the participants were extremely enthusiastic and motivated. They successfully learnt how to sail a basic course, although there were some who capsized and veered off course much to the amusement of the others. By the end of day two, they were all able to sail a triangular course, a major milestone in the sport of sailing.

Successes

The overall aim of the project was to integrate the participants and encourage them to understand each other's communities. By the end of day two they had developed friendships with one another and in addition to this along with parents and instructors they were then introduced to some Nepalese delicacies by a few of the other parents.



The RYA, who have become aware of this project, are now planning similar schemes in both South Eastern and Eastern regions and Migrant Help has been liaising with the local coordinators. In the meantime Migrant Help plan to do a similar programme as part of 2017 Refugee Week.

Small Grants Process

Graham Dunkerley from Migrant Help explained how the Small Grant funding process worked for them and the impact this has had on their projects.

The application process was a simple one. As an organisation Migrant Help had set out the plans for the project and in association with Conningbrook Lakes Sailing Club, costed the project. From costings calculated with input from all, they knew how much funding was needed to allow the project to be an offering to a new group that would appeal to them participating.

To source funding Migrant Help referred to the Kent Sport website. There they could see which funding stream would be suitable to apply for. As a result they applied for the Kent Sport Small grants for Organisation Fund. The forms were downloaded from the website, completed the application and sent to Kent Sport. After submitting the application, Migrant Help were asked a couple of questions relating to the project via email from the team at Kent Sport. These were swiftly answered.

Within a couple of weeks a successful email was received from Kent Sport. This was a special moment for the project. Funds were paid via bacs within a short space and Migrant Help and the Sailing Club were able to successfully deliver our project in June.'

