



Funding Case Study

Counselling service secures £10k to fund training for volunteers and offer service to children & young people

Sefton Choices, an adult based counselling service in the North West, identified a gap in their service as a result of receiving a huge amount of referrals for children and young people who wanted counselling. Unfortunately the adult counsellors were not trained to counsel children and young people and so training was urgently needed. The group applied for Awards for All funding and were successful, which allowed them to bring in the services of a specialist training provider from Scotland.

All the volunteer counsellors who received the training agreed that they would deliver a set number of counselling sessions for children and young people referred into the service.

The group has been supported by Catherine Taylor, Workforce Development Co-ordinator from Sefton Council for Voluntary Services, who said “I visit groups on a regular basis and try and encourage them to apply for funding to support volunteer/staff training and development. Equipping volunteers and staff with the skills and knowledge to do their jobs will only benefit children and young people. We use a useful *Funding Guide to Workforce Development* to show that there are lots of schemes to apply to for funding. We recommend Awards for All as the application process is simple and they support workforce development projects”.

Nichola Brown, Workforce Development Officer at the National Council for Voluntary Youth Services said, “This case study demonstrates three points, firstly that funding for workforce development can lead to valuable services being created for children and young people, secondly the importance of infrastructure support to advise small voluntary groups, and finally how useful the funding guide has been”.

Need more information?

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For a free copy of the *Funding Guide to Workforce Development*, visit the National Council for Voluntary Youth Service’s web site at www.ncvys.org.uk >>workforce >> funding.