

18. DCDP Case Study: Police Scotland Youth Volunteers

Police Scotland Youth Volunteers (PSYV) is the first uniformed youth organisation to be formed in Scotland in over a century. It launched in 2013, with five trial groups across Scotland, including Dundee. PSYV works with young people aged from 10 to 18 years.

Funding from the Rank Foundation enables PSYV Dundee to employ a dedicated Community Development Officer, Sammy Keith. Since Sammy's appointment, PSYV Dundee has become the most successful group in Scotland, in terms of volunteering hours.

Young people have volunteered at 'T in The Park', the Commonwealth Games, the Ryder Cup, Rewind Festival, and in the national PSYV Annual Games. They have also worked with another Rank-funded project, Advocating Together; visited the Scottish Parliament, and hosted a charity bag pack.

Head Youth Volunteers, Matthew and Holly represented Police Scotland in Manchester at the European Police Chiefs Seminar where they delivered a session to senior managers on how sexting is impacting on the lives of young people today. This led to PSYV Dundee being asked by the European Police Agency (EuroPol) to assist with the content of their own sexting educational video.

Sammy has formed an excellent relationship with the Women's Rape and Sexual Assault Organisation in Dundee. This partnership has allowed PSYV Dundee to propel themselves to the forefront of domestic abuse education for young people in Dundee, and there are plans to extend this education to as many youth organisations such as Scouts across the city.

PSYV is working with several the Dundee Community Development Programme projects. PSYV offer peer education on knife crime to young people across Dundee, and are working with Dundee Comic School to make this training more fun and interactive. PSYV is also working with the Bauer Academy, who delivered bespoke media training for PSYV volunteers. These young people can now produce videos for PSYV, but also for other Rank-funded projects, if required.

The success of PSYV Dundee has been measured by independent, Scottish Government appointed evaluators. Over 95% of members have stated that they feel safe when part of PSYV, feel welcomed and included; over 85% feel nurtured.

Many volunteers have gone on to 'positive destinations' such as apprenticeships and further education; they identify membership of PSYV as contributing to this success, as they grew in confidence, had supervisory experience and were able to demonstrate commitment. Parents and teachers have commented on the positive influence PSYV have on their young people, including increased confidence and improved behaviour and success in employment.

Sammy, in her role as Community Development Officer, is building her experience of youth work and, with Rank support, is undertaking a Community Learning and Development degree.

**Sergeant Ryan MacDonald, Police Scotland Youth Volunteers
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