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reVOLVe strikes gold

The reVOLVe youth volunteering project have scoped a top award, that only four other organisations in Warwickshire have achieved.

The Gold Warwickshire Award for Involvement has been awarded to the project because it is so good at involving young people in its work.

reVOLVe, is funded by the new national youth volunteering charity v and encourages young people aged between 16 – 25 in Nuneaton and North Warwickshire to do volunteering in their local community.

The top level award recognises the involvement of young people in all aspects of the project's work, ensuring they are involved in everything from recruiting staff to planning and identifying projects. Some of the projects the young people have been involved in are community gardening and painting projects, Come Dance With Us, digital photography and Smoothies on the Move.

A multi agency focus group developed the award following consultations with the voluntary sector and small groups. It is based on the national Hear By Rights framework.

Warwickshire Award for Involvement Spokesperson, Toni Barber said "The evidence reVOLVe has gathered is of an extremely high standard. It is fantastic the level of input the young volunteers have in the reVOLVe project"

Children and young people are central to the work of many voluntary projects today. Therefore it is only right that they should be listened to and involve them in as many aspects of the life of organisations as possible.



The new involved project has a steering group of young people who have been volunteering for a year. They meet on a regular basis. They led the consultation on deciding the new name of the project. Over two hundred young people gave their opinions, which resulted in the project been called reVOLve.

Volunteer Asma Patel says "It's great that we get the chance to play a part in the decision making of the project. One of our jobs is to consult with other young people to find out what sort of volunteering projects they would be interested in, find exciting and worthwhile"

The eighteen year old went on to say "We are currently organising a massive youth forum to be held at the start of next year. We are going to invite young people who have and haven't volunteered before. We want to hear their ideas for projects. We also want to find out what they think of the new accreditations and certificates v are offering.

reVOLve Youth Volunteering is managed by North Warwickshire Council for Voluntary Service. Chief Officer Kate Morrison said "I'm delighted that Warwickshire County Council have recognised that reVOLve includes the voice of young people throughout all their work".

The reVOLve project are now working towards a national quality standard called REACH. This also recognises their work to involve young people.

For more information about reVOLve you can call 01827 711102 or go to www.nwvolunteers.co.uk

For more on the Warwickshire Award for Involvement you can go to www.warwickshire.gov.uk.

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For further information please call Michelle Black on 01827 711102 or 07778 218525

Notes to editors

- North Warwickshire Council for Voluntary Service look after the new vinvolved project the young people have called **reVOLve**. Based in Coleshill Road in Atherstone they cover Nuneaton and North Warwickshire.
- reVOLve gives out nationally recognised certificates to all 16 – 25 year olds who take part in some kind of voluntary activity.

About v

- **v** is the youth volunteering charity launched in May 2006 whose mission is to inspire a new generation of volunteers in England aged between 16 – 25. **v** is supported by the Office of the Third Sector in the Cabinet Office.
- This vinvolved project is part of **v**'s £75 million National Youth Volunteering Programme, which aims to inspire 500,000 young people aged between 16 – 25 to get positively involved in their communities.
- To find out more about **v** visit the charity's website www.wearev.com. For volunteering opportunities in Nuneaton and North Warwickshire visit **v**'s portal for young people www.vinspired.com