



Cathedral House, Huddersfield

13 & 14 October 2009

Feedback and Testimonials

The first stepUP UK was held in Blackpool in November 2008.

Feedback from Schools

"I just wanted to thank you for all your work organising and running stepUP – it was fantastic. The kids came away buzzing. What an achievement that many kids in one place for two days! Well done again."

"Thank you again – this lot here are still buzzing!"

"When I got to Collegiate yesterday some of the kids who had been through the programme were there and they were absolutely full of enthusiasm for it!"

"All our learners had a great time at the stepUP event, and we all feel it was a major success and look forward to another programme in 2009. I hope I'll still be placed here to enjoy another fantastic 2 days. Our new learners are asking when the next one will be."

And my teaching colleagues and I want to help you in the quest to properly educate young teens into a better way of life. We all agree that more stepUP events will help local teens make more of the opportunities that are out there for them, by giving them a new found confidence and ability."

Feedback from Police

"The event was a success, young people have been influenced for the better and I would like to think that we can hold another event in Blackpool and build on the success of this one. From the police staff who were present they thoroughly enjoyed the event and could see exactly how it can influence and change young people. One of the officers had been made to attend as a personal development opportunity – he was not really interested in young people before the event and just saw them as people who cause anti-social behaviour and cause problems in the community. After stepUP, he now sees a different side and understands that all young people should have a chance and be given opportunities. You will certainly have our support for any future events"

Sgt Steve Hodgkins, Blackpool Police

Feedback from Business Mentors (adults who mentor teens at stepUP's events)

"I didn't imagine being a stepUP mentor would have had such a profound impact on me as well as the teenagers, witnessing the change in the teenagers over the 2 days was phenomenal and the encouragement I received throughout the event was uplifting and inspiring. Inspirational speakers plus the caring, friendly group of volunteers made this a truly wonderful experience. BRILLIANT, UPLIFTING, EMOTIONAL, INSPIRING, LIMITLESS, REWARDING, so glad I was asked to mentor."

"Being a stepUP mentor was a brilliant experience, so multi-layered with inspirational speakers, engaging stories, working with individual teenagers, teams, other mentors... yourself! I'd recommend the experience to anyone with the passion and commitment to "step up" to give and grow at the same time. Life will never be the same again for the teenagers you work with... or for you!"

"What an experience. I am still in shock at how powerful it was – all that happened in just two days, amazing!"



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"I think I learned more than the teens!!! That must be why they were there, to coach me not the other way round."

"I was one of the Mentors at the event and it was a wonderful experience. If I can be of any assistance in future, please don't hesitate to contact me."

"Just wanted to say thanks again for allocating slots for us at stepUP. I had an exceptional experience, I know you must think I am crazy but I really did love working with the kids. Also I gained loads of confidence at working with this age group as I believe I did alright!!"

"Thank you so very much for letting me be part of this. It was such a worthwhile experience. I look forward to continuing helping."

"stepUP Blackpool was the most rewarding 2 days of my life."

Feedback from Crew (adults who volunteer at stepUP's events)

"Just wanted to thank you so much for enabling me to experience crewing at the Blackpool stepUP programme. It was amazing and let's hope that all that energy is firing those teens today and in their future!"

"The event should be available to every teen in the UK to show them what they can do. Dreaming is good – stepping up is great. I feel privileged to have been a part of this. Thank you!"

"Just wanted to send a note to say how much I enjoyed the stepUP event. The whole experience was amazing – and I would not have missed it for anything. Having had time to reflect – I think the two best things for me were: 1) all the volunteers were absolutely lovely. It was refreshing to meet and work alongside people who are so genuine and so willing to give their time freely. Helps to restore your faith in human nature! 2) the transformation of the Teens was absolutely amazing! Thank you."

Feedback from Teens

"I really enjoyed stepUP – it was awesome. 10/10!"

"stepUP was really good, the speakers were all informative and taught us a lot about our futures, thank you very much I would like to be part of it again."

"I feel more motivated to work hard, this has given me ideas about things I would like to do in the future."

"stepUP was really good, now I know where I am taking steps in my life. I know it might be hard but stepUP has taught me to carry on!"

"I think stepUP is a great way to meet new friends and helps you to follow your dreams"

"I feel that I can achieve anything I want to do or be. I feel more determined and know I should focus on what I really want."

"You don't have to be rich and gifted to have a dream, just have the initiative to see it to the end."