

## Local youth volunteering project awarded national status

Sprout, a city wide project that helps young people set up their own green projects, run by the Partnership Council charity, has been awarded national 'Reach Achieved' status by the organisation Youth Action Network - recognising the project as one of the best of its kind in the UK.

'Reach' is Youth Action Network's quality practice framework for organisations providing youth-led volunteering (in partnership with the national youth volunteering programme involved.)

It was set up in 2007 to encourage organisations to let young people take the lead in volunteering projects whilst providing a high quality service to volunteers.

For example, 'Reach' encourages organisations to improve in areas such as volunteer safety, recognising the contribution made by volunteers, how volunteers can benefit the community, how organisations can network and partner with other organisations to improve opportunities for volunteers and ensuring that volunteers are recruited from a diverse range of ethnic minorities.

### **Jabran Ahmad from Sprout explains:**

*"Sprout gives young people aged 16 to 25 the help they need to start their own green projects, from providing small start-up grants to giving them practical support and advice. In addition, we offer young people the chance to get involved in environmental volunteering projects ranging from community gardening days to art events. Since Sprout started in January 2008 we've helped over 46 young people to set up their own environmental projects. Plus, over 70 young people have also volunteered at our various events. It's clear that there's a huge amount of passion and commitment amongst young people for environmental volunteering in Nottingham. Gaining 'Reach Achieved' status is fantastic and will hopefully encourage even more young people to get involved."*

Since 'Reach' was launched, hundreds of organisations have been working towards 'Reach Achieved' status around the UK and those who have been awarded it have shown that they are 'genuinely seeking to involve young people in leading their own volunteering opportunities'. Reach believes this will lead to young people being offered more choice in their volunteering, whilst getting more support to take responsibility and get more out of the experience.

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The kind of projects that Sprout has helped young people to set up include a mobile phone recycling project that raises money for the community; allotments and community gardens where young people are growing their own fruit and vegetables, a tree-planting scheme which provides free food for local people and a scheme to plant bee-friendly plants around Nottingham to save the city's declining bee population.

**To find out more about Sprout call Rachel or Jabran on 0115 970 8200  
or email [jabran@partnershipcouncil.co.uk](mailto:jabran@partnershipcouncil.co.uk) or [rachel@partnershipcouncil.co.uk](mailto:rachel@partnershipcouncil.co.uk)**

## **Notes for Editors:**

### **Youth Action Network**

Youth Action Network is a national organisation with unique experience and expertise in youth volunteering. It promotes the nine principles of 'Youth Action' aimed at improving youth volunteering. These are Youth Participation, Benefiting Others, Fun & Rewarding, Flexibility, Support, Recognition, Progression & Leadership, Diverse & Inclusive and Developmental & Educative. The network offers specialist support to organisations who support youth led volunteering including training, capacity building support, networking opportunities and awards and funding to voluntary organisations who support young people to develop their own volunteering opportunities.

**[www.youthactionnetwork.org.uk](http://www.youthactionnetwork.org.uk)**

**To find out more about Sprout visit: [www.sproutnottingham.org.uk](http://www.sproutnottingham.org.uk)**

**To find out more about the Partnership Council visit: [www.partnershipcouncil.co.uk](http://www.partnershipcouncil.co.uk)**

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