

# Green Impact Project Case Study

## Green Your Routine - changing routines, changing lives

### Background

Institution: The University of Sheffield

Team Name: The Student Administration Service

No. of years participating in Green Impact: 6

### Highlights

*Please include 2-3 bullet points (of approx. 10 words each) which summarises your case study:*

- **Give away & Re-use instead of buying new or throwing away**
- **Use sustainable food and products and pledge to be green(er)**
- **Volunteer in your local community**

### Description

*We set about wanting to make small changes to our routine in a bid to change our live and the lives of people around us. We focused mainly on the local area as we wanted to bring the community into the University. We wanted to give back to the local community by way of volunteering. Student Administration Service has made a pledge to create 3.5 hours per employee for volunteering each year that will be used in 3-4 organised groups. We will also have a review meeting at the end of the years volunteering to discuss what worked well and no so and ideas for further events.*

*We wanted to help local people and businesses and set about contacting them to organise volunteering events. We organised 3 events, at the Union nursery, Grange Crescent care home and the Alpaca Farm. So far, we have completed the volunteering at the Union nursery. The staff at the Union Nursery explained that they have a few children with special educational needs who really need the option to take some time away from the noisy nursery environment, but didn't have a space to go to. We created a sensory room for the nursery to solve this issue. On the 9th April we went to the Care home to host an afternoon tea and chat to the residents. The group felt they made a significant contribution to the residents day, listening to their life experiences and giving them so TLC. The carehome are currently in the process of fundraising for a sensory garden. We aim to raise money on our next bake sale to*

raise funds for this. On the 24th April we will be attending the Alpaca farm where we will be helping plant new seeds and tending to the crops (as well as take care of the animals!)

## Photographs

### Volunteering at the Union Nursery

*On the 15 March 2019, Ana Kingston, Megan Cardwell, Jo White, Helen Tattam and Rachael Firth all volunteered for the day at the Union Nursery. It was Red Nose day so all the children were really excited and started the day off with a bake sale and breakfast morning.*

*We hosted breakfast for the children and parents and served tea, coffee and cake. This allowed the parents to enjoy some quality time with their children. Everyone was in high spirits and the cake went down a treat! Sue, the Nursery Manager, had made a delicious banoffee pie, and the parents and nursery staff had all brought in goodies to sell in aid of Red Nose Day.*

*Once breakfast was over, the real work began. For Rachael, Ana, and Helen, there was an overwhelming number of cupboards, rooms and spaces to sort out, organise and get in to a usable condition to create much needed space for the staff and children of the nursery. Unfortunately, we were so overwhelmed that we forgot to take pictures of the original state of the place, so you will have to take our word for it when we say it was heaving! We didn't open one cupboard without sighing, as the realisation that we would need to tackle the mess set in!*

*Megan and Jo were tasked with cleaning and sorting the kitchen area in the 'Babyzone', which involved chiseling dried food from highchairs until they were like new, and generally having a good tidy up, especially inside the painting and craft cupboards. Megan and Jo also tackled the nappy changing/washing room, and sorted through all of the spare baby clothes, to make the baskets more manageable for staff to use. Sue was overwhelmed at the difference this all made, and kept commenting that the staff simply did not have the time to devote to these much-needed tasks.*

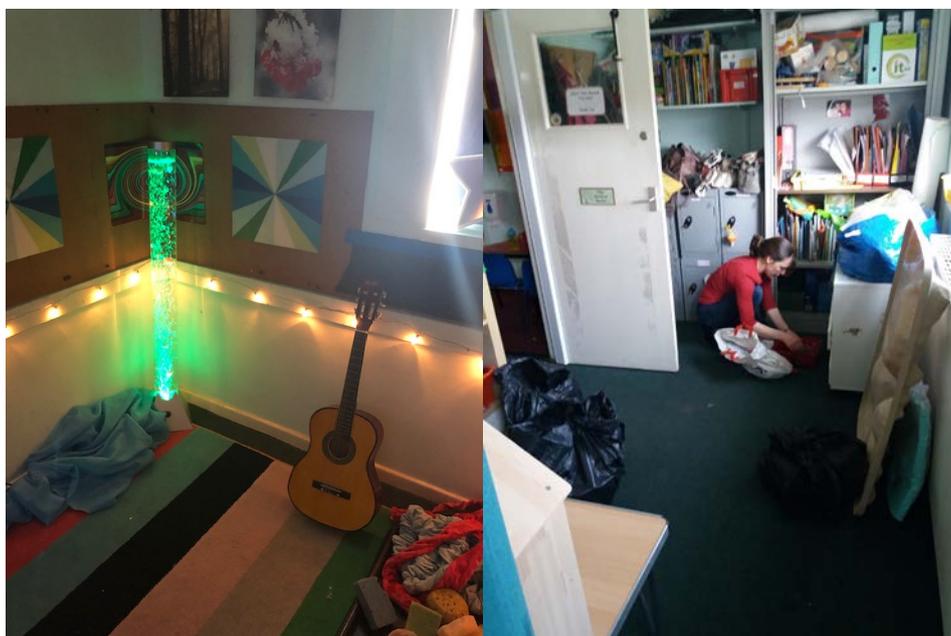
*After a quick tea break, there were more chairs to clean and boy were they grubby! Meal times are always messy and with so much to do before and after lunch, the nursery staff just don't have the time to give them a deep clean. They were so grateful for the work we put in. We managed to restore their condition just in time for lunch....*

*After speaking with the nursery staff, it became clear they would love to have more space to create calm areas for children to go to if they needed a bit of time out. The staff explained that they have a few children with special educational needs who really need the option to*

take some time away from the noisy nursery environment, but didn't have a space to go to. As space is limited, this was a tricky challenge, but we thought we could rise to it and after lunch we set about creating a **sensory room** for the nursery. The staff were so grateful and a little overwhelmed at the prospect of being able to provide this space for the children. They couldn't have thanked us enough. It was such a lovely feeling to know we have created this space for them.

Before we went to the nursery, we all weren't sure what kind of impact we would be able to have on an already well-established team, but by the end of the day we all felt a sense of achievement and that we had really made a huge difference to their day-to-day working environment.

It was so lovely to help children in our University community and we all feel very proud of our contribution.



## Self Assessment

*Please include the points you think your project should be awarded and why. Use the high scoring project template available [here](#) to see how well your project meets the criteria.*

We feel for this project we should be awarded 45 points.

SAS has pledged to give half a day for each employee to volunteering allowing all of the team to be involved. As this was optional for everyone, we set a target of involving 30% of staff in year one, 40% in year 2 and 50% in year 3. This year we have engaged over 35% of the Student Administration Service which is an improvement on our aims. We have had people that didn't originally sign up, wanting to take part and wish they had signed up sooner. We will be sharing our experiences of the day with everyone get more people to engage and allow us to meet our year 2 target.

We chose local organisations and charities and involved the local community and so far the help given has been greatly received.

We also wanted to contribute to the University's sustainability strategy which is why we chose the Alpaca farm. they grow their own organic produce and are inventive with junk! They educate local people to create sustainable healthy environments. At the nursery, as well as organising and rearranging their cupboard space and cleaned equipment, we created a sensory room for the children that has created a lasting legacy for the nursery.

Each time we volunteer with an organisation, we are creating links which will allow us to further develop our charity work in these areas. For example, for our next cake bake we will be raising money for the care home we work with. We also sourced an old computer screen monitor for the nursery to encourage creative play with the children.

We will be having a review of the activity in May to take a look at what worked well and what we could do next year to increase activity but to also create a legacy for the team. Our pledge is to make volunteering part of our year and to also encourage staff to volunteer outside of working hours by providing them with regular updates on what volunteering opportunities there are within Sheffield in a bid to fulfil our project aims of changing routines to change lives.