

30th June 2009 - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Rotherham young volunteers celebrated

A celebration event has taken place today (Tuesday 30th June) to recognise the work done by young volunteers in Rotherham.

Eight Rotherham based organisations are involved in the vinvolved project which creates volunteering opportunities for young people in the area aged 16 – 25. The project has now been running for over a year and in that time over 200 volunteering opportunities have been delivered.

Volunteers from all walks of life have been involved in the project and taken part in volunteering opportunities to improve their local communities. Roles undertaken have been extremely varied from drama to office work and photography to working with young mums.

The celebration event took place at Rotherham Town Hall and many volunteers and their friends and family attended to receive certificates of thanks. Volunteers also took the opportunity to publicly speak about their volunteering experiences and how it had improved their lives as well as those directly benefiting from the work. The event was opened and closed by performances from Cast Off Youth Theatre.

Mark Smith, Head of Operations for children's charity SAFE@LAST which leads on the project said "We are thrilled that so many young volunteers have attended the event today to celebrate their dedication and hard work to volunteering in Rotherham. As a consortium of eight organisations we aim to provide innovative and exciting volunteering opportunities which feed young peoples passions while helping to improve their local communities. Our thanks go to all the volunteers that have been involved so far."

Ends

Editors Notes

- The following organisations have been involved in the first year of the project delivery in Rotherham SAFE@LAST (Lead Organisation), Rotherham Young Peoples Services, Rotherham Womens Refuge, United Multicultural Centre, Chantry YMCA, Yorkshire Trust, GROW and Al-Muneera.
- v is the youth volunteering charity launched in May 2006 whose mission is to inspire a new generation of young volunteers in England aged 16-25. v is supported by the Office of the Third Sector in the Cabinet Office.
- The charity was set up to implement the recommendations of the Russell Commission outlining a new national framework for youth action and engagement, following a nationwide consultation which included 6000 young people.
- vinvolved is v's £75 million national youth volunteering programme, which aims to inspire 500,000 young people aged 16-25 to get positively involved in their communities over the next three years. It is funding 107 vinvolved teams of experts,

at least 107 Youth Action Teams and 158 projects run by small and large organisations across England.

- To find out more about v visit the charity's website www.wearev.com. To find out about volunteering opportunities in your area visit v's portal for young people www.vinspired.com

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