

Gateway to Independent Travel

Grant awarded: £25,818

Project delivered by:



General Overview of the Project

The Gateway to Independent Rail Travel project aimed to improve rail confidence and independence of young black, brown people and other disadvantaged youth (age 8-25), through travel planning and supporting journeys to nature spaces in Gloucestershire and Oxfordshire.

Project Delivery

We co-designed itineraries and delivered travel planning sessions to youth and youth leaders, building confidence in creating personal travel by rail itineraries through: reading departure boards, buying train tickets, conversing with station staff who will facilitate safe and supportive journeys, building familiarity with the rail environment. We delivered a travel confidence session in a faith school setting which was very well received, collating information regarding barriers to rail travel from young people from underrepresented minorities. We gathered youth impact and outcomes through surveys and other creative methods on how to encourage other youth to travel via rail travel ie surveys, postcards, observations, drawings, sustainable travel book. Our new Sustainable Travel booklet was extremely well received, with young people doing the activities on the train and being curious regarding train layout and the sustainability aspect of train travel.

In Gloucestershire we completed 8 rail trips to nature spaces for 135 young people with 4 community partners, delivered 5 bespoke travel training sessions for ages 8-25. In Oxfordshire we facilitated 4 days out by train with 3 partner organisations, supporting a total of 57 young people to access new experiences and opportunities.

Project Impact

Underrepresented youth had increased social confidence and self-esteem through nature experiences accessed via rail, improving health and wellbeing and creating better life chances. Partners and transport operators have a better understanding of barriers for youth from under-represented backgrounds to accessing rail and leisure activities. Youth reduced their carbon footprint via rail travel. Young people gained a better understanding of the sustainability aspects of train travel through using our Sustainable Travel booklet.

I loved all transport but today going on the train, from the outside it looked really scary and the possibility you could die, but I overcame this today and I had a lot of fun.

I loved being in nature especially after my exam stress.

I enjoy taking trains, it is a convenient way of transport. Taking trains often helps build my confidence.

Being out in nature was extremely insightful and educational. It was very peaceful and I enjoyed the journaling session.

