



Training Peer Researchers to be Peer Educators

with Rochdale Teenage Pregnancy Strategy & Rochdale Youth Service

Context

Rochdale Teenage Pregnancy Strategy and Rochdale Youth Service contacted ICA:UK following a recommendation from CVS Rochdale. They wanted to train a group of young people as peer educators.

The group had trained the previous year to carry out a year-long research project on the issues surrounding sexual health in BME communities. They were the first group of young people in Rochdale to design, conduct, analyse and disseminate their own research.

Peer research is a great experience for the young researchers, while providing a rare insight into young people's lives from the perspective of other young people. This is why the group felt that more young people should share in their skills and produce more research of the kind.

Process

After listening to the needs of the group, Amelia Lee of ICA:UK designed and delivered a bespoke one day training programme, in August 2009, to ensure that the trainees would receive general peer education skills while relating these to their speciality area of peer-research.



Outcomes & impact

The young people are now trained Peer Educators awaiting their accreditation from the Open College Network, as well as accredited Peer Researchers.

Katie Peters, Implementation Worker & Researcher, Teenage Pregnancy Strategy, wrote:

"I liaised with Amelia frequently prior to the training, to ensure that we both had a clear understanding of how the day would look, and agreed some sections that I would deliver alongside her. On the day, the session was fun, thought provoking and on time. The young people responded incredibly well to the approach, and went on to deliver a Peer Research training day just a few days later."

The project gained local press coverage - see: <http://www.theasiannews.co.uk/news/s/1135790>