

Roma Youth Project

With a new year comes a new start. Now in its fourth year of operation the Roma Youth Project is doing exactly that, with continued support from the Paul Hamlyn Foundation to deliver and develop RYP's work with young people from migrant Slovak, Czech and Romanian Roma backgrounds living in Glasgow. In a community where discrimination is no stranger it is vital that young people are receiving support, to ensure that as they grow and make choices about their futures, they have the guidance and skills necessary to make positive choices that will benefit them and the wider community.

RYP is working with young people from across the Roma communities in Glasgow to become more confident, involved in community life and most importantly gain skills to support them into employment and further education. After three years of operation it was time to take stock and gather together the evidence from the project to learn, not only what had gone well, but also where improvements could be made. We were delighted to appoint the Social Marketing Gateway as our external evaluator for the RYP and look forward to implementing the findings of the complete review.



Training session for the RYP staff

Also important during this year is the development of our staff and volunteers. The RYP staff underwent three excellent training sessions delivered by Tom Scott from Evaluation Support Scotland in December 2012. These sessions were designed to give project personnel the opportunity to think about how outcomes could be revised and how impact could be measured using a variety of methods. The feedback from the staff team however showed these sessions gave so much more and were a time to think about all the work that had been done and how to make it better. Ideas on how to measure impact and how to tailor methods to better suit young people were put forward and are now being integrated into future work.

This commitment to evaluation and staff development is key to the sustainability of WSREC, as Executive Director Mohammed Razaq says

"We see our staff team as one of our most valuable assets as without their drive, knowledge and enthusiasm we would not be able to reach individuals and communities most in need of our services. We have worked with Evaluation Support Scotland before and have found their innovative and easy to understand approach to evaluation excellent for our work. We were delighted that these sessions generated such great feedback and look forward to feeling the positive impact of this over the coming months"

Susie Dye, Grants Officer at the Paul Hamlyn Foundation adds

"Good evaluation can make a huge difference to projects – not just in demonstrating to funders the difference the money is making, but also in supporting staff to learn and improve. Some kinds of evaluation can also help participants see and reflect on the progress they are making, which is empowering for them. The WSREC team have committed to evaluating the Roma Youth Project, developing staff skills to make that possible, and building that learning into the next phase. We are pleased that the Paul Hamlyn Foundation's financial support for the project is contributing to that. We are looking forward to seeing the results and hope it will strengthen the case for future funding."