

CREATIVE WELLBEING TURRIFF: AMITY! PODCAST



How It Started

Turriff Community Sports and Wellbeing Hub has traditionally been a digital space for local sports clubs & other community organisations to come together to network, share training, funding and good practice along with the promotion of sport & physical activities.

It was identified that the Hub members had a need to become more inclusive, more wide-reaching, to network, share training, funding and good practice along with the promotion of sport & physical activities and explore inviting more creative and leisure based organisations to be part of The Hub network, to enable the development of opportunities.

Through creative activity and conversation with groups and individuals, the project aimed to support Turriff Sports and Wellbeing Hub to include a wider range of arts and leisure organisations.

Robyn Benson worked with the community to identify the best partners, spaces and community groups to establish how the creative process might engage people with the Hub network.

Through access to the Equalities and Inclusion group at Turriff Academy, the pupils decided to interview key community members about public spaces and how they could be more inclusive. As a result of these engagements the AMITY group have been involved with a consultation with Live Life Aberdeen's inclusion team, a display of LGBTQI+ books in Turriff Library, a presentation during school assembly, ideas to make the local sports and community venues more accessible and inclusive and finally, bringing the police in to talk to pupils about their rights and how the police can support them. From simple actions to gifting everyone Pride flags during June to shaping how the

public views their community spaces through displays, their actions are evident and have shifted relationships with public bodies.

These interviews were recorded as part of a podcast series meaning the pupils have learned valued communication and digital skills, as well as connecting with their community in a meaningful and positive way. After every interview, the pupils were excited and hopeful that they can make a difference and make the community a safer place. The school acknowledges the difference, this will make in ensuring that they had the opportunity to get their voices heard.

What are the project values?

Action & Citizenship

This project highlights the need for safe spaces, which is a direct action taken to improve the lives of youth. The podcast process empowered the students by giving them a voice and showing them that adults were willing to listen and talk with them about making changes, to create places where they feel safe. This fosters a sense of trust and encourages them to be active participants in their community.

Belonging & Community

The actions of the AMITY group resulted in making community spaces more inclusive and accessible to a wide range of people. By providing businesses with insights into the experiences of young people, the project encouraged local community businesses and organisations to take action and make their establishments more welcoming. This demonstrates how the project works to create positive change within the community.

Diversity & Equality

The strength of this project is how it showcases the difference EDI can make to communities, by working towards a more equitable and welcoming environment. The AMITY podcast breaks down barriers between a range of demographics including age, gender and race. The issues discussed between the pupils and community leaders were wide ranging and allowed them to influence change. Not only were they able to bring about inclusion for others, but they elevated the voice of young people in the region.

Why does this way of working matter?

This project has demonstrably increased equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI) visibility in Turriff, creating safe spaces and making them open and welcoming to the community. It has empowered students to feel they have a voice and shown them there are many accepting and safe places to visit. For local businesses, the project provided valuable insights into the experiences for youth, allowing them to identify ways to make their establishments more welcoming and positive.

Future Plans

As a result of AMITY, it is hoped to establish more partnerships across and within the community, different clubs and associations that will continue to foster an inclusive environment in Turriff. This could lead to more events in the region and a presence at local activities. The podcast skills are now something the pupils can share with new members to the group and future issues can be explored, with support from the pupils to take positive actions.

AMITY hope to amplify their message of inclusion, to leverage the strength of existing partnerships, organising talks and Q&A sessions to foster open dialogue. Additionally, by forging new partnerships with diverse community groups, they hope they can ensure their message reaches a wider audience and permeates all corners of the region. This multi-pronged approach will solidify the concept of inclusion as a core value within society.

Links to Community

There's a growing sense of acceptance for inclusion and diversity in the Turriff community, and AMITY wants to build on that momentum. This project aims to further normalise diverse identities by increasing visibility and inclusivity. One way that is planned for the future is by securing representation at larger events like the Turriff Show. We'll also continue collaborating with the Equality and Inclusion pupils to foster their sense of belonging and create a more welcoming environment for everyone.

Want to Know More?

- [Turriff Community Sports and Wellbeing Hub](#)
- [North East Culture Collective Project Page](#)
- [AMITY! Podcasts](#)

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