

Project Background

The "In the Driving Seat" Project is part of the work of the Birmingham Wheels Park. The Park was opened in the early 1980's to give young people the chance to ride motorcycles and drive cars in a safe and supervised way. Twenty years on, the need for young people to have these opportunities is just as great and this project is fulfilling a much needed role for the Young People in the West Midlands.

A personal and social development programme for Young People and those with special needs

**BIRMINGHAM
WHEELS**

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Saltley
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A Birmingham City Council controlled
charitable Co. No 70 12 09

**BIRMINGHAM
WHEELS**

*"In the
Driving Seat"
Programme*

0121 771 0725

Project Aims

The personal and social development of young people through the use of motor vehicles

To reduce the number of young people using motor vehicles illegally and dangerously

To reduce car and motorcycle theft.

To offer legitimate motorised activities

To increase self confidence and self esteem through the acquisition of skills

To increase employability & interest in further training / education

Target Group

Young people excluded from school

Those at risk of exclusion

Those having offended or at risk of offending

Those coming to the attention of other agencies

Those young people preparing for further training

Young people of 14 years and upwards welcome, irrespective of gender, race or disability

Who will benefit

Disadvantaged young people and their communities

Young people at risk of being marginalised

The general public, particularly those living in troubled areas

Agencies working with sometimes difficult young people

Adults with emotional or learning difficulties

Young people and their parents or carers, who could undertake the programme together.

Project Resources

Skilled and committed Project Workers

Dedicated areas for driving cars, karts, motorcycles, off road vehicles and rally karts

A wide range of vehicles including karts, cars, motorcycles, Rally Karts and 4 x 4 Landrover

All Overalls and safety equipment including protective gloves

Study bases include personal computers and video watching and making facilities

A variety of work and social bases

Access to professional motorcycle and car driving instruction

Activities

Training in safe use of vehicles

Basic mechanical work and fault finding

First Aid training and Health and Safety procedures

Introduction to MOT, Tax, Insurance, Driving Theory

Effects of alcohol, drugs on driving ability

Method of Working

Using Youth Work principles, with staffing ratio of one to three, with maximum group size of nine

Person centred approach, starting from where the young people are

Using group dynamics and behaviour for analysis and learning

To aim for development of good quality relationships to increase self awareness and esteem. Role in groups. Results of co-operation and effects of taking responsibility

Outcomes

Participants will receive personalised record of participation and achievement

Where appropriate this will include results of tests in:

Basic use of tools

Handling of vehicles

Driving test

Driving theory test

Basic knowledge of First Aid

Participants will be assessed at the start and end of a course for evidence of:

Motivation

Personal goals achieved

Learning achieved

Any changes of attitude towards learning

Longer term personal goals

Participants will be given opportunity to anonymously express views about the course

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