

Lancashire YJS – The Chuckery Project

[keywords: *young people, engagement, skills training, wellbeing*]

Overview

The Chuckery is a not-for-profit sanctuary-farm housing rescue poultry and other livestock, often removed from people's possession by the police and the RSPCA. Lancashire YJS has partnered with the farm to provide opportunities for young people to volunteer at the Chuckery, in roles tailored to their skills and interests, whether working with the animals themselves or helping out in other areas, such as building sheds and fences, repairing farm equipment, or making bird boxes and other products which are sold to the public in exchange for pet food (which is in turn donated to a pet food bank). And the young people can gain certificates to demonstrate the skills they have learned. Around five or six children attend the farm each week, for a minimum of two months, generally on a 1-2-1 basis, supervised by a young person's training officer (YPTO).

Its impact

The experience can have a profound impact on the young people. We see them grow in confidence, open up more, and engage with the YJS more fully. They also learn new skills and interests, and can gain certificates to show what they have learnt (a first for many of them). The farm, and the wider community (through the pet food bank) benefit too.

What's special about it

It is a project which is popular with the young people, with widespread benefits both to them and the wider community.

Wider applicability

It is a project with minimal costs which could be rolled out more widely and we are looking at developing similar partnerships across our own region.

Further information

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See also: [YJB Resource Hub entry](#)