



RSPB RESIDENTIALS

Young Merton partnered with the **RSPB** to give Merton's young people the chance to experience Cameron's Cottage, their 1000-acre property set in the New Forest. Through outdoor learning, the residentials aimed to build confidence, independence, social action and a lasting connection with nature.

Thanks to the generosity of the **Cameron Bespolka Trust**, the experience was **completely free** for participating organisations – with staff, travel, food, accommodation and activity costs all fully covered.

25

YOUNG PEOPLE
PARTICIPATED

18

OUTDOOR LEARNING
ACTIVITIES

7

NIGHTS STAY
(ACROSS 2 TRIPS)

3

MEMBER ORGS
SUPPORTED





WHO WE REACHED

The young people who participated in the trip were between **11-15 years old**. Within this, they were also:

63% First time experiencing a residential

59% From **Global Majority** backgrounds

21% Neurodiverse or **SEND**

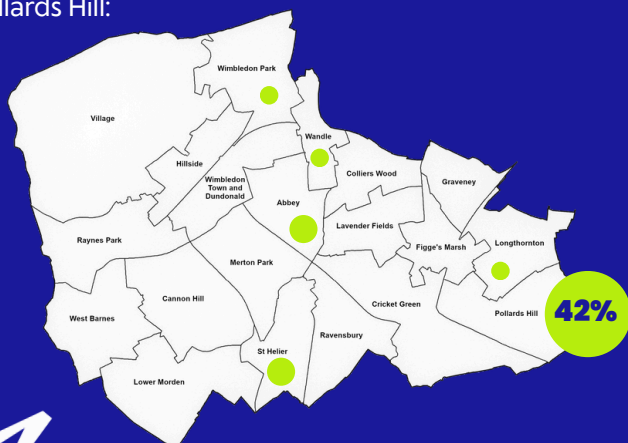
2 School excluded

1 Experience of the **care system**

1 Experience of the **criminal justice system**

WHERE WE REACHED

The young people who participated in the trip came from **6 wards across the borough** - Longthornton, Wandle, Wimbledon Park, Abbey, St. Helier and Pollards Hill:



WHAT CHANGED?

Organisations reported **significant improvements** in their **young people's**:



RELATIONSHIP
BUILDING



COMMUNICATION



TEAMWORK



LEADERSHIP



STAFF
CONFIDENCE



ORGANISATIONAL
CONFIDENCE



ORGANISATIONAL
REPUTATION



PARTNERSHIP
WORKING

Organisations reported **significant improvements** in their **organisation's**:

The impact of this residential on our young people has been truly significant.

It has given them memories that will last a lifetime, helped them develop a greater understanding of wildlife and how they can play a role in protecting it, and provided opportunities to build friendships with young people from similar backgrounds who live within their local community.

Through shared experiences, challenges, and activities, the residential has increased their confidence, broadened their knowledge, and created connections that will continue long after the trip has ended. Showing our young people that there's more to life than just football!

- Gabriel Nipah, Raising Stars Football Club CIC



The residential gave our young people the opportunity to step away from the pressures of everyday life. To build new friendships, develop confidence, and connect with nature in a meaningful way.

We witnessed a group of young people who arrived feeling nervous and unsure of each other gradually form genuine friendships over the course of the trip. By the final evening, these same young people were laughing together during the quiz and awards ceremony, celebrating each other's strengths and achievements.

Seeing them support one another, embrace new challenges, and create lasting memories reminded us of the incredible impact that shared experiences can have on young people's wellbeing.

- Louise Elliott, Jigsaw4u



THE IMPACT DOESN'T END AT THE COTTAGE



Each of the groups has been inspired by their experience to develop a **social action project** that responds to the needs that they see in their own communities - from mini eco fairs to sponsored fun runs in aid of local environmental groups - and Young Merton is working on ways to support them to bring their ideas to life.

We believe that's where the longer-term legacy of these residencies will be created - in the projects they develop, the people they inspire and the changes they make at home.

There is something particularly powerful about the different layers of intention behind this programme: Cameron's legacy inspiring the Trust; the Trust enabling the RSPB to create extraordinary experiences; Young Merton and local organisations connecting those opportunities to young people who might otherwise never experience them; and then those young people taking what they've learned back into their communities.

