

# Employer Supported Volunteering

Two teams from the Department of Business, Innovation & Skills undertook two different team challenges: one to help build new decking at Heeley City Farm, one to paint murals at Greenhill/Bradway Youth Centre. Here are their comments:



## What did you learn?

How little effort it takes to make a real difference to people in the community. Our work was much valued and this was very rewarding.

I learnt not to make assumptions about what people should know.

I gained a much better first-hand sense of the challenges faced by some disadvantaged young people living in my community.  
I am much more likely to volunteer again because of this experience.

## How will the volunteering project benefit you at work?

By bringing me closer to my work colleagues. It is important to meet them as individuals, out of the workplace, in order to feel more comfortable when back in the workplace.

It has enhanced a team spirit at work.

Now that the administrator has worked side by side with the team manager she feels much more confident in approaching him at work.



## Thoughts on the day



It was a great day! Really fun, and I had no idea we'd achieve anything so good!

I think we got as much benefit from the day as a team building exercise as much as the farm benefited from our volunteering.

We surprised the charity and ourselves at how much we achieved. It was great to see everyone's enthusiasm increase as the murals came to life. We are still talking about the experience weeks later!

My job is spent developing national policies that will improve the life-chances of disadvantaged young people. Having a fun way of brightening the environment for just a few young people can be more immediately rewarding than hours spent at a computer. What a fantastically motivational experience.

We had a really fantastic day, much better than any of us imagined.

I'm absolutely ecstatic. Everyone's worked really hard and I can't believe how well we've done.