

Spotlight on...

Keeping Huddersfield people with Down Syndrome and their families safe

What the need was and how we identified it

In April 2011 Huddersfield Red Watch played host to community members from the Huddersfield Down Syndrome Support Group, who were treated to a Road Traffic Collision display as well as dressing in fire kit and spraying hose reels. One of the parents volunteered to be the victim in the road traffic collision drill and was dressed in full fire kit for the occasion.

Huddersfield Down Syndrome Support Group is a registered charity, set up by parents in the Huddersfield district of children with Down Syndrome. They provide support to families, celebrate the children's achievements, champion their views and aspirations and also provide social, sporting and learning opportunities for the children and their siblings. Membership is free and open to people with Down Syndrome and their families.

What we did and the difference we made

Many members of the community who have Downs Syndrome are classed as a high risk for West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service. We make every effort to identify and work with these groups and pass on vital fire and road safety information to individuals and their carers to keep them safe. Huddersfield Red Watch is very proactive in identifying at risk groups within their station area and, where appropriate, inviting them to attend the station for education and training. One of our firefighters at Huddersfield has a young son with Down Syndrome.



West Yorkshire
Fire & Rescue Service

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An excellent Fire and Rescue Service Making a difference

Outcomes

- Carried out a road traffic collision drill explaining the dangers to individuals and what the skills of fire and rescue staff are.
- Building bridges with firefighters to see them as someone they can trust.
- Provided them with a copy of the fire safety DVD, developed in partnership with Down Syndrome community members from Bradford and Safety Central, to support their education.
- The children had a great time looking at the fire engines and interacting with all the members of Red Watch.
- WYFRS Sailing Section will be using their fund raising prowess to raise money for this group at the next UK sailing challenge as well as their long term chosen charity, Yorkshire Cancer Research.

Keys to our success

- Establishing links in Huddersfield with community members with Down Syndrome.
- Development opportunities for staff working with diverse community groups and their carers.

Contact

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Huddersfield Down Syndrome Support Group
www.hdssg.org

This 'spotlight on' contributes to...



**DELIVERING A PROACTIVE
FIRE PREVENTION AND
PROTECTION PROGRAMME**



**PROVIDING A SAFE,
COMPETENT, DIVERSE
WORKFORCE**



**EFFECTIVE SERVICE
DELIVERY AND COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT**
INDICATOR: 3.15

**EMPLOYMENT AND
TRAINING**
INDICATOR: 3.26



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