

CORPORATE VOLUNTEERING CASE STUDY

From Roadside to Garden Pride:

Arriva's corporate volunteers lend a hand at Grindon Young People's Centre



Staff from Arriva Road Transport Services swapped computers for garden tools, as part of a corporate volunteering day at Grindon Young People's Centre in Sunderland. The team helped transform the outdoor areas and made a big difference to this vital community facility.

Grindon Young People's Centre is a community hub, offering a safe and supportive space for children and teenagers. A lot of work has

recently been done to update the kitchen area but like many community-run venues, its outdoor areas had become overlooked and needed a little TLC. Ray Knox, Volunteer Manager of the centre said: "This has given us a look with fresh eyes on how we need to now look at the outside of the building and the first impressions we give." Ray has been connected to the centre since he was 11 years old when his dad found the centre to keep him busy, active and safe. Now aged 76 years old, he is still impassioned about providing opportunities for other young people of the area. As the venue is completely volunteer led, it means he has to prioritise his time.



Arriva, committed to community engagement across the North East, encourages employees to get involved in

volunteering that benefits local people. Supporting youth spaces like this one felt like a perfect fit.

"I'm really passionate about children having access to organisations and activities that possibly help them stay out of trouble." Says Alivia, who is part of the Pre-plan Team at Arriva. "Normally I am working from home in front of a screen, and this impacts my social life. Through volunteering I can make an impact in communities, and on my own mental health."

Alivia is one of Arriva's Social Value Champions who promote the company's core values of:

- Making a difference.
- Caring passionately.
- Doing the right thing.

This involves volunteering time for community organisations with the same values. Arriva's forward-thinking Employer Supported Volunteering policy means that Alivia has total flexibility on where she volunteers and how often – as long as it complements the company's values. As a result, Arriva contribute in the region of 300 volunteer hours / month.

Leo, Arriva's Social Value Apprentice, says: "I'm new to the company but the opportunity to volunteer really sold me on this job. I actually get to make a difference and to get to know and become part of the community. This is not a tick box exercise for Arriva." As Leo had a 5-hour train journey to get to Grindon for 9am, and Alivia drove 3 hours with an overnight stay to come and help – this indicates the company's integrity and is all the more incredible.

Key outcomes:

- A cleaner, safer outdoor space for centre users.
- Enhanced pride and kerbside appeal for the Centre.
- Strengthened links and reputation between a local business and the community sector.
- A positive team-building experience for Arriva staff.



Awareness of the work the centre does, and the success of this volunteering day has sparked interest in future collaborations. Leo and Alivia are keen to return to help in other ways.

| NO OF CORPORATE VOLUNTEERS | TOTAL NO OF HRS GIVEN | SOCIAL VALUE (VOLUNTEERING) £ |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| 2 | 12 | 406.32 |

- For enquiries regarding corporate volunteering email: volunteer@sunderlandvsa.co.uk.
- Grindon Young People's Centre is available for hire and welcomes new volunteers: knoxyray@gmail.com
- Arriva Ltd. is a British multinational public transport company headquartered in Sunderland: www.arriva.co.uk.