

Case Study: Turning the Tide

Project Details:

With £42,000 of BIG Lottery funding Challenge Wales provided, for the first time, sail training opportunities to visually impaired and blind young people under the age of 26. The voyages would enable young people to develop confidence, have the same experience as anyone else onboard and give them the opportunity to make new friends. The funding helped pay for new equipment including; talking tactile charts, audio-compass, audio galley equipment (e.g. thermometer), volunteer training and transport for visually impaired people to/from the boat.

Learnings:

Voyages with younger people needed to start & finish at the same port to accommodate their needs better. Parents put their children onto voyages in most cases and as such extra administration processes needed to be put in place to dig deeper into a young person's condition to ensure the voyage was suitable for them.



The Results:

Over 2,750 hours were donated by volunteers. 28 days of sailing were delivered, **more** than originally planned. 18 volunteers were **directly trained** to work with visually impaired people.

89% of those who took part completed our evaluation survey with the results being:

- 100% of beneficiaries **made friends** with someone onboard
- 100% of beneficiaries said they **learnt something new**
- 95% said taking part in the voyage **helped them become more confident**
- 91% said they were able to take part in different tasks above and below deck
- 85% said they were able to contribute to discussions about the voyage
- 94% said they **learned to work as part of a team**
- 100% said they **would recommend** Challenge Wales as a good experience

Comments about the audio compass were *"It was amazing, I would not have been able to steer without it"*

Parents reported: *"As a blind child my son has so many people saying "you can't do this" or "you won't be able to do that". This trip gave his confidence a boost"* Other parents said: *It was good to interact with other children" and "He met new friends and it was a massive sense of achievement"*.

