

Case Study: Equal Opportunities | Adventure Wales (June 2018)

Details:

The sail training vessel *Adventure Wales* enables everyone to work together on a level playing field and no sailing experience is required to take part – just a willingness to try. This enables a diverse mix of young people to learn life-skills and opportunities to be provided. Eight young people were recruited for a 10 day voyage.

Voyage:

Adventure Wales' first voyage was a Tall Ships Regatta, where she represented Wales and the UK. She sailed from Liverpool to Dublin (around the Isle of Man) and back to Cardiff. Young people from various different backgrounds successfully worked to a common goal.



The Results:

- Two young people had progressed from the charity's *Voyages of Discovery* Big Lottery funded project, which works with some of the hardest to reach young people in Wales, onto this voyage.
- Participants were from North, West, Mid and South Wales.
- Participants backgrounds included; a person who had been a drug user as a teenager and was in the care system, someone who had autism & learning difficulties, a 23 year old unemployed person with few qualifications, had Asperger's and had never been away from his family for more than one night before, a person who had had severe family issues, someone who had medical conditions that stopped them doing other activities, a person who had just finished university as a doctor, a college student who enjoyed being outdoors and two people doing their Gold DofE award with college.
- Outside of this event, the paths of the young people would never have crossed enabling everyone to learn about different people's situations and be more accepting of people's differences. Onboard *Adventure Wales* they worked together as a team to crew the boat, cook and clean.
- Young people reported having **increased confidence** and **improved socialisation skills** as a result of the voyage. The young people gained **experience in working in shifts** and were able to **make new friends**.
- One young person **improved their cooking skills** which has **helped them in their current work placement as a chef** while another said they had **developed their leadership skills**.

"I've learn a lot about myself and having to be independent away from home"

"I really enjoyed the memories I made, the challenge and working as a team"

"Thank you for this amazing opportunity, I will never forget my time onboard Adventure Wales"