

JET



A grass roots charity based in the heart of a deprived inner city ward in Derby with a population of 30,000, 60% of whom are BME, JET's (Jobs, Employment and Training) core purpose is to reduce social deprivation and deliver jobs, education and training to improve economic prosperity throughout the community.

Firmly believing in "Our Community, Our Responsibility", the charity's work focuses on the delivery of training courses and workshops, supplementary learning, capacity building of local VCS organisations, job-search skills to help local people into employment, and experiential visits and activities.

JET was formed in 2000 when a small group of individuals began meeting to consider how to reduce social deprivation and facilitate opportunities for the local community. After the success of a conference, funded by Government Office East Midlands' Champion Fund and supported by the Commission for Racial Equality, which aimed to find ways to tackle underachievement amongst Pakistani and Bangladeshi children, the charity was formed.

JET has been growing from strength-to-strength ever since, whilst always aiming to meet the changing and growing needs of its local community. This development can be seen in the increase in the number of people who come to JET for help and support, which increased from 42 people in September 2008 to 1,798 in May 2012.

One of JET's current projects are its experiential visits, which include:

- outward bound activities that increase confidence and team building skills within safe countryside environments;
- cultural activities, ranging from theatre performances in Derby to a trip to the European Parliament in Brussels;
- educational visits for girls to universities and other locations to encourage them into higher education and careers;
- visits focusing on British Citizenship to Derby institutions including Derby City Council;
- and visits to heritage sites throughout Derbyshire encouraging an interest in British history, culture and attitudes.

From September 2011 to March 2012, JET also managed Alone We Survive, Together We Thrive, a project funded by NIACE and the Adult Community Learning Fund. The project delivered a series of fun, informal learning activities to individuals within the community with the aim of helping existing and emerging BME communities to improve their job prospects, enrich their social lives, enhance their confidence, and develop better community harmony and cohesion.

Another important aspect of JET's work is its capacity building, initially funded by Derbyshire Learning & Skills Council and Capacity Builders, and through which the charity works with over 50 organisations. As a grassroots organisation, JET understands how hard it is for emerging VCS organisations to get set-up and the problems they face. Therefore they offer two strands of capacity building:

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- Establishment, which focuses on the fundamentals, including the roles and responsibilities of the Board of Trustees, and policies and procedures.
- Sustainability, which focuses on more complex issues, including brand identity and risk management.

Since forming, JET has been funded by a range of sources including Derby and Derbyshire Economic Partnership, the Big Lottery Fund, the Learning Development Consortium, the Department for Work and Pensions and the Derbyshire Community Foundation. It also receives additional revenue from its own services, including the rental of its newly refurbished meeting and conference spaces.

For further information on JET visit www.jetderby.co.uk.

“With new migrants arriving constantly there is a need to engage with them quickly to enable a positive integration into our society and to ensure that they can actively participate in a support network which they trust.”

Mohammed Sharief, Executive Director