



Public Body Award

Name of organisation nominated

Lewisham and Greenwich Young Cyclists
John Ball Primary School

1. **What objectives did you share with the community?** (Maximum 200 words) What were you trying to change, how did you identify the problem?

We set out to get more young people and families cycling in the London Boroughs of Lewisham and Greenwich, especially for the journey to and from school. But also to empower young people to make journeys, such as to a local swimming pool or cinema, where otherwise they would have to rely on friends or family.

2. **How did you work with the community?** (Maximum 200 words)

Explain how you communicated, worked together and included people

We built up a pool of about 50 children's bicycles, some new and some reconditioned by young people that had been recovered by the police but not claimed. Some of these bikes were given away to disadvantaged children and some are kept as pool bicycles to be used by children who have no access to a bicycle and no where to store one, particularly those children living in social housing.

Based at John Ball Primary School in Lewisham, we went into three other schools and trained pupils in Bikeability cycle training to give them the skills and confidence to cycle to and from school.

Rides and events were communicated by flyer in bike shops and distributed to schools, listing on the Lewisham events website, and listing with Lewisham Cyclists and Greenwich Cyclists.

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3. How did you meet the need? (maximum 200 words)

Explain what you actually did - resources used, people worked with etc.

Quality cycle training was delivered to 610 children in four Lewisham primary schools in one year. Cycle rides, open to all, were offered every second weekend to families and young people, and new and returning cyclists. Children in Year 5 (age 9 and 10) were cycled to and from their swimming lesson every week.

The lead of the cycling projects was a full-time teacher at one of the schools; other people worked with were the local police, parent volunteers, members of Lewisham Cyclists and Greenwich Cyclists and other school staff.

4. What improvements did you make to the quality of peoples' lives?

(Maximum 200 words) What happened as a result of your work, and what were the wider changes that this brought about?

A great many children who had never cycled to school started cycling to school. Parents, with their children cycling to school, gave up the motor vehicle for their daily commute and took to their bikes. Families, learning about local motor traffic free routes in the area, started going on cycle rides independent of the cycling club. There was a noticeable drop in congestion at the school gate, and the effect is spreading to other schools.

Several schools have been in contact about setting up their own cycle clubs, and have started to do so.

On one occasion we had 250 children cycling together on Blackheath, on another occasion we had 300 parents and children on a mass cycle ride into central London.

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