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| |  | | --- | | The Great Fuel4Fun Christmas Takeaway Following on from last year’s heart-warmingly successful The Great Christmas Takeaway, which saw 750 hot meals, selection boxes and children’s gifts delivered to families around the borough by an army of Active Tameside volunteers, efforts are well-underway to complete this year’s mission.   Renamed ‘The Great Fuel 4 Fun Christmas Takeaway’ it will be rolled out as part of the trust’s Fuel 4 Fun initiative which began in February this year to tackle food poverty and social inequalities for thousands of young people and their families across Tameside.   By the end of the Christmas school holidays the scheme will have so far reached 9,147 Tameside families – those with children aged five to 13 in receipt of free school meals and under 18s with special educational needs and disabilities - through its school holiday camps and provided 45,735 cook-at-home food box meals.   Another 750 Christmas Takeaway hot meals - chicken curry and rice, beef mince hash, veggie pasta and vegan options - will be whipped up by volunteers in the Active Community Café at The Together Centre, in Dukinfield.   250 meals a day will be prepared over three days using fresh produce harvested from Active Tameside’s Community Allotment, which is lovingly grown and tended by Everybody Can’s young people and Adult Day Service clients, and donations from charitable food distributors FareShare.   They will then be packed into vehicles ready to land on doorsteps - along with selection boxes – thanks to a team of jolly festive jumper-wearing volunteers on 20th, 21st and 22nd December who will be delivering to various towns each night.   Around 22 volunteers, including kitchen teams, packers, drivers and escorts are all involved in the festive effort along with Everybody Can service users and all preparation and delivery will be conducted under the recommended covid safety measures.   Active Tameside’s Head of Health and Social Outcomes Dan Higgins is yet again overseeing the project.   “The last 12 months have again, been, somewhat turbulent with specific reference to the pandemic. However, despite the struggles and everchanging, fast paced world of Health and Social Care, I am extremely proud of the outcomes we have been able to achieve – embodied greatly by our Fuel 4 Fun initiative which has proved to be a real success,” said Dan.   “Therefore, building on that and following on from the impact and fantastic feedback we received last year we want to do our bit to ensure there is at least one hot meal this Christmas for those who need it most,” said Dan.   “Again, we were overwhelmed with responses after inviting people to sign up and refer someone in need for our Great Fuel 4 Fun Christmas Takeaway.   “And again, we have an amazing team of willing volunteers who are generously donating their time to make sure it all runs smoothly.   “As a charitable trust, Active Tameside is there to make a difference and to support the Tameside community when people need it most. We feel proud to be part of something so positive and we hope it brings some seasonal cheer at what can be a difficult time of year.   “I’d like to thank everyone for their efforts in bringing this together, from those taking good care of the wonderful produce grown on our allotments to those lovingly preparing the meals and the volunteers packing and delivering. We couldn’t do it without them.   “On behalf of all of us at Active Tameside I would like to wish everybody a very merry Christmas and a happy and healthy new year.”   Over the Christmas holidays the Fuel 4 Fun initiative will again be delivering a range of camps and sessions across its centres - Active Copley, Active Ken Ward, Active Hyde, Tameside Wellness Centre, Adventure Medlock and Adventure Longdendale – alongside holiday camps in several schools, sports clubs and youth projects.   The camps will welcome 1,340 children and young people – including 150 SEND youngsters - to enjoy activities including rock climbing, high ropes, swimming, animal encounters, African drumming, gymnastics, arts and crafts, sports and more.   They will have a hot meal while in camp and receive a food hamper containing ingredients to a make five festive healthy and nutritious meals plus an activity bag to keep them active throughout the holiday.    Another 400 families will receive food hampers.   Lorraine Hopkins, Tameside Council’s Head of Service - Early Help, Neighbours and Early Years Service said: “The HAF (Holiday Activity and Food Funding) Fuel 4 Fun project has been a great success in Tameside delivered through a partnership with Active Tameside, Voluntary, Nutrition teams and Local Authority services.   “There has been a host of fully inclusive and accessible holiday activities on offer across the holiday periods providing a free safe, stimulating and healthy environment in which children can participate in.   “This has been a challenging year for families across Tameside and this project funded from the Department for Work and Pensions, has supported families on income based free school meals to access quality activities and nutritional recipes and meals across key holiday periods.”   Active Tameside is a not-for-profit organisation, reinvesting 100% of its profits back into providing accessible community leisure centres and a range of award-winning health and social care intervention services and programmes, in partnership with Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council. | |

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| |  | | --- | | **Yasmin's Journey**   Yasmin began her journey with Active Tameside 4 years ago when she enrolled onto the Supported Internship Programme – an employment-based course giving young people with additional needs the opportunity to develop their employability skills and progress into paid employment.   Yasmin’s Supported Internship journey started at Tameside Hospital on her initial placement in September 2017. However, through a lack of enjoyment and engagement her placement broke down, leaving us to explore alternative opportunities – our Social Enterprise Community Cafe at Loxley House.   Yasmin, really took to catering and all things it involved from prepping and serving the meals, interacting with the customers and completing cleaning down duties and after a successful trail shift was offered a work experience placement which allowed her to learn the roles and responsibilities of a Catering Assistant whilst undergoing her Food Hygiene qualification.   Towards the end of the placement, the opportunity of paid employment came up which Yasmin took the time to apply for, before attending an interview, where she was successful and was offered the position of Catering Assistant on a 12-month fixed term basis.   A fundamental function of our Community Cafes are to use them as training kitchens to then potential progress the young person into our Fuel cafes at the various Active sites – Active Copley, Active Hyde, Adventure Medlock, Adventure Longendale, ITRAIN and Tameside Wellness Centre to create further opportunities for others with additional needs – Yasmin’s journey certainly embodies this.   In the last month Yasmin has made this transition over and is now a member of staff within the Fuel café at Tameside Wellness Centre. Again, an application and job interview process had to be undertaken with Yasmin obviously smashed! We are so proud of Yasmin and her achievements.  Echoed further by her mum “Yasmin is loving her new role and even did 3 hours overtime this weekend.” | | https://mcusercontent.com/a53ef4b9ac1c27087b2a2e2d1/images/1514ad01-fa0e-e218-866f-984dff22bc24.png | |

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| |  | | --- | | **Caleb's Journey**   Meet Caleb who started on the Supported Internship in September. Caleb has health conditions and diagnoses of ADHD, autism, and dyslexia, and as a result initially found it difficult to engage with his peers and the staff team yet, persisted with the course as he was determined to be successful in his search for paid employment. Caleb’s journey with Active Everybody Can is one that started 5 years ago when he was released from school for one day per week to gain work experience in our Social Enterprise Community Café – learning the fundamental catering skills needed to work in a catering environment. Furthermore, when Caleb progress from year 9 to year 10 upon leaving Thomas Ashton School, he attended our Special Education provision full time. The aims for the programme are to create a pathway to independence and develop people holistically through a person-centred approach. We use engaging activities to help individuals grow their life skills, social skills and improve their health and wellbeing – the 3 years Caleb attended this provision were all about preparing him to progress into employment in the future. Evidenced through him achieving his functional skills, BTEC First Diploma in Sport and Food Hygiene Level 1 qualifications.  Therefore, to see the planned pathway in its entirety with him progressing onto the Supported Internship in September was something the Everybody Can team was extremely proud of – showcasing how the service is interlinked within the community, encompasses all walks of life: social care, community interaction, education and employment. Moving on, Caleb joined the Fuel team in the cafe at ITRAIN on his initial work placement in September of this year and was given excellent support, clear structure and specific targets for him to work towards. On top of this, the café team have ensured that Caleb has learnt new skills, such as using the coffee machine which has boosted his self-esteem and confidence and he is now happy to serve customers and work the tills. Caleb said “The staff at ITRAIN are great and I always feel supported, I feel like I can ask them anything” The opportunity of paid employment presented itself in October, pending a successful recruitment process which the Life Skills and Employability Coaches supported and readied him for – supporting him with completing the application form and in the interview. We are thrilled to tell you all – HE GOT THE JOB! Caleb was offered a permanent part-time position in the Fuel café at Active Hyde and will work towards achieving his Level 2 Food Hygiene qualification. Caleb was delighted to find out he was successful. We are so proud of him and for a 16-year-old he has overcome so much already and is a shining example to his peers as he often helps at others. Not only that, his work ethic should be commended as he is also regularly picking up overtime in the café at ITRAIN, as he is trusted to work alone Caleb is an excellent example of how the Supported Internship can support young people, not only to find employment but to build essential life skills, to gain confidence to overcome any barriers. It also shows how well the partnership between ourselves, ITRAIN and Tameside College works. Therefore, I would like to make specific reference to the support of colleagues’ form ITRAIN for playing a pivotal part in Caleb’s journey. Finally, well done and good luck in your new role Caleb. | | https://mcusercontent.com/a53ef4b9ac1c27087b2a2e2d1/images/5709e13f-09ea-5363-5115-0cee82d1fd48.jpg | |

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| |  | | --- | | **Utilising our service to be a bigger part of the answer!**   This quarter saw the partnership between Active Tameside, Tameside Council and NHS Tameside grow stronger, with a successful health checks pilot for people with learning disabilities being completed.   Two dates across November and December saw General Practice Managers and Community Nurses visit Active Medlock to carry our health checks and vaccination boosters for clients that attend our Adult Day Services.   This pilot initiative came as a result of people with Learning Disabilities receiving their annual health check being 70% below, the anticipated target. Therefore, is high priority on a variety of Tameside and GM agendas.   This solution-based approach is to combat such issues in the future, and we identified this as an ideal opportunity to be flexible and adaptable to target a wide number of clients that already attend our services.   Additionally, the practically of carrying out health check this way made perfect sense. It ensures the clients don’t have to wait in clinic styli, have distractions of completing group activities until it’s their turn, reduces anxiety of clients attending GP surgeries and diminishes the pressure on parents too. A perfect example of people focussed, proactive and preventative care. Incidentally, another opportunity to showcase how we are market leaders within the Health and Social Care sector.     What’s more, a targeted approach was taken, highlighting a small number of clients by design, to see how the process works and to establish opportunities to scale up moving forward.   The process was seamless with Active Everybody Can staff liaising with parents/clients informing them of the reasons why we are completing out health checks this way, and to gather the relevant information through questionnaires and to obtain the appropriate consent.   Furthermore, the feedback we have received from parents, clients and NHS professional has been really positive – one parents said;   **“The Health Check was really helpful, it was the first time Callum was able to be physically involved in his health check as previously they had only contacted me over the phone for a check in on his health. Also, due to the fact that they were able to do a screening on Callum, as he felt comfortable enough to allow this to happen, it highlighted a deficiency, which he has now been prescribed medication to treat. This would have been missed if it wasn’t for the health checks taking place at Medlock.”** Sharon, mum.   This demonstrates the value of working collaboratively and utilising our community assets.    A number of health professionals concluded with;    **“This has got to be the way forward - it's really worked on both occasions we've visited so far.”** Lisa Bardsley, GP Liaison Nurse for Learning Disabilities   **“Active Tameside staff, who all clearly had very positive long-standing relationships with this set of patients.**   **I would say some patients would be considered very hard to reach and unlikely to have come to an appointment at a practice at a set time.**    **Overall everyone in attendance agreed this is definitely something to build on as these patients are in an environment in which they are comfortable and able to fully engage.”** Vinny, General Practice Manager   **“What a great afternoon on Friday the 10th at Active Medlock. Thanks to Dan and the staff at Medlock who were amazing and organised with the patients, also providing us with the signed consent forms. Louise was the nurse who completed 2 Health Checks and 1 Covid Booster. Lisa attended for support and Verna attended as our Pharmacist.**    **Attending within the patients’ familiar surroundings seems to work so well, the patients seem so much more relaxed.**    **Thanks for all your help and support. Looking forward to attending Medlock again in the New Year to offer the same to other DAD PCN Patients.”** Jen Daniels, PCN Care Co-ordinator.   **“Absolutely brilliant.”** Jess Williams, Director of Commissioning.   I would just like to take the opportunity to thank everyone for their efforts on this, a fabulous tailor-made solution for people. | | https://mcusercontent.com/a53ef4b9ac1c27087b2a2e2d1/images/98807e1e-6927-f19c-35e5-ee3753377fce.jpg | |