



## Youth-led Projects – The Dartmoor Tree Plant

### Context:

Mosaic has benefited from working with a number of innovative youth and community projects. One such project is the 'Open Space International Youth Club' which is hosted by the Plymouth and Devon Race Equality Council. The Club which was established by the Council's Senior Community Development Worker, Dr Suaad Genem - George has signposted a number of young people to the Mosaic Young Champions Programme. Khalil, Ali and Jawid were three early recruits. They successfully inspired many of their friends to join them on a Dartmoor tree plant that they had developed.

### **What went well**

- Having a Taster based at the Open Space Club was vital for enabling young people to share their initial interests and to have an early taste of Dartmoor through a quiz, DVD and environmental games.
- A follow on Dartmoor based "taster" enabled the young people to explore the National Park. *'Trying different activities has been amazing'*, Ali.
- The Mosaic Young Champion Weekend allowed Ali, Jawid and Khalil to hone their project leadership skills and to experience a range of different activities.
- The Weekend also provided the setting for the lads to be inspired to plan and develop a Dartmoor tree planting day in partnership with the Dartmoor National Park Authority.
- By leading on the tree plant they were able to recruit many young people who had never been to a National Park before. *"It was great working as a team; despite the rain! It was good so many of the boys got up on a Saturday to help"*, Javid.
- The Mosaic Celebration Weekend enabled the young people to reflect on their leadership experiences and training along with other Mosaic Young Champions.

### **Learning Points for next time**

- A more bespoke approach was required to encourage a greater number of young women from the Black and Ethnic Community to sign up as Mosaic Young Champions.
- Greater consideration should have been given to using public transport. A free minibus was accessed though Ali, but Jawid and Khalil were still dependent on a driver.

## Outcomes and outputs

- 100 plus trees were planted in an important site for nature conservation.
- Young people achieved certification and accreditation for their developing leadership skills, for example through Asdan and the John Muir Award.
- Mosaic Young Champions, many who are new to the UK, made new friendships and relationships with other young people.
- New skills and confidences were developed by youth workers in accessing wild open spaces.
- Mosaic Young Champions enlisted to volunteer with partner organisations such as the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers (BTCV).
- Dartmoor National Park Authority developed new partnerships with organisations working with young people in deprived urban areas.



100 plus trees, 6 nationalities and a whole load of fun!

*“Learning new skills, meeting new friends, exploring the National Park has been really good.”*

(Khalil, Mosaic Young Champion)

(For further details and resources please visit [www.mosaicnationalparks.org](http://www.mosaicnationalparks.org) or contact: The Mosaic Project, Campaign for National Parks, 6-7 Barnard Mews, London, SW11 1QU, Tel 020 7924 4077, Fax 020 7924 5761. © Mosaic 2011)