

SEPTEMBER 2022 - JANUARY 2023

QUARTERLY REPORT

PREPARED BY FIRST CLASS FOUNDATION



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Kitchen Table Talks

We are at the end of our third quarter which has been an eventful one. Here we engaged with professionals and parents from both YOS and community, school, and events, through different avenues such as roadshows, forums, social activities, home visits, delivery of food parcels as well as comforting bereaved families.

The term “It takes a village to raise a child,” rings true as we have continued from our last quarter meeting with other organisation such as The Children’s Society and the Police Crime Commissioner who have expressed an interest to attend one of our Forums. Our support extended to families in the community, who are faced with isolation, social injustice, school exclusions, lack of confidence in the local authority and parenting skills. As well as deprivation, mental and physical illness, domestic violence, and gang related issues. The bulk of our referral continues to come through the YOS however, this is not without challenges and barriers where some parents are still not utilising the services due to the stigma and shame attached to a young person coming through the YJS.

Nevertheless, we continue to engage with and support parents identifying various needs and taking a holistic approach in supporting the families in a person-centred way putting in place an agreed plan of action with the family. Eg. “A child is at risk to gang affiliation” alongside our Step Together team who engages with and chaperoning children to and from schools;



First Class Fridays who provides a safe space for young people to build life skills, improve self-awareness and identify the implications of gang culture, including Black Jackets who engages and support a young person deep in gang violence and looking for way-out. Hence providing a wraparound service to families.

With the increase in cost-of-living parents are finding it difficult and struggles to support their family in purchasing food and other essential items. KTT recognised the need to do more and have supported them with delivering food hampers, baby goodies for new moms and extra support of food hampers in the period leading up to Christmas. Warm clothing, coats, and school bags were also provided. Additionally topping up electricity when parents have called in a crisis expressing that they are unable to meet the need. Parents were invited to a community event lead by First Class Feed the Family in which the whole family received a hot meal in a beautiful sit-down table setting were able to interact with other families. There were lots of prizes and surprises, games, raffles, and the opportunity for the families to meet the rest of the team. Parents had the freedom to pick up extra food items from our food pantry that had been donated to our Christmas Appeal and Community Pantry.

Frequent contacts are made encouraging and building rapport through calls and text messages. With this continued support parents feel confident and better in themselves thus, enabling them to attend our forums and meeting other parents in similar situation. Support is offered to families that have suffered loss and are grieving by sending flowers and card to lift their spirits, encourage and let them know we are thinking of them and referred to external services. They have expressed gratitude that we have thought of them when at their lowest point.

Step Together

Step Together is a programme to support the community in helping the young people in schools and on the route between Lozells and Jewellery Quarter. Our aim is to help get young people to their desired locations without any problems or trouble and to reduce the police presence within the community and support them with specific problems that have been highlighted, such as antisocial behaviour, gang activity, drug activity and country lines within each area. Continuing from the pilot in 2021/2022 First Class Foundation have been recommissioned to continue to chaperone young people after school along three key routes in Birmingham.

On a weekly basis the team engage over 1000 students, and approximately 500 members of the public.

First Class Foundation Ambassadors from each school we work with on Step Together. Each outreach team at the 3 schools we work with had to choose 3-4 students who showed great qualities to be an ambassador.

Step Together community outreach and engagement team members offer One to one pupil interaction - meeting students by the schools we engage with at Aston Manor,

Holte School and Jewellery Quarter Academy and asking them “How has your day been?” “What did you learn in school today?” “How do you feel today”.

Safeguarding students away from bullying and getting them home safely – for example: Aston Manor Year 7’s having an altercation outside the school in a near by park. The First-Class Foundation (FCF) Step Together team intervened and stopped the altercation non- violently. As well as, getting both students who were fighting to apologise to each other and shake hands. Now these students have become a friendship group.



Outreach and Engagement

October 2022

Activities delivered

- On the 6th of October, we attended “The Good Childhood Report 2022” with the Children’s Society. It was a great opportunity to see the highlighted needs of children cross the topics of education, finances, and mental health. We were able to ask real life questions to the panel of politicians and researcher and delve deeper into what we as organisations observe with the children we serve.
- Marketing – Power and Culture: Turning your Cultural Power into profit. 14th October 2022. This was an amazing event for the young people we engage with on First Class Fridays. Learnt a lot about personal branding and using our unique cultural perspective to thrive in business.
- Speaking at Joseph Leckie Academy on Black Legacy and Culture (14th October). This was during Black History Month, and I was with a panel of 5 black professionals. To see the representation of black success during the assembly was powerful and the impact it had on the students was wonderful



Marketing | Power & Culture

Turning your Cultural Power into profit

Marketing/ Power & Culture seeks to change this by teaching young people about the power they have and the value they are creating for brands so they can use their own cultural values to create businesses and revenue streams of their own.



Case Study

While being part of the panel of speakers at Joseph Leckie Academy, there was a group of Black and Asian students who were lining up outside of the assembly hall. You can see from their behaviour and how they greeted me that they were excited to see a black male speaker coming into the school, especially for Black History Month. The engagement during assembly was inspiring and it was great to feel that the minority students were represented. Engaged 200+ students across all year groups (Year 7 – 11)

November 2022

Activities delivered

- Link Academy sessions came to an end in November 2022. The students we engaged with at the schools about racial diversity, tolerance and mental health were receptive and learned so much from the sessions.
- Find Your Future outreach across Birmingham and giving out the QR cards with access to the job's website at colleges, schools, and public areas where 19+ young people would be.
- Continuation of Step Together across the 3 routes (Aston Manor Academy, Holte School and Jewellery Quarter Academy).



Case Study

“A young girl (white) shared with the class what she felt nobody knew about her. She said that she is scared to be herself around her friends and family because she may be judged. This was a very vulnerable moment for her to share this secret because in response to her statement I replied to say it is important for her to be herself because that is who she is. She is unique and a very special amazing person when she is being herself. Some people will love you for it, some may dislike you but that is simply life which is why she should not allow that fear to stop her from being the individual she is. This made her become teary to the point of exiting the room for a break and being supplied with some tissue to dry her eyes.” – A case study from Jeremiah (Aston Manor Lead) from the Link Academy sessions. Engaged 120 students.

December 2022

Activities delivered

- Introduction meeting with Birmingham Children Trust - Youth Offending Service Prevention Team. On the 6th of December 2022, I went to an introductory meeting with fellow youth providers around Birmingham informing us of the new prevention team for vulnerable children before getting into serious crime. The information provided was useful and I was able to network with the prevention team manager and create contacts for referrals if we at First Class Foundation need support for a child minor on the cusp of anti-social behaviours.
- We began getting referrals for intensive mentoring via SAFE Hands in December 2022. Actively communicating with 3 boys that have not been in school for long durations of time and working with them to improve: wellbeing, motivation, morale and getting them back into education.
- First Class Festive Family Meal on the 19th of December 2022. In the picture below you can see one of the ways in which we were able to give to the families on the day. Holte School and the students donated these hampers to help make the community pantry for families to get food supplies over the holidays. The event was a success and 100's of people was able to get a complimentary hot meal and Christmas goods and treats. Additionally, the First- Class Foundation Ambassadors were volunteering and offered a helping hand on the day which was awesome to see. Engaged with 300+ people.



Case Study

At Holte had a great engagement with one of the young boys who mentioned that he came into school at 3rd period due to not feeling well. I checked to see how he's feeling now, and he said he feels better. He explained that there are 2 trips for the students for Christmas and that he has been selected to go ice skating next Friday with school. A reward for good students, he mentioned that he was surprised he got selected. I told him congratulations and keep up the good work and it's just shows that you're doing well in school, so enjoy the treat. Engaged 400+ students at Holte School

Christmas

Winterfunland

In partnership with B.Friends First Class Foundation was given tickets for, 100 free spaces to attend winterfunland.

We had two coach loads of people attend for this fantastic opportunity which without the free tickets would have been impossible for some to attend this positive activity.

Festive Family Meal

Festive Family meal – Feed 300 raised £865 on Crowdfunder, fed 300 people and created a food pantry for people to take stuff.

Donations were received from:



FIRST CLASS FESTIVE FAMILY MEAL



Black Jackets

Recommissioned for a 6 month contract to continue the out of ours youth and community outreach work to help young people desist from gang violence.



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