



Rob's Story

The Beginning:

Rob was unemployed, had recently moved to Lincoln Green and was craving a community connection. He attended a workshop called Lincoln Green Shared Space, set up by the Community Builder to bring people together to discuss their skills, gifts and talents and turn them into community action. Using asset mapping, the Community Builder discovered that Rob had a background in dance and music and wanted to use world music to find common ground with neighbours from a range of cultural backgrounds. Over a period of six months the Community Builder worked with Rob to set up meetings, to host local music and to find a suitable venue to bring musicians and local people together.

"Working with someone so committed to their idea and holding such commitment to overcoming any hurdles we encountered (of which there were many!) has been truly inspirational!"
Rory Wells - ABCD Community Builder



The Journey:

Lincoln Green is one of the most culturally diverse neighbourhoods in Leeds and an ideal place to establish diverse music because of its proximity to Leeds cultural centre which includes Opera North, CLAY (Centre for Live Arts) and Leeds Conservatoire. Rob approached the Conservatoire to discuss his plans for 'Sanctuary Sounds' and to request access to studio facilities to host the proposed music sessions. There followed a year of negotiations with many hurdles to jump before a partnership with Opera North finally enabled Rob to secure the resources to make music.



Over this time Rob demonstrated remarkable determination and persistence to gain the confidence of the Conservatoire and Opera North, driven by his passion for music and his belief in music as social change.

Fortnightly jamming sessions brought together musicians from across Leeds, professional and amateur, with up to thirty local people attending at any one time to share and make music together.

The Impact:

Sanctuary Sounds has offered opportunities for a diverse neighbourhood to come together to share traditions, music and cultures. and to find common ground to live alongside each other without division by encouraging community connections and building support for community cohesion. Rob gained the platform to share his talents and skills with others and through this he found the community he was looking for and has his own self-sustaining community life.

