



# ABCD in Leeds

## Case Study - Tracey

### The Beginning:

Tracey ran a well-established voluntary group called 'The Rising Stars'. This was an amateur dramatic group for children to build on their confidence through drama.

Tracey had an ambition for amateur dramatics and felt a similar group was needed for adults, particularly those socially isolated in the community that would build confidence, support new friendships, and have fun! Her thought was that the group would meet on a weekly basis and once they felt happy to, they could go on to have local performances.



Tracey had lots of experience of performing, singing and writing plays but did not know where to start to create the group until she saw a post on the Community Builders Facebook page asking if there were any 'community connectors' in the area with a skill, interest or idea who would like to create something or be part of something in their community.



*"I am excited as this is my dream come true. I have always wanted to act, sing and dance as well as share my knowledge."*

*Tracey*



## The Journey:

The Community Builder and Tracey met up at the local café to discuss her idea. It was decided that the first meeting of the new group 'Amateur Dramatics of Rothwell (ADOR)' would be set up and advertised in the local magazine as well as on Facebook to see if local people were interested.

The turnout at the first meeting was amazing. People attended were full of enthusiasm, excited and positive and were really looking forward to meeting others. The energy and commitment could be clearly seen from the group members.

Some were parents or older people who had been feeling low or socially isolated. They had similar ideas as Tracey but expressed they hadn't been confident enough to act to start with or where to begin to set something up in until they saw adverts.

The group held conversations, shared their personal stories, and explored skills. Some wanted to be involved with the secretarial, social media, marketing, costume, and other roles involved in organising events.

The first performance was scheduled for VE day. The group found a piece of music they all liked and agreed to start working on. The group had fun doing this and practised singing, dancing, acting, choreography, positioning, and spatial awareness.

The confidence of the group members grew, which was amazing to see. People that originally did not want to act were now joining in with singing, dancing, and acting.



## The Impact:

Many new friendship groups have formed because of the amateur dramatics group. The group have still been in regular touch with each other throughout the pandemic.

Tracey met a new friend through this group who she has clicked with and who has supported her with choreography planning using technology and methods to motivate the amateur dramatics group whilst pandemic restrictions are still in place.

Looking forward, the group would like to arrange another performance and Tracey is exploring physical assets in the area and is speaking to a bar owner in Rothwell who has a space upstairs they could possibly use.