



ABCD in Leeds

Case Study - Marie

The Beginning:

Marie was no longer able to work due to her disability and was recently bereaved after the death of her beloved husband of many years. She was feeling lonely and isolated and needed something to give her a purpose and get her out of the house.

Marie had been to LS14 Trust where she was actively looking for something to do and it was suggested that Marie started to attend the knitting group as she loved knitting and needlework. Marie became a regular at the knitting club and started to volunteer at the community café where she met the Community Builder.

"I was feeling down and at a loss as to what to do with myself. I was finding it hard to make new friends but all that has changed for me. We keep an eye out for each other."

Participant



*"This feels like a second home to me.
You couldn't keep me away."*

Marie

The Journey:

Through conversations Marie said she had a passion for paper crafting and made cards and wreaths as well as many other things. Some of the other ladies in the knitting group had expressed an interest in this too and they knew people outside of the knitting group who they knew would want to be involved if a group was set up. Marie and some members of the knitting group decided to set up and facilitate a new paper crafting group called the Glitter Fairies.

The Glitter Fairy group (a self-reliant group) were supported by 'Trust Leeds's to help grow their micro enterprise. They meet weekly at LS14 Trust and make cards and other decorative items for special events such as Christmas and birthdays. These are then sold at local events.



"The group has helped a lot with our confidence. We are all really good friends now and look forward to seeing each other, even outside of this group."

Participant

"This has given her the opportunity to get out in the community and meet new people"

Community Builder

The group is attended regularly by up to seven people who each pay a pound to attend to pay back into the micro enterprise. The group decided money raised from sales and attendance fees would be put aside to pay for new materials and 'their' money could be called upon by anyone in the group in the event of an emergency. Thankfully money has not been needed for any emergencies so far, so they have now decided they would have an annual group day out and money raised would pay for that.



The Impact:

The impact of the group has been immense not just on Marie but on the other ladies that attend. Some of the ladies are carers for family members, some of them are elderly and were feeling isolated and wanted to make new friends and some have mild disabilities. Attending the group is the only time some of them leave the house. They all really look forward to their weekly quality time and now also have regular check-ins with each other using Zoom. Marie has grown in confidence and has made some strong new friendships as has everyone else there.

"I truly look forward to these weekly sessions and anything else we do outside of that. It has given me a really lovely reason to leave the house"

Participant

