Hertfordshire HAF Summer 2023 Case Study

Demonstrating the power of HAF in Hertfordshire

Theme: Workforce Development

The Knight Academy

"We have now created a group of leaders aged 16 and 17 who, after completing the required training, have confidently delivered the summer camp and are keen to get involved in all future camps."

What is the opportunity or issue?

Fencing Hertfordshire CIC label their HAF provision as The Knight Academy as attendees have the opportunity to learn the fundamentals of the Olympic sport of sword fighting. For Summer 2023 the team recruited and trained a group of 16/17 years old to deliver and lead their HAPpy camps programme, under the supervision of experienced mentors and coaches.

How have you capitalised on the opportunity and/or overcome the issue?

After completing some required training before delivery, we now have a group of experienced young adults that can confidently deliver on our The Knight Academy offer.

We were able to provide free training to all new leaders delivering this summer, including getting more places for safeguarding courses for 16/17 years old, which helped us develop this leadership opportunity.

What has been the impact?

All leaders ensured the camps were welcoming and made a clear effort to get to know the children so they could support them during their time with us. They worked hard to ensure all activities were inclusive to all children attending camps, and encouraged those children with special needs to have a go when needed.

Not only did the young leaders learn new skills, but they engaged well with the younger children and were positive role models for them.

How do you plan to build on this?

We hope to continue supporting the current group of leaders, as they all expressed how valuable and enjoyable the experience was for them, whilst encouraging other young people to join our leadership pathway.

We want to continue to train up U18s as a workforce, so having access to the Safeguarding course for 16 / 17 year olds will be important for us.