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### SPOTLIGHT

Each month, the staff team are asked to select their Employee of the Month. This month Jennie was the winner!

She has been recognised for her compassionate, dedicated and unwavering support to the Darnhill Community, in particular the young people and their families during an extremely difficult time.



Action Together kindly funded us to take our volunteer mentors out for lunch to thank them for all their hard work and dedication to supporting children and young people. Certificates and prizes were handed out and everyone got a chance to exchange their stories and experiences. We are immensely grateful to all our mentors.

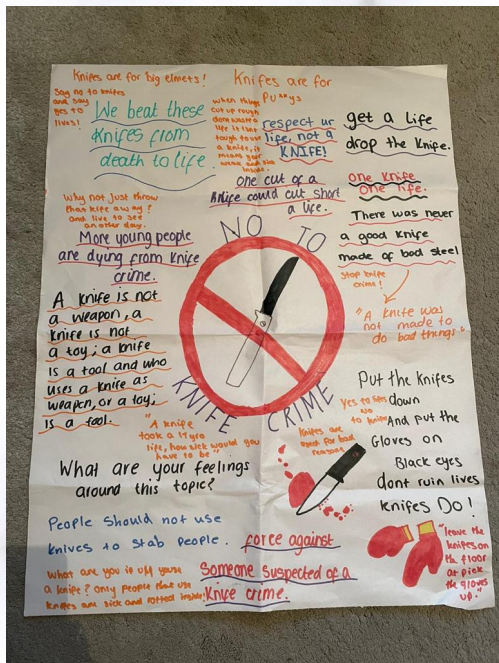


Throughout this week, RCT have held a raffle to raise money for Macmillan, as part of their World's biggest coffee morning campaign. There were lots of great prizes donated including; cookbooks, plush cuddly toys and gift sets. The raffle was drawn on Friday 30th and we raised a grand total of: £105.30.



As part of the Big Green Week initiative, the RCT staff were asked to dress in green and committed to a plant based diet on Wednesday. A delicious 5 bean chilli was made by Kathy, our CEO, for their lunch which everyone enjoyed. We were then tested by a "green" knowledge quiz organised by Kate.





Following a tragic incident on Darnhill where a young man lost his life, the Darnhill Youth Group did some focused work around knife crime. It was a good space for them to share their anger and feelings towards knives.

Thank you to our Youth Workers, Jennie, Ifra and Vicki who led the session with great sensitivity and compassion.

The session provided a much needed safe space to talk about what had happened and for the group to process their anger and confusion. Support will continue to be provided over the coming months.



Our Haven group joined forces with the Heritage team and helped clear our adopted part of land along the Rochdale Canal. Huge thanks to Alice from the Canal and River Trust who came along to help out too.

We can't wait to get families on there to enjoy the calming space.

**Rochdale Connections Trust**

## VOLUNTEER YOUTH MENTORING

Do you want to learn new skills and gain valuable experience whilst making a difference in a young persons life? Are you over the age of 21?

**Our Mentoring programme is about working with young people aged between 11-25 by listening and offering guidance and support around:**

- Mental Health
- Relationships
- Positive Behaviours

**Full Training will be provided for FREE**

**Dates 24th and 25th October 2022**

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You can also find us on Facebook, Twitter & Instagram

We are taking on a new cohort of young people who are in need of additional support in Rochdale and are looking for additional volunteer mentors to help offer them support. Working in collaboration with the Youth Justice Service, Rochdale Connections Trust will be matching up the young people with volunteer mentors who will be trained and equipped with the skills to work with young people to promote positive changes in their behaviour, lifestyles and their mental health.



Our longest serving Volunteer Mentor, Scott Moore, was presented with a certificate commemorating his enduring enthusiasm for working with the disadvantaged young people of Rochdale over the last four years and continues to take on new referrals. Here is Scott with his dog, Stan. Thank you to The Flying Horse in Rochdale for accommodating him.

We are seeking volunteers from all backgrounds and walks of life who wish to work with young people, learn new skills and gain new experiences in a very rewarding role.

A free two-day training course next takes place on 24 and 25 October.





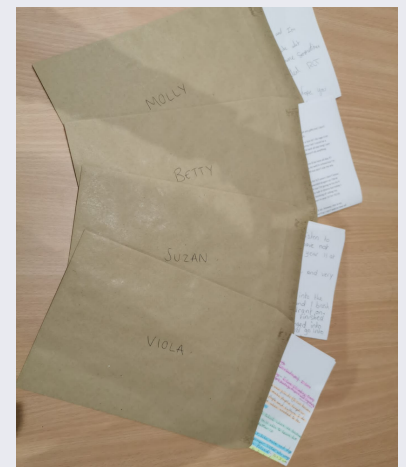
This month Jennie, Holly, Gerry and Jenny visited Matthew Moss High School to deliver four sessions to Year 11 students, on the topic of domestic abuse and consent.

The awareness raising sessions focused on healthy relationships and were delivered to 120 students.



RCT were invited to attend the "Keeping our Borough safe for women and girls" event at Hopwood Hall College. Our CEO, Kathy Thomas and Domestic Abuse Manager, Jenny Miller provided an overview of our services, with a specific focus on working with male perpetrators.

There was an opportunity at the end of each session for the students to ask questions. The sessions formed an important element of the Local Authority's commitment to driving forward the agenda of reducing the number of incidents of domestic violence and abuse across Rochdale, as part of the wider Domestic abuse Strategy.



Our Youth Development Workers, Hannah and Emma, commenced delivery of our Happier Children Programme at St Cuthberts school this term.

The sessions take place on a Monday and are delivered to five separate groups of students.

The programme centres around therapeutic interventions relating to domestic abuse, bereavements and friendships.

Kathy, our CEO, has teamed RCT up with Ugandan Charity Mission Group to develop links with the vulnerable people they work with and our young people.

A core element of the partnership involves our young people writing letters to their peers in Uganda as part of a pen pal scheme.





