

Seeds of Change

Outdoor Learning Survey



RECONNECTING RICHMOND'S RESIDENTS

WITH NATURE

Summary of Consultation Results

Aims of the consultation

The consultation sought to understand:

- The general picture of the current provision of outdoor learning in the borough,
- The geographical distribution of outdoor learning in the borough
- How accessible current provision is to residents, especially in areas of uplift,
- Whether there is any specialised provision to specific client groups e.g. families, schools, older people, those with disabilities etc



Results of the Consultation

We found that:

- Some outdoor learning taking place in Richmond's parks and open spaces
- It is mostly targeted at younger children and families,
- Other groups are catered for but there is little outdoor learning offered to older people, people with special needs, the unemployed, people with low incomes and people with complex disabilities.
- Most postcode areas are covered but there is little or no activity in a few areas of the borough including uplift areas.
- Schools make some use of their local parks.



Barriers

Most organisations who currently deliver outdoor learning would like to expand their provision.

Barriers to developing further programmes have been identified as:

- Funding,
- Lack of support or permission from the council,
- The need for insurance.



Recommendations

Recommendations include:

- Developing webpages to promote current work of organisations
- Developing self-guided walks for families and schools for use in parks and open spaces. (Spring 2016)
- Developing targeted outdoor learning projects to specific groups working with a variety of stakeholders. The first project will be for older people, as part of the commitment for parks to be dementia friendly
- Showcase good practice and develop a network of local groups, including schools, to drive outdoor learning in the borough in the longer term.

