



**SURREY YOUTH FOCUS**

Improving the lives of young people by supporting our members

C H A M P I O N   I N S P I R E   E M P O W E R

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Business boost for Surrey's Youth Organisations**

Community projects are to benefit from backing from business volunteering programmes thanks to a new arrangement between two charities: Surrey Youth Focus and Business in the Community.

Jenny Beacon, Community Impact Manager Business in the Community explains "Members of Surrey Youth Focus are invited to identify community projects through which business volunteers can directly benefit youth organisations and young people in the local area, we (BiTC) then broker these relationship and co-ordinate the placements".

To kick start this project Walton Firs Activity Centre in Cobham opened its doors to 9 volunteers from Siemens UK on Friday, with activities to help renew the site enjoyed by over 900 young people every weekend during the summer. Tasks included gorse cutting, fence painting and bridge construction.

Dave McIntosh, Warden at Walton Firs, said "The aim of the programme is to make it easier for youth organisations and businesses to work together through a series of events and volunteering projects. As a member of Surrey Youth Focus we were delighted to be able to take up this opportunity and will definitely get involved again"

Ian Bowman from Siemens UK commented "It was a great day, something a bit out of the ordinary for our staff, but fantastic for team building and a clear demonstration of our commitment *to be good citizens in all the communities in which we are active*. Thank you to everyone who helped broker this opportunity for us, we will be back!"

Another team of business volunteers will be supporting Redhill and Reigate YMCA at the end of the month to help re-establish an allotment. This venture will enable young people to get outdoors and enjoy growing their own vegetables.

Organisations interested in finding out more about membership of Surrey Youth Focus or business volunteering should visit [www.surreyyouthfocus.org.uk](http://www.surreyyouthfocus.org.uk) or call Su on 01483 453962.

**ENDS**

**Note to editors**

Surrey Youth Focus is a charity which supports the voluntary youth sector in Surrey. We currently have about 80 organisations as members – from national groups like the scouts and guides, to local youth clubs and sports groups.

We aim to improve the lives of young people in Surrey by supporting our members. Surrey Youth Focus has three key roles:

- Representation, Advocacy and Leadership
- Networking, Innovation and Brokerage
- Member Services and Offers

The Partnership Agreement between Surrey Youth Focus and Business in the Community runs between June 2013 and June 2014.

Annual membership of Surrey Youth Focus starts at just £60

[www.surreyyouthfocus.org.uk](http://www.surreyyouthfocus.org.uk)

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