

# HUSSO

Inspiring Student Volunteers since 1961...



## Guide to Planning your Project

Many different types of activities have a place and a value. Examples of activities can include setting up a group to produce a community newspaper, a mother and toddler group, sports for kids, creative writing or the creation of a community business. When filling in your Project Planning form, you will need to consider the following:

### Starting Off –

Projects often start in the form of a vision of an individual person or a small group of people who perceive some particular need and have an idea of how that need might be addressed. For e.g. 'Our young people would benefit from a youth club' or 'There are elderly people who need support'.

### Research your idea –

Once the idea is there, it needs further thought. What services already exist to meet the particular need? What are the gaps? Has someone already had this idea and failed to make it work? If so, what are the lessons that can be learnt from this?

It is important to learn more about the community you would like to help, what the reality is; what are its actual needs, strengths and weaknesses and where you can make a difference.

### Be realistic –

It is important to recognise what can be done in the short term and in order to do this you need to be realistic!

### Aims and Objectives –

Following on from the above, your aims and objectives need to be clear, realistic and achievable with a defined time scale.

### Think outside the box –

Are there any ways in which you can make your idea more achievable by teaming up with an already existing charity/school/organisation? This makes things easier to run and cost less!

### What do you want to get out of it?

Yes, your aim is to make a difference by giving your time to benefit the local community, but don't forget that your volunteering experience should be a rewarding and enjoyable one too!