

## Linx Case Study - The Key 5 Stars and The voice of little flowers

In 2018-19, Linx and the Ethnic Minority Achievement Team from Middlesbrough Council worked together engage EAL (English as an Additional Language) students and International New Arrival young people with youth provision and opportunities. The group met at Newport Community Hub every Monday to plan and deliver their projects.

Young people mainly from Czech and Romanian background were amongst those who were involved in the planning and organizing a Christmas social action project for children in need from their local community.

It included a group of 12 EAL students, originally from Romania, who had been living in Middlesbrough between 9 months to 4 years. It was an ambitious social action project for a group of young people, who were still learning to speak English.

**“The project has helped me improve my English.”**

*Despina Caruntu, Unity City Academy, 2019*

The two-groups called themselves ‘5 stars’ & ‘The voice of little flowers’ and worked really hard together as a team, despite the language barriers.

**“This was an opportunity for young people as organizers to increase their confidence, learn to plan events, manage budgets and obtain many other skills through this engagement. It was also an opportunity to bring community members from different backgrounds together to celebrate.”**

*Ricky Tomlinson, Senior Youth Worker, Linx (2020)*

The group wanted to give children and young people the opportunity to celebrate Christmas as any other young person would do. The group who speak little English came together to organize a party and presents for local children. The group completed a key fund project and raised £250 for a party by presenting their plans to an independent panel from The Key, who awarded them the funds.

The group bought and wrapped presents for the children and did all the organizing and publicity for the Christmas party, which was eventually enjoyed by 200 people in the Newport community.

5 stars and The voice of little flowers were awarded The Key’s Inspirational Group of the Year 2019 Award, after overcoming language barriers to deliver a truly inspirational project.



*Some of the group at the Christmas party*

**“I want to do more projects like this to help people.”**

*Denisa Brumariu, Archibald Primary*

**“ I can’t believe the group got nominated, never mind winning the award. Wow, I am so proud of them all.”**

*Georgina Chinaka, Ethnic Minority Achievement Manager, Middlesbrough Borough Council (2019)*



*5 Stars and The voice of little flowers with Linx staff at the Key Awards in 2019 – winners of Inspirational Group of the Year*

**“I enjoyed the project and didn’t want it to end.”**

*Catalina Balan, Acklam Grange, 2019*