

LLOYDS BRINGS SOCIAL ENTERPRISE TO THE CLASSROOM



BACKGROUND

At the end of 2012 WeSeeHope CEO, Mark Glen, and Head of Fundraising, Kasia Morgan, met Gareth Narinesingh (Lloyds Bank Commercial Banking) at an event. Gareth was compelled by hearing about WeSeeHope's economic empowerment work in Africa and interested to know more about how he might be able to get his team at Lloyds Bank involved as part of the company's 'Day to Make a Difference' initiative.

Gareth and his team had already been involved in career training at a local school, Conisborough College, so Kasia introduced Gareth to WeSeeHope's Social Entrepreneurs Project (SEP), suggesting that volunteer mentors from Lloyds Bank could really help make this a valuable project for Conisborough to take on.



Gareth Narinesingh working with a group of pupils at Conisborough College.

PARTNERSHIP ACTIVITIES



Throughout 2013, Gareth and the WeSeeHope team worked together to develop the programme to incorporate Lloyds Bank volunteers – the first ever time the SEP has been adapted in this way - and in October 2013, the Lloyds SEP was launched.

WeSeeHope designed bespoke lesson plans to facilitate the Lloyds Bank mentors' working sessions with students while Gareth recruited a team of 10 colleagues.

The mentors worked with groups from year nine during a launch half day and again at an interim session, advising them on a wide range of business ideas from car washes and bake sales to t-shirt and fruit smoothie production. Outside of these sessions the groups worked independently on their ideas, with the guidance of a teacher.



The students worked very hard on the project and in December 2013, Gareth and Kasia attended a wrap-up assembly at Conisborough College to award certificates to all involved and congratulate them on raising funds which will directly benefit the pupils' peers across the African countries in which WeSeeHope works.

PARTNERSHIP BENEFITS

Lloyds Bank is a financial services group with more than 30 million customers in the UK and a foothold in every community. Their key focus on making a positive contribution to the communities in which they operate was both exemplified and furthered by the Lloyds SEP.

Working with Lloyds Bank has been a fantastic opportunity for HOPEHIV to adapt an already valuable resource – our SEP - to suit a supporter's specific goals. By developing this project with Lloyds Bank, we are now equipped to work with other companies in a similar manner, engaging corporate volunteers as SEP mentors in schools local to them or with whom they have a particular connection.

“LLOYDS BANK WAS PROUD TO HAVE RUN THE SEP IN ASSOCIATION WITH WESEEHOPE. WE WERE ABLE TO CALL UPON THE PRACTICAL SKILLS OF OUR BANKERS AND THE STUDENTS LEARNED ABOUT THE REWARDS OF STARTING UP AND RUNNING THEIR OWN VENTURES.”

Gareth Narinesingh, Lloyds Bank Commercial Banking.

CONTACT

Kasia Morgan, WeSeeHope Head of Fundraising
Email: kasia@weseehope.org.uk, Tel: +44 20 81815409