



# Case Study: Breaking Boundaries in Slough

## Collaborative Activity Development

Sri Lankan Youth Association and Slough Mitra Mandal  
September 2021 - March 2022

### Detail of the Activity.

This case study focuses on the development and delivery of a 20 Week Badminton session developed in collaboration between the Sri Lankan Youth Association and Slough Mitra Mandal as a joint activation grant. It aims to support the new Sri Lankan community to join up with other community groups. Separate group sessions for males and females are being run to bring groups together through Badminton.

### How Breaking Boundaries Helped.

Breaking Boundaries has supported the project through provision of a £1,200 Activation Grant to support 20 weeks of face-to-face delivery. It has focused on developing partnership working between the two community groups, Sri Lankan Muslim Association and Slough Mitra Mandal, a Sri-Lankan group, and an Indian group respectively, who have been noted as living parallel lives in the Baylis and Stoke wards.

### **The activities focus on:**

Improving social connectedness through a session features an activity that both groups share an interest in, Badminton, and Cricket for their children. It will also focus on putting the groups in shared space, doing the same activity and speaking with one another therefore setting the foundations for improved attitudes to diversity and cohesion.

To date, the activity has put the two groups together who now are aware of each other's presence in the area and will encourage and facilitate them in collaborative efforts in increasing community participations and increasing community voice.

## **What's Happened – Impacts on Cohesion.**

The ongoing project work demonstrates outcomes against social cohesion in these areas:

### **Social Connectedness.**

The activity has newly brought together two groups who have then begun to understand each of better and therefore understand each other's place better within the local community and be engaged with others through facilitated social mixing

"It's been very good, meeting people who live in the same community as me, it's a very mixed group now...so it's doing exactly what it intended to do." (Female participant, Indian)

"It's an amazing programme, I'm involved with my son, it's free and it brings people together, if there were more places doing it that would be great." (Male participant, Indian)

### **Increased community involvement.**

Breaking Boundaries has also encouraged them to have a wider focus in their sports activities around other issues that might be affecting participant's lives, particularly those of the Sir Lankan community which is relatively new in the area. Through this collaborative activity development, a wider number of community groups are involved in activities in their local community

## **The Future.**

It is planned that the sessions will continue but the Coordinator needs to have a conversation with the participants around how this would be funded and that discussions need to be had about charging participants to take part, whilst also discussing with the leaders in the community organisations involved how this might best happen.

## Top Tips.

- ✓ It's not about recreating the wheel, it's about mapping what is there in the community and really to engage the groups, and the best way to do this is to be out in the community with them.
- ✓ It's also key through talking to people in their community to identify organisational contacts to take forward delivery and using that organisation's expertise to help make community links. City teams should actively seek to work through other organisations to reach targeted communities.
- ✓ Identifying opportunities for next steps is also important to the group has some sense that the activity is leading something more sustained. Identifying a further activity of event can rally a group around continuing the activity and provides valuable co-design opportunities.