



UNIVERSITY OF SUSSEX
STUDENTS' UNION

Project V

Community Volunteering Annual Review 2009-10



Sussex
Plus

US
University of Sussex

Annual Review 2009-10

FOREWORD

Welcome to the Project V Annual Review for 2009-10.

Project V- part funded by Sussex Plus, had a very positive and successful academic year. We have exceeded the number of students who are volunteering compared to last year and we have worked closely with University departments as well as community organizations to ensure that the contribution of student volunteering is acknowledged.

As always, I'd like to thank all the students who volunteered through Project V, and all the community organisations that provided such fantastic volunteering opportunities to the students.

Essentially, in this report you will find everything that Project V has been up to in the last academic year.

We hope that you enjoy reading our review and we look forward to providing a valuable service to students and community projects in the year ahead.

Michaela

Annual Review 2009-10

Contents:

1) Student Volunteering Week	p.4
2) Case Studies	p.5
3) Gold Awards	p.8
a. Gold Award Winners	
b. Certificates of Excellence	
4) Link Up	p.10
a. SIFE- Inspir8	
b. Postgraduate part time students	
c. Sexpression: case study	
d. Future Link Up projects	p.11
5) Student Feedback Survey	p.12
6) Publicity and Project V Committee	p.14
7) Community Organisation	p.15
a. Publicity stalls on campus	
b. Placement visits and other visits	p.16
c. Green Project	
8) Placement Feedback	p.17
9) Partnerships	p.18
10) Matching and Advice Service	p.19
a. Statistics	
b. New Links	
11) Volunteer Profile	p.20
12) Plans for the Future	p.21

1) STUDENT VOLUNTEERING WEEK: 22nd-28th February

'Inspiring Futures, Connecting Communities'

Student Volunteering Week is the most important week in Project V's calendar. We want to celebrate student volunteering and therefore each year we organise a variety of events and one off volunteering opportunities for students.

a) Carlton Hill Primary School

Project V and Active Student (the University of Brighton volunteering scheme) held our first collaborative volunteering event as part of national Student Volunteering Week.



The event took place at the Carlton Hill Primary School and the main task was to create tropical costumes (toucans and parrots) for the Children's Parade happening as part of Brighton Festival in May. 12 students worked together with children who were aged 6 to 11 years. The event was a success and the teacher, Christine, said that the student volunteers were a big help in creating the costumes.

Lunch was kindly provided by the University of Brighton and the students found the experience at Carlton Hill Primary School rewarding and fulfilling: *"It was fun and creative so made a change to my heavy subject. It was also nice meeting new people."*

b) Workshop with Sussex Plus and the Career and Employability Centre



We also organised a workshop in collaboration with the Career and Employability Centre (CEC) and Sussex Plus to highlight the benefits of volunteering. The session focused on the skills that students can get from volunteering and how students can acknowledge and emphasise all of their experiences whilst at University, volunteering included, by creating a webfolio with Sussex Plus.

c) National Trust

And the last activity organised was a one-off volunteering opportunity with the National Trust. 5 students braved the heavy rain to spend several hours undertaking scrub clearance at the Devil's Dyke.



THANKS AND WELL DONE TO EVERYONE INVOLVED IN ALL THE DIFFERENT ACTIVITIES!

2) CASE STUDIES

We invite students to talk to us in more depth about their volunteering experience. The information gathered is used to illustrate to other students the variety of skills and experiences that can be gained through volunteering. Below are three selected case studies, however you can access all case studies on our website www.ussu.info/projectv



Name: Rachel Stark

Degree: Law

Placement: St. Luke's Advice Service.

Can you tell us in your own words about the project?

It is a free service, set up by a local church, mainly offering people advice and help in the areas of debt and benefits.

Why did you decide to volunteer?

I read about the position on Project V's website and I thought it sounded interesting and would provide me with a great chance to put something back into the community and also put some of my Law skills into practice!

Tell us about your specific role

The service has one solicitor that works for them, and it is my job to assist her in any way possible. This can range from typing up letters, carrying out legal research, phoning clients and sitting in interviews with clients and writing up summaries of them.

What do you get out of your volunteering?

I really enjoy it as I feel that I am helping people and making a difference and also gaining valuable work experience at the same time.

How does volunteering fit in with your student life?

I volunteer on a Wednesday afternoon, which fits in well with my student life, as I have no classes in that time. The people at St. Luke's are very understanding as when I recently had a lot of deadlines they let me have some time off.

Why would you recommend volunteering to other students?

It is a great opportunity to try something different and see whether it is something you would be interested in pursuing further. It also helps you to gain valuable work experience, meet people in the community, and feel like you are being useful!

Name: James Parlett
Degree: Sociology and Media
Placement: Coldean Youth Project

Can you tell us in your own words about the project?

It's a youth club for 9 - 13 year olds that takes place every Thursday evening between 6pm and 8pm. We have a different activity every week from cooking to bike rides and try and do one big event each term such as paintball or an adventure weekend away.

Why did you decide to volunteer?

I wanted to get experience of working with children of primary school age as I am planning on become a primary school teacher when my degree finishes. I also wanted to get paid work in this area and needed experience of working with children before applying for any position.

Tell us about your specific role.

I arrive early every week to help set up whatever activity may be taking place. When the children arrive I converse with them and will usually take a group and watch them or help them depending on what we are doing. We are there to encourage team work and positive behaviour whilst trying not to be too authoritative. I have also met up with other leaders before the next term begins to talk about ideas for the coming term.

What do you get out of your volunteering?

Not only am I getting the experience I need to take on with me to future work in the area of working with children but this position has enabled me to find paid work with Brighton and Hove Council also working with children. On a personal level I enjoy turning up each week and helping out and although I have got what I initially set out to achieve from it, that of paid work, I aim to stay at the Coldean Youth Project till at least the end of my degree in 2011 and, work commitments allowing, the foreseeable future.

How does volunteering fit in with your student life?

I have worked between 20 and 30 hours week since beginning University in 2008 in order to fund my degree. This voluntary work is only 2 - 3 hours a week and sometimes a little more at weekends if we have a larger event, this is easy to manage and fit around my studies.

Why would you recommend volunteering to other students?

Yes, whether you are trying to gain experience to find paid work, make you CV look more attractive or just meet other like minded people in the local area volunteering can be a valuable and worthwhile experience.



Name: Elizabeth Marsden
Degree: MSC Astronomy
Placement: Friends of Hove Stroke Club

Can you tell us in your own words about the project?

Hove Stroke Club was set up so that people in the Brighton and Hove area who have suffered from a stroke can get together every week for a few hours and enjoy a variety of activities in a caring, laid-back environment. For many who are usually house-bound it is their only social outlet, so doing a bit of painting or having a game of cards with others in a similar situation is a welcome break. There is also a physiotherapist who takes the group through a simple work-out!

Why did you decide to volunteer?

I have been involved in volunteering projects before and wanted to carry on with something in Brighton. I think it's important to try and put something back into the community, and was particularly interested in helping stroke victims.

Tell us about your specific role

My role is pretty open. I just help out where it's needed, doing anything from helping organise raffles in aid of The Stroke Association, making up an extra player on the cribbage table, serving food at the Christmas party or just being a friend for someone to talk to.

What do you get out of your volunteering?

There are so many great things about my volunteer work. I know for many stroke sufferers their time with the group is the highlight of their week, and it is an amazing feeling knowing that you can help make a difference to people's lives by doing such simple things as providing them with a scrabble partner and a cup of tea! It helps put the stress of uni work into perspective and I have met so many interesting people during my time with the group.

How does volunteering fit in with your student life?

Easily. The group meets for 2 hours on a Friday afternoon when luckily I don't have any classes, and they are completely understanding if an unexpected deadline pops up and I need to spend Friday afternoon in the library!

Why would you recommend volunteering to other students?

Definitely. You can get so much out of volunteering. University is one of the best times to get involved with volunteering and no matter how busy people think they are they can always benefit from giving a couple of hours to others. It is a great way to broaden your experiences, and never looks bad on a CV!

3) GOLD AWARDS



Student Volunteering England's Gold Awards are the only nationally recognised awards where student-volunteering achievements are honoured by the community organisation that they volunteer for. As such, they are a prestigious mark of excellence in student volunteering.

Nomination forms were sent out to all community and voluntary organisations that had received volunteers through Project V in 2009-10.

This year we had 14 Gold Award nominees (as many as never before!) and the standard of the nomination was extremely high.

The Gold Awards and Certificates of Excellence were presented to the students at our annual awards ceremony, Cheers!, held in Mandela Hall, Falmer House.

a) Gold Award winners

Noemi Reiner (volunteering at READ International)



'Noemi has shown a huge amount of dedication to her role within the READ team. She has worked extremely hard to help the project be successful and it is with this commitment that she has helped to encourage and inspire volunteers around her. She has also been an extremely positive leader within the group, communicating well with the other Interns and volunteers and supporting others in their own roles whilst undertaking hers.'

Rebecca Newman (volunteering at the B&H Refugee and Asylum Seeker Project)



'Rebecca is very much a team player. She is responsible and dependable, using her instinct and intuition; she is always at hand to support the young people she befriends in the Rasp sessions. In addition, she frequently leads by example and in this way her impact extends further, guiding other new volunteer Befrienders. She is a reliable and committed volunteer who excels in her role with RASP. For example, not only does she continually satisfy the demands of the Befriender role, she frequently exceeds expectations, contributing ideas and observations in sessions plus giving constructive feedback to staff to help the project move forward. She is pro-active in her approach - most recently she has been using her initiative to research and develop a new regular computer skills drop-in for RASP participants. Her initial idea and development work will come to fruition in the coming months, the result of which she should be very proud. RASP is a youth led project, none more so than has been demonstrated here by Rebecca.'

b) Certificates of Excellence

Project V's Certificates of Excellence were awarded to 12 students during the CHEERS! :

Asuka Boyle (volunteers at the Friends Centre): Asuka has volunteered to give learning support to learners in an adult literacy class. She works alongside the tutor and under her direction she gives one-to-one and small group support. Much of her role is to improve the confidence and self esteem of the learners.

Charley McCarthy (volunteers at CCHF all about kids): Charley had an excellent first camp and I would like to work with her again. She is professional and has good behaviour management strategies.'

Imogen Bell (volunteers at the Moulsecoomb Forest Garden and Wildlife Project): Has carried out numerous gardening jobs many of them heavy duty and all throughout this years long cold winter – even bashing snow off the fruit cages! Because of her hard work and dedication, Imogen was invited onto our management committee.

Lucy Crouch (volunteers at Friends of Hove Stroke Club): Many stroke victims whose speech is subsequently affected by the stroke are reluctant to be heard, you have to coax them to talk to you. (...) This student has managed to engage those with speech problems in conversation casually enough for them to feel relaxed and talk to her. She manages to find their interests and they relate enthusiastically to her. She has very good people skills.

Natalie Redd (volunteers at Cherish): Natalie has been a member of the team since December 2009 and in a relatively short space of time has shown very high levels of dedication, aptitude, imaginative flair for the work and a selfless attitude despite the academic pressures she is under.

Xing Ji (volunteers at Rockinghorse): Xing has helped out at numerous Rockinghorse events and has always been very polite, friendly and extremely helpful. She showed true dedication by offering her time to more than one event, always showing up on time and completing all tasks that we assigned to her.

Amelia King (volunteers at the Moulsecoomb Forest Garden Wildlife Project): Amelia has been volunteering for three years on a regular basis. She is warm and approachable to all the wide range of volunteers and work experience pupils that attend the garden. Amelia has made an outstanding contribution to the project and we hope stays in Brighton to carry on helping us, otherwise she will be sorely missed.

Elizabeth Marsden (volunteers at the Friends of Hove Stroke Club): Elizabeth has very good people skills. She sees what needs to be done without being told and in the case of supporting members, she helps them without their realising.

Laurence Turner (volunteers at Cinecity): Laurence was incredibly reliable and dedicated carrying out a number of essential activities during the film festival. Lawrence continues to volunteer and support Cinecity, we really consider him part of the extended team. He has a true and deep interest in film and cinema, (...) as well as being committed to learning and working hard.

Nancy Walker (volunteers at the Moulsecoomb Forest Garden and Wildlife Project): Nancy has made an outstanding contribution to the project and has a winning smile. Nancy has just about done every task possible at the garden – from pushing wheelbarrow loads of manure up our steep hill, to coppicing and cooking, to planting trees and vegetables.

Xueshan Xie (volunteers at the British Heart Foundation): Xueshun has shown dedication and commitment to volunteering for the British Heart Foundation. She has always been here when she has said she will be, and has always been prepared to stay on if needed. I feel Xueshun has achieved a lot, especially with her language skills. Also she has learnt how to work in a shop and work with the general public.

Sophie Cullen (volunteers at the Moulsecoomb Forest Garden and Wildlife Project): Many of the pupils that attend the project have difficulties at school and learn best by being out of the classroom. Having students like Sophie attending introduces them to different people out of their comfort zone and helps them work with people they would normally never come into contact with.

For the first time, Link Up projects received Certificates of Excellence as well and they went to Sexpression and SIFE- Inspir8.

4) LINK UP

Link Up enables the Student Union's Sport Clubs and Societies, as well as student groups to make links with local community and voluntary organisation and thereby create volunteering projects that are of benefit to both, students and the wider local community. They can be one-off projects or longer term links.

a) SIFE- Inspir-8



SIFE (Students in Free Enterprise) has been involved with Project V for the last 3 years.

This year, 14 SIFE members linked up with Sussex Roots and Falmer High School to get pupils, aged 14-15 years, who are underachieving involved in some gardening sessions. Some of the INspir8 workshop tasks included herb-growing as well as fun teamwork and leadership activities.

To end the sessions, SIFE organised a cooking demonstration on campus, using some of the herbs that the participants have grown during the year to make different kinds of pesto.



b) Postgraduate part time students



16 part time postgraduate students undertook a one off volunteering opportunity with the National Trust at Devil's Dyke in March 2010. The students were clearing one side of the hills at Devil's Dyke and there is the possibility that those students will have another teambuilding day again in future.

c) Sexpression: case study



(Lauren-far left- receives the Certificate of Excellence at Cheers!)

Sexpression has been involved with Project V as well for the last 3 years.

In 2009-10, Sexpression linked up with Varndean High School. The programme consisted of 6 sessions, lasting one hour. Sexpression worked with a group of 10 to 15 pupils within that school.

a) Can you tell us in your own words about the project you're in?

This is a society that involves students going to local schools to teach year 10 pupils. Lessons cover safe sex, pregnancy, STIs (sexually transmitted infections), contraception, self-esteem and general health. It aims to provide a down to earth and fun session, which the pupils can

relate to well.

b) Tell us about your specific role within the project.

I am the president of the society so I help put together lesson plans, organise supplies for lessons, liaise with Project V and local schools about suitable lessons and help teach lessons too.

c) What do you get out of your volunteering?

I really enjoy volunteering in Sexpression Society. It is a great privilege to be able to contribute to a school pupils' education. Teaching the sessions is very rewarding and the pupils' positive feedback is wonderful. It is also really nice to hear how much my fellow students have enjoyed teaching the lessons.

d) How does your volunteering fit in with your student life?

It's quite difficult to organise when the schools have slots free for teaching around when we have lectures but we have managed so far by involving all different years.

e) Why would you recommend Link Up to other societies or clubs?

Link Up has been really helpful in liaising with local schools for us and promoting our society to them. We are now teaching at Varndean School thanks to Link Up's help so I'd definitely recommend them.

(Lauren Goundry- president)

d) Future Link Up projects

Project V is looking forward to continue to support the above Link Up projects in future and currently we're setting up further 3 Link Up Projects:

The fencing club will be facilitating sessions to young people at Falmer High School from Autumn Term 2010-11 onwards.

The Film Appreciation Society will collaborate on an intergenerational film project with Age Concern.

And the rugby team have already arranged a teambuilding day through Project V in Autumn Term 2010-11.

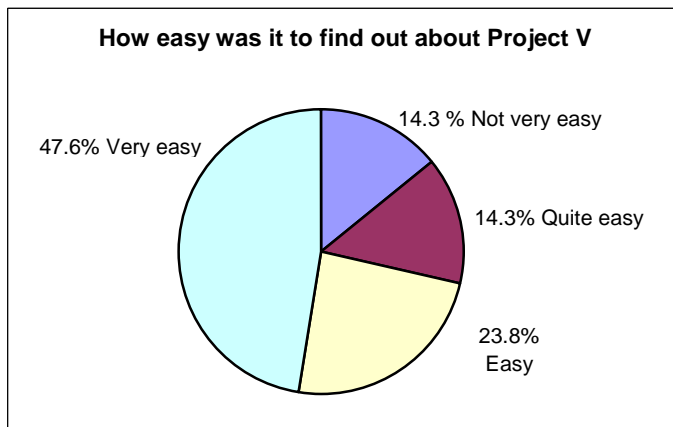
We strongly hope that we will be able to encourage lots more societies, sport clubs and student groups to get involved in Link Up over the next few years.

5) STUDENT FEEDBACK SURVEY

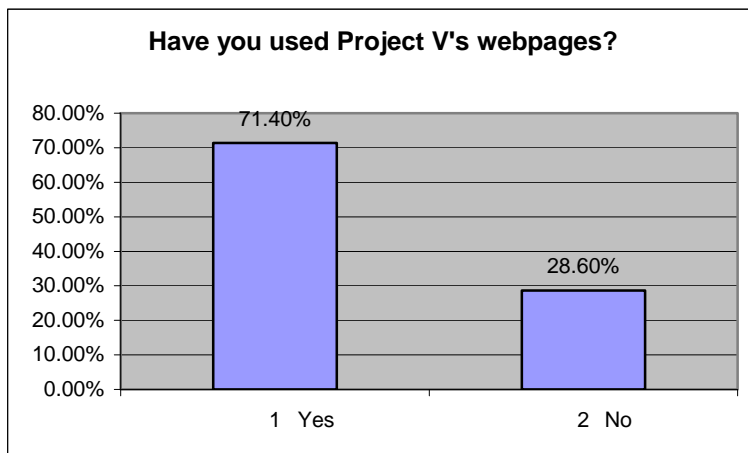
For the first time, Project V conducted a student feedback survey (on top of the regular feedback that we get from students) to find out what students think about our service, how we can improve it and how the students feel about their own volunteering.

The general comments about Project V were very positive, ranging from *'Efficient, friendly and effective service'* to *'Very accessible, open and friendly. Good personal service that enabled me to find a volunteer placement which really suited my interests.'*

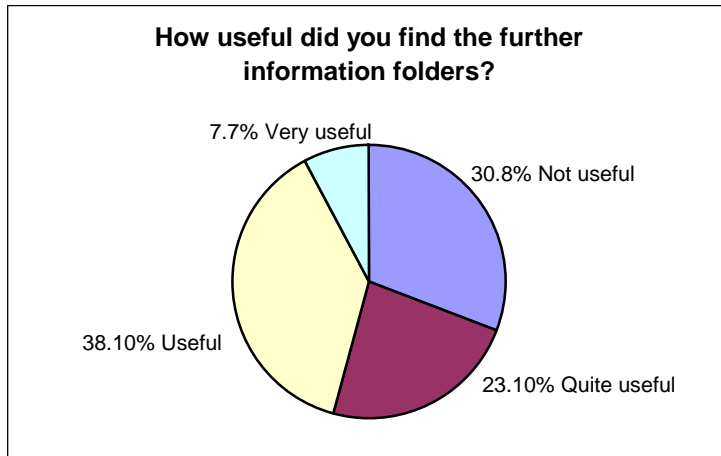
In total 72.2% of the volunteers completing the survey, thought that it is easy or very easy to find out about volunteering through Project V. *'I went to the office, spoke to one of the co-ordinators, decided on the nature of my interest and sent off the application form.'*



Again over two thirds of the volunteers completing the survey have used our website and commented that we have a large database on volunteering opportunities.



As part of the Project V Drop-in we have further information folders, so that students can make an informed choice. 68.9% of the students completing the questionnaire find the provided information from quite useful to very useful.



The survey has shown Project V that it is important for students to get a personal and professional matching and advice service in order to make an informed choice for their volunteering placement.

This feedback has shown us that we provide a quality service, which we are proud of, and we are looking forward to continue the matching and advice service as best as we can.

6) PUBLICITY AND THE PROJECT V COMMITTEE

This year Project V recruited 7 students to be part of the Project V Committee. They organised 2 Socials (one in Autumn Term and one in Spring Term), a quiz night in Falmer Bar and a cake sale.



To encourage students to volunteer through Project V, they helped out at the different publicity stalls throughout the year and designed our new Project V hoddie as well as new stressballs.

A big thank you goes to FELIX BRENTON and AMY BOULTER!

The Students' Union, of which we are a part of, hosted its first **Activities Conference** for our sports club and society committee members and other Student Union volunteers. The conference aimed to inform and inspire the participants about the opportunities available to them and their groups. Project V had an exhibition stall and facilitated workshops to inform societies and sport clubs about Link Up (the community volunteering scheme for sport clubs, societies and student groups). In total 11 societies and sport clubs signed up for the workshops!



Every year, the Student Union organises a **Freshers' Fayre**. This Fair is all about promoting our services provided for students, including sport clubs, societies and Project V, as well as advice, welfare and representation.

This year, the new Project V student committee assisted on the stall and we signed up over 300 students to receive our weekly e-bulletin, V-bite.

Project V also had a stall at the Employer's Fayre, organised by the Career and Employability Centre.

Throughout the academic year, Project V organised publicity stalls in Falmer House, Library Square and the courtyard of Falmer House to try and promote volunteering to students.

7) COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS:

a) Publicity stalls on Campus

This Project V was very pro-active in getting community organisations on campus to recruit volunteers. Within 2009-10 a total of six organisations were having publicity stalls on campus.



We invited **Cinecity** onto Campus to recruit volunteers for the Brighton Film Festival, which took place from the 19th November until the 6th December 2009. We successfully recruited 16 volunteers!

The **Children's Society Befriending Service** also had a publicity stall in the Foyer of Falmer House. The project aims to provide a quality short break service to parents/carers whilst also supporting the young people (aged 12-18) to engage in a leisure activity of their choice.



Sussex Beacon (an independent registered charity delivering services through a continuing care centre that aims to provide specialist information, support and care for people living with HIV/AIDS) organised a Half Marathon in Brighton. In total 5 students were recruited for this event via a publicity stall on campus.

Allsorts, an organisation for LGBTU young people, held a volunteering information and publicity stall on campus to recruit for volunteers, from which two students were recruited. Allsorts also ran a fun and informative arts-based positive mental health promotion workshop for all LGBTU students as part of the Diversity Week.



Healthwalks is a project that encourages people to take up regular walking for health. It aims to raise awareness of health benefits of walking, get people out into green spaces, meeting other people and improving their health and mobility. Students were recruited to volunteer for this project at an information and publicity stall held on campus in Health Week.



The Brighton & Hove Food Partnership came onto campus during Green Week to recruit volunteers for their different projects. Students signed up to their mailing list and some students even made 'seedbombs'- a little ball that has everything needed to grow a plant.



b) Placement visits and other visits

Some organisations mentioned that they would like to have more personal contact with Project V. We are trying to fit visits in with our busy schedule and so far the Project V team was able to meet up with the South Downs Health NHS Trust and Playing for Success (see photo).



We also undertook placement visits at the following organizations: Tamerland, Studioscape, B&H Food Partnership, Victim Support, Resampling, Brighton YMCA as well as Money Advice and Community Support.

c) Green Project:

Wed	23rd June	9:15 AM - 2:45 PM
Wed	7th July	9:15 AM - 3:45 PM
Fri	23rd July	9:45 AM - 3:30 PM
Fri	6th August	9:45 AM - 4:00 PM
Tue	17th August	9:45 AM - 3:30 PM
Wed	1st September	9:15 AM - 3:45 PM

ONE OFF VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITY IN THE COUNTRYSIDE

Get involved in nature conservation projects, with digging, planting and gardening. Work on the land, enjoy the outdoors, get active and have fun!

Lunch and travel to and from the project is provided!

For more information to book your place, go to: www.usu.info/projectv 01273 projectv@sussex.ac.uk 873387

Project V has organised 6 one-day volunteering opportunities, starting in Week 10 of Summer Term and throughout Summer Vacation.

This pilot project encourages students who are staying in Brighton during summer vacation to get involved in volunteering in the local countryside.

In the first session we had 8 students taking part in the one off volunteering opportunity organised with the National Trust at Devil's Dyke. The tasks ranged from path clearance to building new fences.

A complete evaluation of this project will be in the next Annual Review.



8) PLACEMENT FEEDBACK

At the end of each academic year we send out a placement feedback form to all organisations registered with us who have received a University of Sussex student volunteer. The feedback enables us to find out how satisfied organisations are with Project V. It also helps us to identify any issues or concerns.

As a result of this feedback we have altered the way that we both register volunteering opportunities and undertake the concomitant check on the safety and management of volunteers, and have introduced for the forthcoming year, Outreach Days, to enable us to have more personal contact with projects.

A selection of comments can be found below along with a graph indicating how organisations rate their experience of Project V:

'I have been very impressed with your professionalism. I thank you for your advice prior to our first student with regards to having all our paperwork e.g. equalities policy, risk assessment, etc. You helped me to focus, keeping it all together in a folder now.' Friends of the Hove Stroke Club

'All your support and flexibility when we have been short staffed is very much appreciated.' Care co-ops

'We've always found your service to be reliable, informative and efficient and Naomi and Michaela to be friendly, approachable and experienced in their field.' BHV: Refugee and Asylum Seeker Project

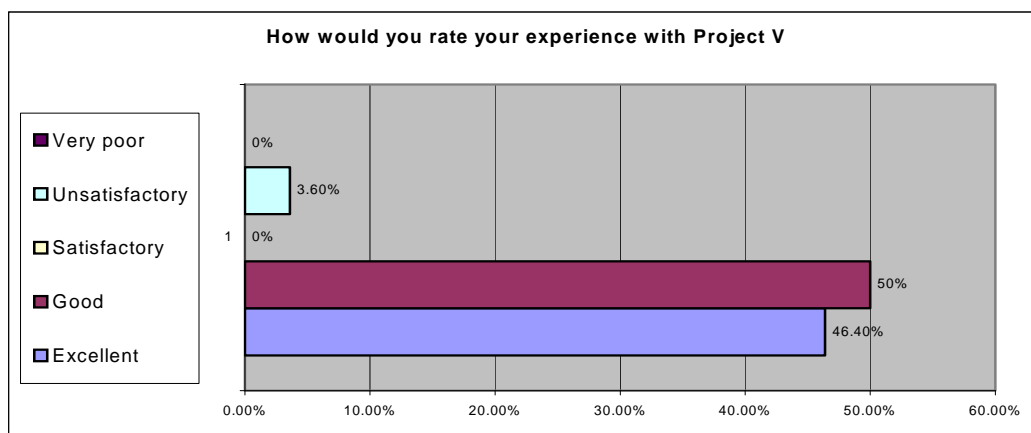
'I think the service provides good support at the beginning as necessary.' Brighton and Hove Child Contact Centre

'Many thanks for all your help!!' The Coldean Youth Project

'Project V supplies us with an average of 80% of our staffing, their volunteers are of such a high calibre on a consistent basis, that they remain with us and take up paid sessional posts after their volunteer placement is over. The staff at Project V are excellent, their attention to detail and diligence, with their ability to match students to our placement remains entirely consistent and of a very high standard.' Cherish

'We are very pleased with the relationship, and have really lovely good relationships with helpful Project V staff.' Cinecity

How would you rate your experience of Project V?



9) PARTNERSHIPS

Project V continued to develop existing partnerships and forge new partnerships including the following:

The Careers and Employability Centre- Sussex Plus

Our partnership with the Careers and Employability Centre is highly valued. All Project V volunteers are offered a personalised career interview with a Career Development Adviser. In the interview, which is 30 minutes long, and the volunteers may discuss a number of aspects of their volunteer experience and how it impacts on their employability. We hope that this highly important service will continued to be offered to the volunteers in the next academic.

The Career and Employability Centre also provides a constant stream of student referrals for Project V, which is very much appreciated.

Project V is also appreciative of Sussex Plus for their funding of one full-time member of staff and hope that we will collaborate more closely in future.

Active Student

Project V works in partnership with Active Student, the volunteering scheme at the University of Brighton. Our joint working approach aims to provide a streamlined and user-friendly service to the community and voluntary sector. This partnership has been very successful in 2009-10 and we hope to keep up this effective collaboration in future.

Centre for Community Engagement (CCE)

-Sounding the Site: ARK!

Ark! aims to bring people together and this year was exploring themes of biodiversity and sustainability. The day drew on a wide range of disciplines, from creative writing to microbiology, and from music to engineering, working with creative practitioners, schools and community groups.

Project V was taking part in Ark Table of Ideas, which brought together representatives of the University and local community groups.

-University of Sussex Social and Community Engagement Strategy Committee

This committee promotes and develops identified key areas of community engagement within the University of Sussex and the Student Union. This includes building sustainable networks and partnerships with the local, regional, national and international community. Project V is working closely with local community organisations and therefore happy to be part of this committee.

Sussex Language Institute

In 2008-09, Sussex Language Institute invited Project V to talk to their pre-masters international students about the value of volunteering. Students responded positively with a number going on to volunteer and enjoy becoming a part of the wider community.

International and Study Abroad Office

Project V held a talk about volunteering to international student. Apart from Project V's services, we also talked about the new International Student Visa regulations that have big impact on volunteering. Project V is committed to providing the best service possible to international students as volunteering is one way of settling into a new environment and will therefore continue to collaborate with the International and Study Abroad Office to this end.

USSU Community Engagement Strategy- Getogether

The Student Union performs a lot of activities that mutually benefit our members and residents in the local community. Under the banner of **getogether**, we are now seeking to identify and champion the good work the Student Union does with the local community, and to foster new projects in the Union as part of a dedicated community engagement strategy.

Project V is a vital part in this strategy as we work with about 400 community organisations, create special projects (such as Link Up projects) and invite community organisations on campus.

10) MATCHING AND ADVICE SERVICE

a) Statistics:

Project V has a two-stage appointment system and the following data shows how many students accessed our matching and advice service.

In total, we held 258 first stage appointments, of which 232 students proceeded to register with us at a second appointment, and 177 students went on to volunteer. So, whilst slightly less students registered with us this year than in the previous, there was an increase in the number of volunteering placements achieved, from 156 placements to 177.

Project V is trying to decrease the gap between the second stage appointments and the achieved volunteering placements. The statistics above are really encouraging because it shows that Project V is able to place the students who are signed up with us more efficiently and therefore provide a quality service to students and community organisations.

For the first time, we could also get a breakdown of visits to Project V's website and the results are also very encouraging:

- 6327 - homepage
- 2319 - opportunity search
- 211 - summer volunteering
- 371 - news listing
- 361 - student FAQ
- 347 - contact us
- 346 - case studies
- 218 - info for clubs and societies

In this academic year, Project V made full use of the networking sites, Facebook and Twitter. We already have 104 fans on Facebook with an average of 250 visits per week to our fan site, and have 140 followers on Twitter.

b) New Links

In the year 2009-10, we registered 32 new community organisations covering a whole range of areas, such as nature conservation, young people, disabilities, community projects etc. Furthermore, we registered 67 new volunteering opportunities; the latter received from both new and previously registered organisations.

This is a slight decrease from the previous years which may reflect the different financial pressures on community organisations in Brighton, Hove and Lewes.

11) VOLUNTEER PROFILE

Project V is very keen to ensure the participation of a broad range of students in volunteering. The following data is collated through Project V's Equal Opportunity Monitoring Form, which is given to all the students who register with Project V.

The main purpose for collecting this data is to help us gain an understanding of who is using our service and thereby guide us in making the service accessible to a wide range of students.

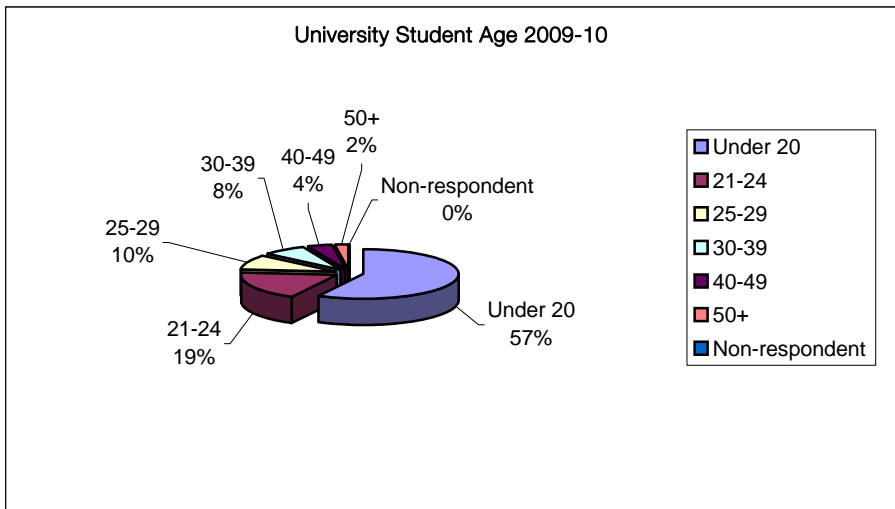
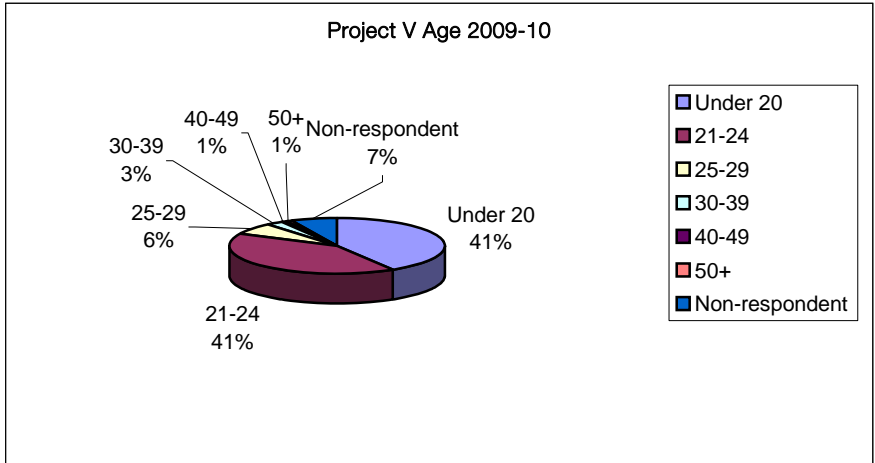
The statistics below show that in some areas e.g. ethnicity, the diversity of students registering with Project V reflects the diversity of the wider student body at the University of Sussex, but in other areas e.g. gender, we still have some work to do to engage more with some student groups e.g. men.

Number of Students	PROJECT V: 232	UNIVERSITY OF SUSSEX: 12,000
---------------------------	---------------------------	---

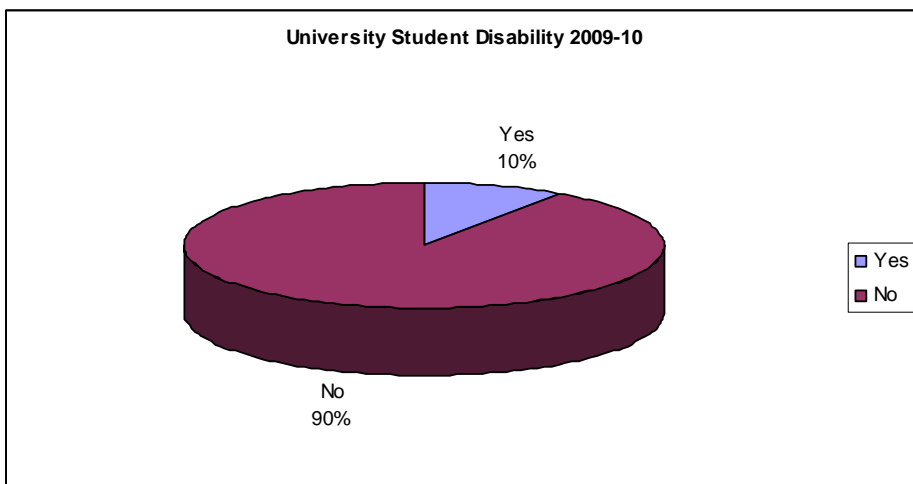
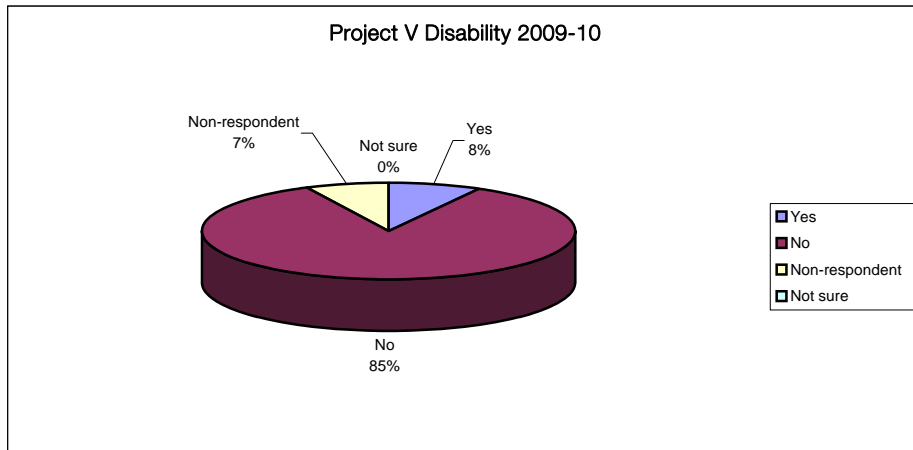
GENDER	P/V Students	%	University Students	%
Female	178	76%	6629	55%
Male	36	16%	5338	45%
Trans	0	0%	*	*
Non-respondent	18	8%	0	0%

ETHNICITY	P/V Student	%	University Student	%
White	163	70	8945	75
Black African	11	5	366	3
Black Caribbean	4	2	97	1
Black Other	3	1	28	0
Pakistani	0	0	84	1
Indian	7	3	247	2
Bangladeshi	1	0	40	0
Chinese	6	3	345	3
White & Asian	3	1	133	1
Asian Other	9	4	496	4
White & Black African	2	1	37	0
White & Black Caribbean	0	0	91	1
Other	0	0	230	2
Other Mixed	4	2	201	2
Non-respondent	19	8	627	5

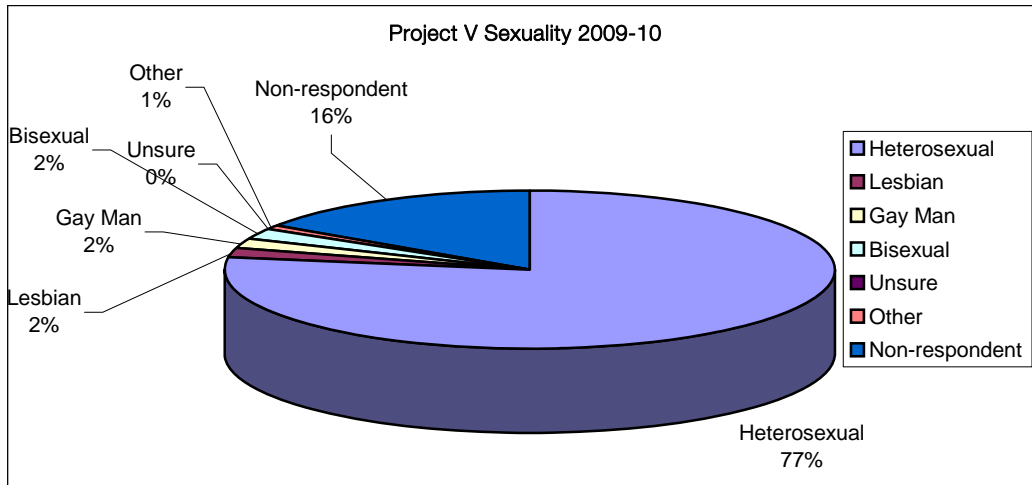
AGE	P/V Students	%	University Students	%
Under 20	96	41%	6927	57%
21-24	95	41%	2230	19%
25-29	15	6%	1162	10%
30-39	6	3%	900	8%
40-49	2	1%	502	4%
50+	2	1%	279	2%
**Non- respondent	16	7%	0	0%



DISABILITY	P/V Student	%	University Student	%
Yes	11	4%	1,022	9%
No	227	92%	10,007	91%
Not sure	0	0%	0	0%
**Non- respondent	11	4%	0	0%



SEXUALITY	P/V Student	%	University Student	%
Heterosexual	209	85%	*	*
Lesbian	2	1%	*	*
Gay Man	2	1%	*	*
Bisexual	6	2%	*	*
Unsure	3	1%	*	*
Prefer not to say	11	4%	*	*
**Non- respondent	16	6%	*	*

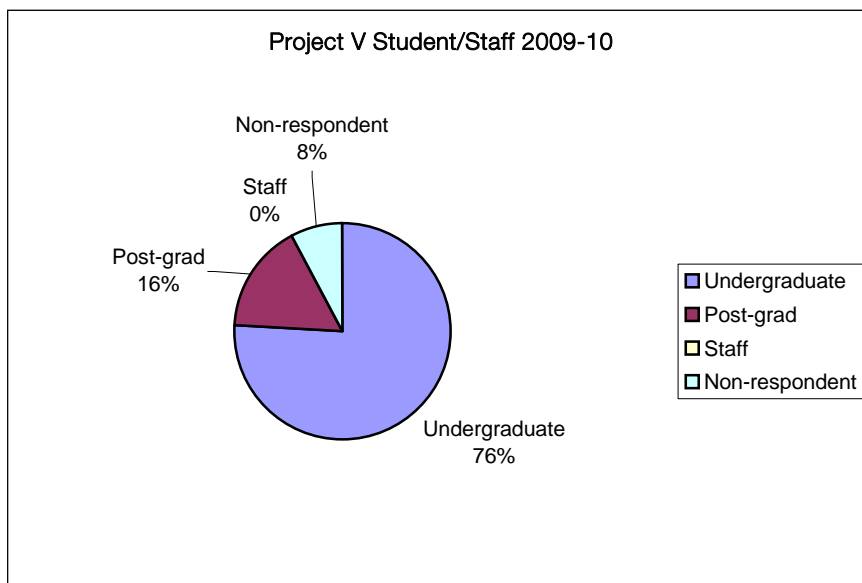


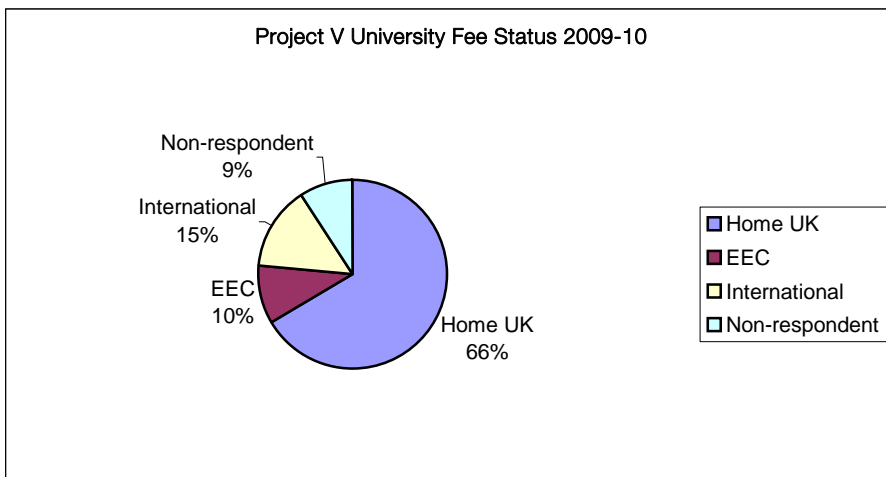
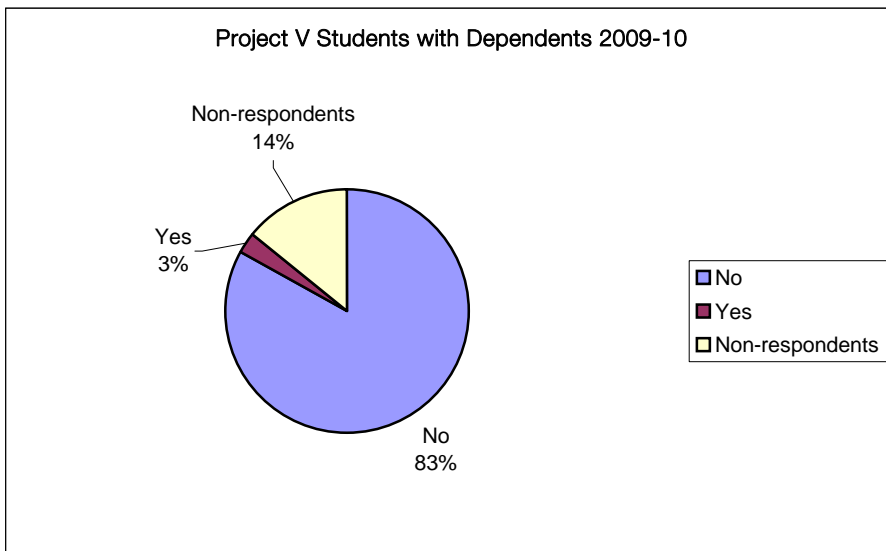
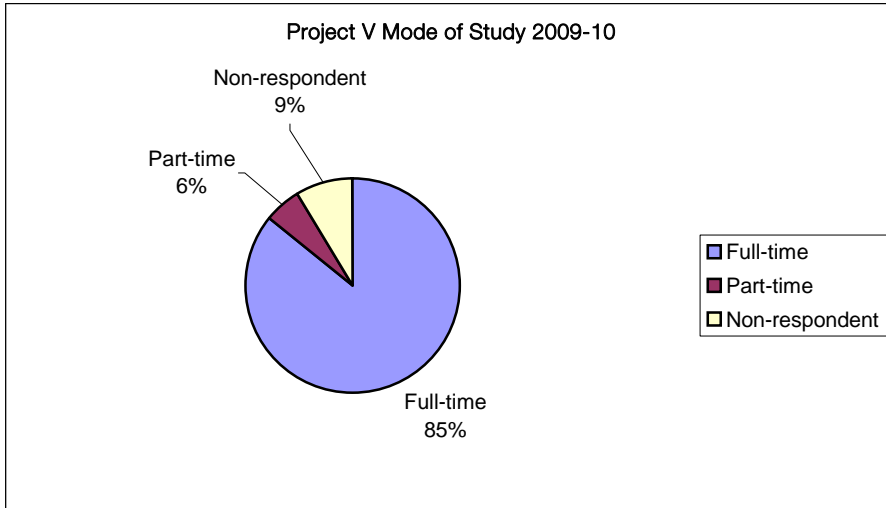
* The University does not collect data in this category.

** For Project V, 'Non-respondent' includes those who have returned their Equal Opportunities Monitoring Form and left sections blank, as well as those who have registered with us, but not completed our Equal Opportunities Monitoring Form.

For the University, 'Non-respondent' refers to students who have chosen not to disclose this information.

In addition to the statistics above, this year we also collected information on the breakdown of students volunteering in terms of undergraduate/postgraduate status, whether studying full or part-time, and whether the students who volunteered had dependents:





The above statistics show that Project V is open to all University of Sussex students and we hope to increase staff volunteering in the forthcoming years.

12) PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

In the new academic year, Project V has planned quite a few new projects. One of them is to offer students and staff to get involved in specific one off volunteering opportunities and we're aiming to offer 2 one off volunteering opportunities each term.

We will also organise Outreach Days. The purpose of these days is to strengthen and renew our links with the registered community organisations and look into new ways of working together.

Project V is updating the website and we have added a best practice section for organisation on how to support and manage volunteers. We also have a Skill Development section for volunteers. This section provides information on how volunteers can reflect on their volunteering and how they can make the best use of Sussex Plus.

We will continue to participate in the Volunteer Strategy Steering Group. We have worked on 'Joining The Dots- A tripe impact volunteering strategy for Brighton & Hove 2010-15'. One of Project V's case studies got mentioned in this strategy and we're very proud to contribute to best practice in volunteering through this group.

We're looking forward to another exciting and successful academic year ahead of us!