

**Intergenerational work tackling conflict between
host and student communities –
Community Action @ Leeds Met (CALM)**

**A presentation to the Leeds Neighbourhoods for all Ages Network
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Community Action @ Leeds Met (CALM)

CALM is a student-led, social action volunteer project at Leeds Metropolitan University (LMU), based in the Student Union. It is independent of LMU and was established in 2001 to dispel the typical student stereotype. Many students want to participate in local community led activities and so far, CALM is linked to over 40 voluntary groups in Leeds and they run 20 student-led projects. There are around 500 student volunteer members and funding mainly comes from the N W Area Management Team and LMU. CALM aims to empower and enhance students' personal development, whilst at the same time delivering and participating in projects that respond to local needs.

Their LS6 project came about as a response to the problems that can occur due to the large transient student population in the LS6 area. The aim is to build up positive relationships between students and local residents, which will encourage tolerance and understanding. Consulting with the community ensures that any project responds to local needs.

LS6 Projects for 2005-2006 include: Unity Day, mural painting, children's face painting, DJ workshops, urban arts showcase, school gardening, sports coaching, and kid's parties for Women's Aid.

Up Your Street Projects for 2005-2006 include: clean-ups, graffiti clean-ups, doorstep glass recycling, green and black bins project, and bargain hunt table-top sales.

Intergenerational Projects for 2005-2006 include: Headingley Hall Songsters, Headingley Lights Christmas Tea-Party, Winter Festival, Christmas shopping trips, January dinner dance and intergenerational face painting.

Student feedback is always positive, and increases their concern and desire to help improve the local area. Moving to a new place and starting university is a daunting prospect for new students and volunteering helps them become part of the community, whilst gaining confidence at the same time.

For more information contact:

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