

BRAVING THE COLD FOR BRONZE



Five young learning disabled students have completed their Duke of Edinburgh bronze. They successfully completed it with an overnight expedition in the Lake District. The group first showed an interest, following their hard work as both volunteers and management committee members of the Sunsport activity programme. Community hours were fulfilled through assisting on sports activities and through voluntary work in the community. They also received training for the expedition including navigating and cooking with stoves. Daniel one of the participants is a wheelchair user. Due to this the journey was carried out on canoes so that he could be fully involved in getting to the campsite.

It was a cold and windy weekend but they showed a tremendous amount of enthusiasm, organisation and resilience passing with flying colours. The expedition was provided in partnership with the Calvert Trust, Lake District who have the skills and equipment to support disabled people. Louise Chicot, D of E Awards Officer for the borough also attended to assess the expedition "It was a privilege to work with such an inspiring group of young people. The staff at Gateway in Rochdale and The Calvert Trust, Keswick ensured the group were given full access to all the elements of the Award and their achievement is a testimony to the commitment and determination of all involved."

Plans are to work alongside a group of able-bodied young people to work through the Silver Award. Rochdale Youth Service are very keen to support more young disabled people through the scheme. For more information contact Louise Chicot on [01706 925 426](tel:01706925426) louise.chicot@rochdale.gov.uk