

## People Can Launch in Kingston upon Thames

On 11 March 2020 Community Catalysts launched the People Can Project in the borough of Kingston upon Thames with more than 70 people attending this successful introduction to the project.

You can watch a video about the launch here: <https://youtu.be/Jzi41EicwYM>

We wanted to use the event to tell people about the project and how they can get involved. The event involved disabled people who would potentially be interested in having support from the Co-ordinator, Danni O Connell, professionals, and other third sector organisations.



The aims of the event were to:

- Enable people to learn more about the People Can Project
- Encourage people to think creatively about their skills and talents and explore what they could do with them
- Support people to participate in new conversations and share their innovative ideas
- Gain people's commitment to turning their ideas into their own group, activity or community micro- enterprise that others could join



The event was brilliantly compered by Nick Sims who is part of Involve. We heard from Strategic Commissioner for Adult Social Care, Helen Coombes, who noted the importance of communities working together and highlighted how impressed she was with Community Catalysts in her previous role in Dorset.

Helen Allen, Operations Manager for Community Catalysts, then spoke about some of our work nationally and shared some great case studies before introducing James and Andy from Local Social in Hertfordshire. James has had great success making friends and connecting with people in his community since Local Social started in 2016.

Finally, Danni O Connell, the People Can Co-ordinator, shared information about the project and all the brilliant organisations that she has worked with in Kingston so far.

The event was facilitated by a team of volunteers and facilitators who made sure the day ran smoothly and offered support to delegates who needed it. Each volunteer wore a “Happy to Help” badge so that they were easily identified on the day.

The event was interactive and delegates were given sheets to work on their tables either individually, in pairs, or as a group and jot down their thoughts to the following questions:

- What are you good at?
- What do you care about?
- What are your ideas?



Throughout the event Community Catalysts captured people’s ideas on video and brought some individuals to the front of the room to share their ideas with everyone.

People’s ideas were motivating, empowering and varied. The graphics, below, capture all the great things that people shared.

"Working with children, cooking and talking to people"

"Dancing, having fun with friends, bowling and drama"

"Playing pool, dog walking. Playing football for my team"

"Good at my job, talking to people. Computer skills"

"DJ-ing and music working in Chessington"

"Flower arrangement, drama and cooking"

## What are you good at?

"Nutrition advice. Helping people like me"

"Cooking, looking after animals"

"Making omelettes"

"Singing and dancing"

"Darts, going out with my friends"

"Being part of a team, listening and talking"

"Model planes.  
Being an ambassador  
for people with  
learning  
disabilities"

"Playing bingo.  
Drama and music"

"Going out with  
my mates"

"The planet.  
The  
environment"

"Playing darts"

"Being positive  
and happy. Equality"

## **What do you care about?**

"Helping people"

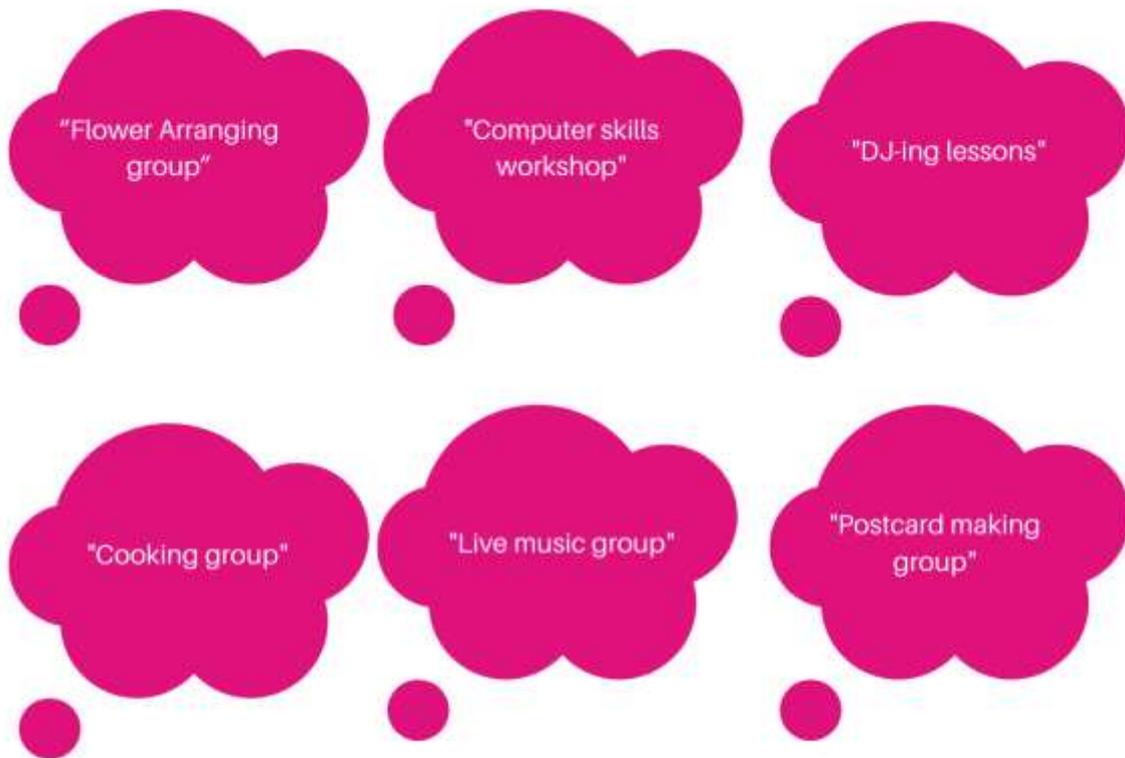
"Friends and  
family. Watching  
football.  
My dog"

"Helping people.  
Collecting toy  
cars. Repairing  
bikes"

"Looking after  
myself. Eating out.  
The environment"

"My local area.  
Local people"

"Friends and family.  
People with learning  
disabilities"



## **What are your ideas?**



At the end of the launch event, attendees were asked to provide feedback on how they thought the day went and what they enjoyed about it.

Feedback included:



As a result of the launch event, 15 people asked for future support from the People Can project.

A co-production group has been formed which has representation from Community Catalysts, the council, members of Involve and other third sector organisations with the aim of supporting Danni in her role.

For further information about People Can, please contact Danni O'Connell, People Can Co-Ordinator: [danni.oconnell@communitycatalysts.co.uk](mailto:danni.oconnell@communitycatalysts.co.uk) / 07774 071574.