

AUG 2025

FAMILY ORIENTEERING REPORT

Charlie Hill - Heeley Trust



Heeley Trust
Community Hub



Heeley Plus
Primary Care Network



South
Yorkshire
Orienteers

2 x Family Orienteering sessions (49 participants across the two sessions):

This includes several local children and adults plus some home educating families who had traveled further. Toddlers through to pensioners had a go on the day and most stayed for some food, taking part in the nature art activities too.

Staff :

Pauline Tryner (**Orienteering Coach @ South Yorkshire Orienteers**) – set up the course and provided maps, dibbers and instructions.

Beki Jones (**Community Development worker @ Heeley Trust**).

Charlie Hill (**Green social prescriber @ Heeley Trust**).

Jenny Johnson (**Social Prescribing Link Worker @ Heeley Trust & South Yorkshire Orienteers member**) @ Session 1 only.

1 staff member from **Yorkshire Wildlife Trust**.

Fire Brigade attended first session, PCSOs around second session.

Publicity:

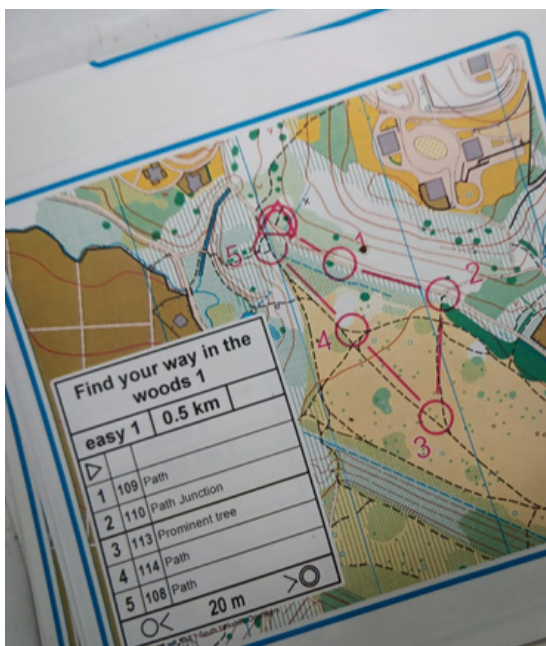
Digital flyers on Facebook and Instagram posted by Heeley Trust and SYO. Shared via WhatsApp in local parenting, school and home education groups. Sheffield City Council Family Hub and Gleadless Valley Regeneration Team also promoted digitally.

Facebook post on Heeley Trust reached 459 people and the Regen team post reached 300 people. Paper flyers in Newfield Green Library, Mamma Katz Cafe (who also provided the food), Heeley Green Community Centre and handed out to local families for the couple of weeks before the sessions. On the day we met at a local car park and promoted what was happening to local families, some of whom came and joined the session. We also chatted to anyone walking through the woods to encourage them to join in or come back to the following week's session.



Learning:

- Ribbons and signage for activities were successful
- Jenny advertising event in car park on the day of the event meant word of mouth got families attending.
- Sharing event on Whatsapp got people to attend.
- Engaging with local kids and families that were walking past – some of them have been to Nature Natter sessions before and were asking what we were doing.
- Talking to parents about what activities they would like in the woods - responses were “more of this” or the suggestion of activity walks or both.
- Talking to the kids asking what they would like to do in the woods - more of these kinds of activities / tig games / anything sports based / making obstacle courses / den and shelter building / using tools (they loved the potato peelers) / fire lighting / swing making.
- Observed hammock was popular, with hot food helping to keep people in the space for longer.
- Kids enjoyed orienteering activity with the dibber – most of the kids had never done this before.
- Most kids engaged with creative activities - elder beads and potato peelers very popular.
- Promote day before and morning of up at Newfield Green shops – wander round with leaflets.
- Have a newsletter sign-up sheet to capture attendees.
- Have flyers for other activities.
- Promote in home education groups specifically.





Feedback from participants:

'I saw this...I was so excited it was in our woods and we could come'

'It's great to see people enjoying themselves in the woods - usually we don't see anyone'

Next Steps:

- Building on the success of these Family Orienteering sessions, we would love to develop more sessions over the year in a similar way.
- The combination of orienteering, food and nature activities meant that people stayed for a longer time and explored more of the woods. It also gave us the opportunity to talk to more people in the community and hear how they like to use the woods, what they would like more of and what prevents them from spending time there. This was a very valuable community engagement session and more of these would feed into how we work in Gleadless Valley with the local community.
- The kids were very excited about Orienteering and using the dibbers was a fantastic way to engage them. As mentioned, most of the local kids had never heard of orienteering before and these events open up a whole new experience to children in Gleadless Valley, making it a very inclusive activity.
- Explore different green spaces near the local schools to do Orienteering sessions across the Valley, such as Herdings Park.