



Rewarding positive participation

Young people from the Shaathi Mentoring Project spent a week in Marrakech, Morocco learning about its culture, heritage and history.

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A Step Forward

"I was impressed by the generosity of passers-by and their interest in a charity that benefits local kids."

ACTOR SIR IAN MCKELLEN

News

Youths rewarded with Morocco trip

BY JESSICA ODUBAYO

YOUNG people and their mentors took time out together during the summer holidays to experience a totally different community.

Members of the Shaathi Mentoring Project in Whitechapel enjoyed a week-long residential in Marrakech, Morocco.

Shaathi – which means friend in Bengali – matches young people with positive role models from the community with referrals from agencies such as social services, the police, youth offending teams and schools.

And many of the young people have been identified as being 'at risk' of becoming excluded from mainstream education, training and employment or engaging in anti-social behaviour and criminality.

The trip, in August, was a learning experience, giving participants an opportunity to meet and share views with people with a different culture, history and heritage.

Project manager Jobrul Islam said the trip was organised to reward positive participation and progression made by those on the programme.

The young people had the

chance to visit the souks and shops of Marrakech, barter with merchants, quad bike over desert plains, meet Berber families and visit the Atlas Mountains.

One 12-year-old taking part said: "People were so kind and friendly. It was very hot compared to London. Crossing the roads was crazy and real scary. I really enjoyed the visit to the Berber house and meeting the family."

For more information about the Shaathi Mentoring Project, contact Saddique Ahmed on 7375 0389 or email saddique.ahmed@osmanitrust.org



East Enders had a learning experience in Marrakech