

# Dragons' Den!



This activity works very well the more 'real' you can make it. If you can invite external people to act as Panel Members, that will help. Also, it works very well if there is any level of funding you can provide to the successful group to actually carry out the project.



**Social Action:** practical action in the service of others to create positive change.

## Activity 1



### Aim(s)

- To practise planning and putting into action their own community/social action project.



### Resources

- Large sheets of paper and pens.
- The results of the *Community Audit / Ideal Community*. **OPTIONAL**
- *The Community Project Plan Checklist*  
Power Point slide or written on a flipchart.



### Delivery Guide

Ask if anyone has seen Dragons' Den on TV. Here's a clip:

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=s8d5wxGEGc8](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s8d5wxGEGc8)

(available 8/16)

If they have, explain that they're going to take part in a *Community Dragons' Den* where they bid for money to deliver a social action project. If you are not able to provide any money – or if it's not appropriate for them to carry out their social action project – then you can award prizes to the best bid.

## Planning

If you have completed the *Community Audit* Activity, ask the young people to think about the gaps they discovered when looking at their community. What was missing? Where were people suffering? What could be improved?

If you have completed the *Ideal Community* Activity, you can ask the young people to think about what they can do to make their local community more like their ideal community. Is there something they could add or change?

If you haven't completed either of those activities, ask the group to think about their local community – or a community of their choice – and where they think it needs to be improved.

Once they have identified where people might need help, ask them to think about where they could use 'compassion in action': what could they do to improve the community and make things better for people? Could they organise an event to bring people together and help community cohesion? How about paint an area that's looking dishevelled? They could organise a litter-pick to tidy up a park, or campaign to extend – or save – the hours a library or youth centre is open.

Split the main group into smaller groups and ask each group to choose a particular project which will improve the community. Explain that they will have a set period of time to develop their plan. They need to think about the following:

---

<b>Project aim(s)</b>	What need are you meeting? Who is going to benefit from your project and why?
<b>How are you going to do this?</b>	What are you actually going to do? When is this going to happen?
<b>Impact</b>	How will you know that you have succeeded?
<b>Recruitment</b>	How will you get people involved?
<b>Funding</b>	How much funding do you need? How will the money be spent? Can you get things donated?
<b>Health+Safety / Safeguarding</b>	How will you make sure everyone is safe and well while they're taking part?

---

## Your Community Project Plan Checklist

Once they are done, they will be presenting their project to a panel who will judge their bid and decide whether to award them the money (or prize).

## Presenting

Get each group to present their plan to the panel while the other groups watch. Before the presenting starts, it may be worth reiterating what a 'respectful audience' does (ie. listens, doesn't talk, is supportive, etc.)

At the end of the presentation, there should be a chance for the panel to ask questions. (Depending on the young people you are working with, those on the panel can be encouraged to role play and be as challenging as those on the TV programme *Dragons' Den*.) Young people should be praised for taking part and showing courage if they were nervous before presenting. You could also make time for the audience to comment on what was good about the presentation and what could be improved.

At the end of the presentations, it would be useful for the panel to go through each presentation and highlight the strengths of each bid, and then areas for improvement, before announcing the winner and why that particular project was chosen.

## Points to highlight

- It takes courage to stand up and present a bid to a panel of people.
- We all have the power to make a difference to our community – we can play to our strengths.
- Feeling compassion allows us to identify a need and take action to help create positive change.
- Working together means we can achieve more.