

Report to: **Scrutiny Committee for Children's Services**

Date: **20 June 2007**

By: **Director of Children's Services**

Title of report: **The East Sussex County Council Youth Development Service**

Purpose of report: **To provide members with a better understanding of the role of the Youth Development Service and the contribution the Service makes to improving outcomes for vulnerable young people.**

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## **Recommendations**

**The Committee is recommended to note the contents of the report.**

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### **1. Financial Appraisal**

1.1 The Youth Development Service (YDS) is funded from the base budget for Children's Services. In addition to core funding, a number of youth projects are provided through partnership funding, which reflects the growing confidence of a wide range of stakeholders in the role and contribution of the Service in improving outcomes for young people 11-19. Those stakeholders include secondary schools and colleges, health, district, borough and parish councils.

### **2. Supporting Information**

2.1 The youth work strategy for the Youth Development Service 2007–2010, which provides an overview of the vision and priorities for the Service over the next three years, has been well received by a wide range of staff and partners. The strategy is attached as Appendix A to this report for further information. The Strategy Action Plan is available to view as a background document; it describes the way that the Service is implementing the strategy. The summary of self assessment for the Enhanced Youth Inspection (EYI), attached as Appendix B, which constitutes a key component of the Joint Area Review, provides a critical appraisal of the achievements of the Service and areas for development. Examples of projects and work with a description of impact and outcomes is attached as Appendix C.

2.2 Up until August 2006 the YDS was managed within the Education Department and represented a discrete service managed by a Head of Service, who acted in the role of Principal Youth Officer (PYO). As a result of restructuring and fully in line with the Children Act 2004, the Service is now managed by one of the Heads of Integrated Children's Services who has lead responsibility for developing Targeted Youth Support Services, under the terms of Youth Matters, and who acts in the role of PYO.

2.3 The YDS now sits at the core of integrated area children's services, within the same management structure as the other key youth support services, most notably the new Youth Support Teams, the Under 19 Substance Misuse Service, Secondary Behaviour Support and Reintegration Services, Education Welfare Service, Teenage Pregnancy, Youth Opportunity Fund (YOF) and Positive Activities for Young People. The two area YDS managers are full members of the county leadership team for integrated area services, ensuring that youth work is better aligned to the wider agenda for Every Child Matters and is better placed to contribute to shaping service developments. All four YDS managers, including the Quality Assurance and YOF managers, are full members of the county-wide Youth Development & Support Services management team, again ensuring that the YDS works more closely with other services and plays a full role in improving outcomes for some of the most vulnerable young people in the county.

2.4 The Service has shifted from one which seeks to make a universal offer of traditional, generic youth work to all young people to one which targets positive activities and enjoyable

learning opportunities to young people across the county who are most vulnerable to poor outcomes, including those with complex, overlapping needs. The Service provides a range of directly managed projects, which deliver a graduated offer of support to young people; from information, advice and guidance; to a broad and balanced curriculum of activities aimed at enriching learning; to specialist advice and support; to targeted work aimed at involving disaffected young people, particularly young people at risk of falling out of mainstream education into substance misuse, risky sexual activity, anti-social behaviour, offending, unemployment and homelessness. Making a tangible contribution to reducing the number of young people not in education, employment or training is a growing area of focus for the YDS.

2.5 The Service is performance managed against the national Resourcing Excellent Youth Services (REYS) targets. There are four key targets by which youth services are measured;

- Contact – what proportion of the 13-19 population access youth services (25%)
- Participation – of those reached how many actively participate to the point of shaping and planning activities and learning (15%)
- Recorded Outcomes – what proportion of those young people who participate achieve recorded outcomes (60%)
- Accredited Outcomes – what proportion of those young people achieving recorded outcomes go on to achieve externally accredited (validated) outcomes (30%)

The performance of the Service in relation to Contact (25%), Participation (15%) and Recorded Outcomes (58%) is good, especially when the targeted approach is taken into account. There are many excellent case studies included in the self assessment for the EYI which demonstrate the success of the Service in engaging disaffected and troubled young people in positive activities and learning, which has enabled them to return to school or college, find suitable training or employment. The Service has done less well in relation to Accredited Outcomes (9%) and this has been made an area of priority activity within the strategy and Performance Improvement Plan. These figures do not yet include the contribution made by the voluntary sector funded by the YDS.

2.6 In terms of the key Enhanced Youth Inspection judgements, the self assessment evaluates the Service as follows;

Youth service key aspects:

- Young people's achievement and youth work practice: 3 (good)
- Curriculum and resources: 2 (adequate)
- Leadership and management: 3 (good)

Contribution to Every Child Matters outcomes:

- Be healthy: 3 (good)
- Stay safe: 3 (good)
- Enjoy and achieve: 3 (good)
- Make positive contribution: 4 (excellent)
- Achieve economic wellbeing: 2 (adequate)

### **3. Summary**

3.1 The Children's Service Scrutiny Committee is asked to note the contents of the report. Members are welcome to visit YDS projects to see for themselves the work of the Service and to talk to young people. The final EYI judgements will be available in the autumn.

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BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:

1. Strategy Action Plan

# East Sussex Youth Development Service

## Youth Work Strategy for 2007 – 2010

### 1 Position statement

1.1 East Sussex covers an area of 1,725 km<sup>2</sup> [666 miles<sup>2</sup>] and includes the districts of Eastbourne, Hastings, Lewes, Rother and Wealden. The population is just under 0.5 million and has a youth population [13-19] of 44,000. Despite being in the south-east of England, East Sussex is a county with pockets of significant deprivation where the support needs of local communities provide a range of challenges to service providers.

1.2 Patterns of child poverty, underachievement, teenage pregnancy, youth unemployment, under 19 substance misuse and youth offending all show concentrations along the coastal strip.

1.3 The Youth Development Service [YDS] produced a three year strategic plan in 2003, which has been refreshed annually. The development of integrated working within Children's Services has led to a refocusing of how the work of the YDS can better support improved outcomes for young people in East Sussex, in line with the priorities outlined in the multi-agency Children & Young People's Plan. The direction and priorities for the YDS are further directed by Every Child Matters and Youth Matters, the Youth Offer guidance and by the Respect agenda for young people at risk of anti-social behaviour and offending.

1.4 The outcome of an independent Enhanced Youth Inspection [EYI] of YDS in November 2006 concluded that the service was 'adequate'. It was noted that the service had a range of strengths including that it 'provides effective delivery in most areas particularly within its targeted work' and that 'the service is making a positive difference to the lives and aspirations of some of the county's most vulnerable and hard to reach young people'. The report outlined a number of areas for development that are required to strengthen the contribution of the service to improving outcomes. Key areas for development are to;

- increase accreditation achieved by young people,
- measure the impact of the work more effectively
- improve the quality of planning
- strengthen further the service level agreements with community colleges to ensure a more focused and targeted approach.

1.6 In line with these recommendations a measured review of the YDS Curriculum document has also been undertaken. This reflects the need to increase accredited outcomes and improve the quality of planning and evaluation by front line staff.

1.7 The recommendations of the EYI report and our commitment to develop an integrated, area based Youth Development & Support Service in line with Every Child Matters and Youth Matters provides an opportunity to establish a more focused approach to delivering youth work that targets those young people who are 'most vulnerable' to poor outcomes. The Youth Development and Support Services Management Team [YD&SS] has agreed that the core resources of YDS should be targeted to;

- pump-prime IAG projects and generic activities, jointly funded with other agencies and organisations, to increase 'somewhere to go and something to do', in line with the expressed wishes of young people across the county.
- provide better access to youth activities and the core YDS curriculum for young people with complex needs, including those vulnerable to NEET, aimed at closing the gap for young people disaffected from education and at risk of social and economic insecurity.

1.8 The YDS Youth Work Strategy provides the foundations for the delivery of a range of services in partnership with a wide number of stakeholders, including voluntary organisations, parish, district and borough councils. The strategy will form the basis for consultation with partners and stakeholders in order to establish a shared vision for the role and contribution of youth work in improving outcomes for young people aged 11-19 years.

## **2 Values underpinning Youth Work**

2.1 The participation of young people in shaping youth services locally is key to ensuring the engagement of 'hard to reach' groups and ownership by young people of youth work projects. Services will be innovative, responsive and flexible to young people's needs and lifestyles.

2.2 The skill of the youth worker will be to engage young people voluntarily, using a person-centred approach that acknowledges and values the views of the young person.

2.3 Youth work promotes respect, equality of opportunity and valuing diversity through working in an anti-discriminatory way to empower individuals and to challenge oppression.

2.4 Youth work is an educative process. All interactions between the youth worker and young person are based on a curriculum led approach to developing the confidence and skills of the young person, and to support their successful transition from adolescence to adulthood.

## **3 The key priorities of the YDS Youth Work Strategy**

3.1 The delivery of youth work in East Sussex by the YDS will be built around four priorities for delivery [see Action Plan Annex A]:

- ❑ Information, Advice and Guidance – available to all young people
- ❑ Health – focusing on sexual health, substance misuse and emotional health and wellbeing
- ❑ Inclusion work – targeting those most vulnerable to poor outcomes
- ❑ Positive Activities – both generic and targeted

3.2 These four priorities are closely aligned with the five ECM outcomes, Youth Matters, Local Area Agreement targets and the priorities agreed within the CYPP for young people 11-19 years. The identification of key priorities helps to place youth work, and the contribution of qualified youth workers, within integrated youth development and support services.

3.3 Participation by young people across all four priorities is crucial to ensure young people are empowered to have an influence through the planning and evaluation of youth work programmes, and through the more structured approach of youth forums and youth councils.

## **4 Information, Advice and Guidance**

4.1 These four priorities will ensure that all young people have access to a range of statutory services. The 'minimum entitlement' for all young people will be access to good quality information, advice and guidance in its widest sense, from staff based in community locations to ensure equal access and through outreach.

4.2 Partnership working between YDS and other organisations will be key to providing an effective range of IAG and access across the county. This approach will help sustain the development of generic 'drop in' provision to support all young people's needs.

## **5 Health**

5.1 Promoting healthy life styles and access to relevant health services will underpin all support provided through positive youth work interventions with young people. Through work with partner agencies a range of health services and information will be available in 'young people friendly' community based locations, from screening to specialist advice and support.

5.2 Provision will focus on ensuring a wide geographical spread of sexual health services, easy access to support around substance misuse, and emotional health and wellbeing. Early identification will ensure local support and referral to specialist services where appropriate.

## **6 Targeted support to vulnerable young people 13 – 19 years**

6.1 The core work of the YDS will focus on ensuring that young people recognised as being most vulnerable will be identified, reached and encouraged to engage in programmes that meet their needs and achieve improved outcomes. The key target groups will be:

- ❑ Young people at risk of poor school attendance, under achievement and exclusion
- ❑ Young people isolated because of geographical, transport or economic reasons
- ❑ BME / dual heritage young people
- ❑ Young people with disabilities
- ❑ Looked after young people and those at risk of entering care
- ❑ Young people at risk of teenage pregnancy/sexually transmitted infections
- ❑ Young people with emotional health and well being issues
- ❑ Young people at risk of substance misuse
- ❑ Young people at risk of anti-social behaviour/offending
- ❑ NEET young people and those at risk of becoming NEET

6.2 Young people in the key target groups will be encouraged and motivated to take part in a wide range of youth activities, including the core curriculum. Targeted support will focus on those young people most in need of youth work interventions and in those geographical areas where the highest need is identified. This will be community or school based and may be delivered with a range of specialist partners.

## **7 Positive Activities**

7.1 The National Standards for Positive Activities place a duty on local authorities to secure access for young people to provision that will improve their well-being. There is a further duty on local authorities to publicise the 'local Youth Offer' ensuring barriers to access are removed.

7.2 'Positive Activities for Young People' encompasses sporting, arts, cultural and volunteering opportunities that are easily accessible to all. This provides young people with a range of structured 'out of school' activities aimed at increasing resilience, motivation and determination to achieve.

7.3 The proposed entitlement for all young people is access to two hours of sporting activity and two hours of arts / cultural activities. The Youth Offer in East Sussex will be achieved through bringing together statutory, voluntary sector, uniform and private youth providers. The role of the YDS will be to secure open access provision in geographical locations where need is most pronounced.

## **8 Achieving the vision**

8.1 Integrated working will underpin the delivery of the four priorities of the East Sussex Youth Work Strategy. The YDS and youth support teams will form the core of an integrated Youth Development and Support Service in the areas, working closely in partnership with others. Engaging partners who have specialist skills and/or available resources will be paramount in ensuring an integrated approach within localities and the best means of maximising external funding opportunities to sustain and build capacity to meet the need of young people within a locality.

8.2 The following approach will be embedded within the YDS to ensure improved outcomes for vulnerable young people. Youth work activity will be;

- ❑ Developed on the basis of participation by young people
- ❑ Outcome focused and responsive to a clear identification of need
- ❑ Balanced in terms of geographical areas, day time, evening and weekend provision
- ❑ Measured for the effectiveness against targets and feedback by young people
- ❑ Focused on re-engaging young people in learning
- ❑ Based on accredited outcomes.
- ❑ Underpinned by the YDS Curriculum Model (see Annex B)
- ❑ Supported by workforce development programme which builds competence and confidence in engaging with young people
- ❑ Subject to robust Quality Assurance and performance management systems

## **9 Summary**

9.1 This Youth Strategy has been developed within the context of national policy initiatives that include Every Child Matters, Youth Matters, Extended Schools Strategy and the Russell Commission Report.

9.2 The resources of the YDS are finite and dependent on external funding. The available resources will be reviewed annually to ensure they are targeted appropriately. Continued partnership working and joint funding will be essential to ensuring objectives are met.

9.3 The need to develop a focused strategy to build partnership and consensus in service delivery is directly linked to the development of integrated youth development and support services. The four main priorities of the YDS Youth Work Strategy provide a framework for service delivery and the basis for the development of a countywide strategy for Youth Work in partnership with voluntary sector providers.

9.4 The Youth Offer provides an exciting challenge for every tier of local government and the YDS will continue to contribute locally to targeting and supporting those 'hardest to reach' into accessing positive activities in deprived communities.

### Annexes

- A. Action Plan
- B. Curriculum Model

14 Feb 2007

## **Enhanced Youth Inspection June 2007 Summary of Self Assessment**

### **1. Background**

1.1 In January 2003 the Youth Development Service (YDS), which had formerly been a section within Community Education, was re-launched as a discrete youth service with new management arrangements.

1.2 The YDS was reconfigured in 2005 to fit with the two service areas adopted by all other local authority services for children and young people, which are now coterminous with health services.

1.3 The Service became part of Integrated Youth Development and Support Services (YDSS) in 2006. Integrated YD&SS currently include YDS, Connexions, education welfare, secondary behaviour support and re-integration services, the new youth support teams, teenage pregnancy and under 19s substance misuse service.

1.4 The YDS is now centrally and strongly placed to ensure an integrated approach to meeting the developmental and support needs of young people. And particularly a targeted approach to young people who are vulnerable to poor outcomes in line with DfES and TDA (Training and Development Agency for schools) direction of travel. YDS now benefits from the support of two senior managers who recognise and promote the contribution that effective youth work makes to improving outcomes for young people in line with Every Child Matters.

1.5 The service is also beginning to benefit from co-location of staff, management networks supported by integrated area management meetings and joint training/workshops.

1.6 The YDS strategy for 2007 – 2010 has the following key themes:

- Information, Advice and Guidance – available to all young people
- Health – focusing on sexual health, substance misuse and emotional health and wellbeing
- Inclusion work – closing the gap for those most vulnerable to poor outcomes
- Positive Activities – both generic and targeted

### **2. Successes**

- a. Provides services to young people that enable them to make progress in their personal and social development and in gaining skills
- b. Provides a broad range of services across the county: centre based; one stop shop; mobile; outreach; detached; targeted inclusion and specialist projects (arts, sports)
- c. Partnership working is a strength of the service and has led to significant year on year increase in the contribution of a wide range of stakeholders to building the capacity and sustainability of youth work.
- d. Has a strong curriculum that has been recently updated in line with the ECM outcomes which is supported with training
- e. Has identified accreditation as an area for improvement and committed resources to improve the situation
- f. Has developed the NVQ in youth work to enable all staff to gain a recognised national award and provides access to additional training through the CSD training programme
- g. Has a strong and committed staff team, many of whom have been in post for many years.
- h. Is very successful in implementing Positive Activities for Young People to improve outcomes for young people at risk of offending and the Youth Opportunities Fund/Youth Capital Fund, ensuring young people from all target groups are involved. The service has gained national recognition for this work.

- i. Introduced Youthbase and is now better able to monitor performance against agreed targets (SLAs) and report to external agencies and funders.
- j. Developed internal quality assurance processes, with external moderation, to enable areas of weakness to be identified and improved.

### **3. Key Challenges**

- a. The changes over the past three years, combined with uncertainty about funding levels have caused uncertainty among staff. The East area has been particularly affected by the changes in area manager and an increasing reliance on external funding.
- b. The reliance on external funding has resulted in a more targeted approach, which has affected contact levels and the ability of the service to provide a broad range of services to young people. Managers are balancing this with the need to take into account the development of extended services in schools and the Youth Offer. Opportunities are being taken to maximise the benefits of integration, such as co-location; bringing together youth workers, social care staff, education welfare and behaviour support workers.
- c. Data entry onto Youthbase has been affected by the limited access youth workers have to networked computers. This requires significant administrative time to input data, and it can detract from face to face work where there is no administrative support available to keep records up to date. The Service is currently investigating alternative systems that are web based, making them more accessible, including wireless connections. The Service is committed to improving the way it evidences the impact of its work.
- d. Continuity of provision or 'mainstreaming' will be a challenge in the current financial climate, when significant elements of service provision rely on external funding (26% of total available funding) particularly in the East area (59%).

### **4. Areas for improvement**

- a. Increase number of accredited outcomes
- b. Improve planning and evaluation in some open access work
- c. Ensure the consistency of the curriculum offer across the county
- d. Ensure integration of youth work training into the children's services training programme
- e. Improve to accommodation
- f. Improve how it demonstrates cost effectiveness

May 2007



## Examples of projects and work with a description of impact and outcomes

### C1 Want-to-Talk Project

#### Need

Want-to-Talk was developed as a result of a gap between CAHMS and adult mental health services for young people aged 16+ in the Hastings and Rother area. The project offers a listening, support and referral service to young people. Hastings is an area of low employment and social deprivation which can both have a negative impact on the mental health of a young person.

#### Intervention

When the project was initially set up there were two workers from the Youth Development Service providing one-to-one support to young people on a variety of issues including drug and alcohol use; eating issues; relationships; self-esteem; depression; self-harm; and homelessness. These support workers are based at the Connexions One Stop Shop, 31, Cambridge Rd, Hastings. As the project expands, and promotional material is disseminated to other youth agencies, another support worker will be employed.

#### Outcomes/Impact

Since the project started we have worked with 90 individual young people, with 394 appointment slots being accessed up by those young people. The issues presented by young people were identified as follows:-

depression	-	38
relationship issues	-	69
identity issues	-	25
bullying issues	-	8
self-harm	-	37
drug issues	-	12
alcohol issues	-	8
smoking issues	-	9
eating issues	-	51
self-esteem	-	84
coping skills	-	51
recovery skills	-	30
other issues	-	33

-The project has enabled the young people to gain an understanding of the issues which face them.

### C2 The Haven Lounge

#### Need

A need for a drop-in offering sexual health services and education was identified by part time workers at the Peacehaven Youth Centre who were dealing with an increasing number of inquiries for condoms, access to free pregnancy testing, confidential advice and information and a quiet safe space for young people to discuss their problems.

#### Intervention

A separate dedicated space was developed and two sessions run on Weds 7-9pm and Fri 4-7pm. It is staffed by a school nurse and 2 youth workers.

The provision includes:

- free condoms
- pregnancy testing
- chlamydia screening – part of the Big Screen NHS project.

- signposting and referral for emergency contraception and full STI screening services

The project has also run:

- group work projects on drugs and alcohol
- smoking cessation support
- sexual health education activities and games
- relationship discussions
- awareness days (World Aids day) and themed weeks (men's health week)

### **Outcomes\Impact**

- increasing number of new contacts
- increasing number of regular contacts who access regularly for condoms (so are practicing safe sex).
- introduction of chlamydia screening project, we were identified by the NHS Big Screen project to run screening from this project, 30 chlamydia tests since April 05.
- we have also developed a peer education project.

### **Facts and Figures**

- 330 named young people have attended the Haven Lounge (149 female & 181 male)
- 196 regularly participate.
- 53 new contacts since April 2006
- 23 sessions from April – June
- 51 total contact hours

## **C3 Teenage Pregnancy Project**

### **Need**

The PCT Teenage Pregnancy Strategic Board identified a need for a support worker in the Hastings, St. Leonards and Rother areas to provide pregnancy options and choices as well as termination support to young people. Hastings is an area of low employment and social deprivation. It has a high number of un-planned teenage pregnancies, the highest in the South Coast area.

### **Intervention**

A Teenage Pregnancy Community Support Worker was employed to work in the community, providing pregnancy and termination support to young people as well as holding information sessions and drop ins at various venues and locations. As the project expanded, another two support workers were employed, one for the Rye area and one for Bexhill and Rother and we started to work with young people identified as engaging in risk taking sexual behaviour to prevent un-planned pregnancy and infections.

### **Outcomes\Impact**

- Since the project started we have worked with 98 young people.
- 54 of the young women sought termination support.
- 31 of the young women received pregnancy/parenting support, reducing social isolation, developing parenting skills and giving young parents the opportunities to gain a Level 2 BTEC Qualification in peer mentoring.

## **C4 Displaced Young Person**

### **Need**

The young woman has been known to the YDS since 2005. She was contacted by the youth worker after a phone call from her stepmother.

She had been living with her mother in Hastings and acting as a carer for her younger brothers, not attending school and had alcohol use issues. Mum threw her out so dad brought her to live with his second family in Crowborough.

She was distressed about leaving brothers and there was concern over their welfare as mum is an alcoholic. She was finding transition into new school difficult. Relationship with step-mum and one step-sister were proving volatile and dad was not reacting to the situation. Subsequently the home situation broke down so she became homeless.

### **Intervention**

- Contact was made with Children's Services in Hastings about the younger brothers which put her mind at rest. A referral was made to U19 SMS and she attended an appointment at the Clued-Up information shop.
- When she became homeless the youth worker worked with Children's Social Care and the YMCA to find suitable accommodation.
- The youth worker also worked closely with the school to ensure she could complete year 11.
- She now has fortnightly contact with the youth worker to update on her progress.
- She has access to Clued-Up for reflection and future action planning when needed and has asked to become a volunteer in the near future.

### **Impact**

- She completed school and successfully gained a place at college, helping her achieve and improve her chances of economic wellbeing.
- She is now living independently, maintaining her finances and has her alcohol use under control with ongoing support of U19's SMS, helping her be healthy .
- She also has better relationships with her family, which has improved her emotional wellbeing.

## **C5 KYS (Keep Yourself Safe)**

### **Need**

Through consultation with Teenage Pregnancy Steering Group and young people a need was identified in the Hastings and Rother area for an innovative programme to work with young people to reduce the risk of teenage pregnancy and also to work with young people around ways they could keep themselves safe. Recent research has shown that young people appear to respond better to training if it is delivered by their peers and this has been identified as a need. In response to this need the KYS Peer Mentoring Project was developed with training input received from CAHMS, Action4Change, and Pulse. The Pulse Peer Mentors are trained to deliver sessions to young people around issues including self harm, eating disorders, healthy eating, substance misuse, mental health, and sexual health. Links are currently being made with school nurses, heads of PSHE in schools across Hastings and Rother, Hastings Young Persons Council, FAB and BAPS.

### **Intervention**

The Teenage Pregnancy Group agreed to fund the Peer Mentoring Project to work with 12 young people recruited from Connexions One Stop Shop, Xtrax, Pulse Bus and Helenswood Sixth Form College. The funding included 5 day training residential for young people at The Swattenden Centre, Cranbrook, Kent, and weekly follow up sessions, the purpose of which was to train the young people on the needs identified through questionnaire consultation with young people.

### **Outcomes/Impact**

- 12 young people originally joined the project in October 2006 since then 5 young people have disengaged from the programme due to work or other commitments.
- 7 young people have taken part in delivering workshops including a PSHE day at William Parker School. During these workshops the young people delivered sessions to approximately 100 young people in 5 workshops throughout the day.
- Increased understanding of support agencies among the Peer Mentors
- Positive links established with local secondary schools to deliver the programme

## **C6 Thomas Peacocke Community College Keystone Awards**

### **Need**

The need arose from the college identifying a group of young people who were finding it difficult to work in their normal settings within college and it was agreed that the YDS would do some work that would gain them accreditation as well as look at the issues they faced in their personal and college life (social skills). The Keystone Award was used to accredit this work.

### **Intervention**

The YDS delivered two sessions per week and worked with the group to look at projects they would like to do. This would give them the opportunity to gain an accreditation that would help them gain college placements and improve job prospects. The youth worker also got the chance to look at certain behaviours and attitudes and link these to consequences that could happen if these continued.

- Assessed the young people's needs within their group
- Young people were given the opportunity to choose what projects they would be doing for the award
- The group set their own contracts and rules for the sessions
- The group worked to their own deadlines set by the group
- Evaluations are done at the end of each project and any issues that young people identify are look at and changed if necessary
- Support the young people and challenge the attitudes that they have
- Informed group of other activities that the YDS and other services were providing in the area

### **Outcomes/Impact**

- 11 young people have completed major elements of the Award (it takes 2 years so they are only part way through)
- Increased attainment within mainstream school
- Better attitudes to each other, they arrived as individuals and now work more closely together supporting each other at school and in the wider community
- Young people more aware of how their actions affect others within the group and in the wider community

## **C7 Robertsbridge Focus Group**

### **Need**

There was a need for local young people (including young people from the local Travellers community) to have ownership of their youth work programme delivered within the youth centre. At this time, the Youth Opportunities Fund was released and this was a good opportunity to engage a group in writing a funding bid to access this money.

### **Intervention**

The full time youth worker and a part time member of staff talked to the young people about the activities on offer and asked the young people if they would like to have more of a say in what was on offer and help plan what was delivered. Invitations were then produced and young people were invited to form a focus group to look at how this could be achieved. The youth workers supported the group through the process of writing the bid.

### **Outcomes/Impact**

The young people have

- Submitted YOF bid from Robertsbridge for special projects working with the travelling community, participating in fishing project over the summer. Five fishing trips planned at 3 different venues. The young people travelled to Hastings to look at the equipment and then went back after costing the resources to purchase the equipment.

- Submitted YOF bid from Robertsbridge for summer activities programme both in and out of the village. Young people visited Madame Tussauds, and took part in go-karting at Lydd international raceway. Young people have had real ownership and regular commitment to the programme of activities delivered during the holidays.

## **C8 Targeted Daytime Sessions (Young People with Asbos)**

### **Need**

The Lewes Prevent & Deter Group approached Street Life (Newhaven detached project), about working with a group of brothers with anti-social behaviour orders. The brothers had received a lot of negative publicity in both the local and national press. Subsequently, they felt isolated and disconnected with the community. It was felt that regular contact with detached youth workers would give the young people space to highlight and address some of their needs.

### **Intervention**

Weekly daytime sessions were arranged for 3 of the brothers and their peers. The group turned up regularly and took part in a range of activities. Time was also put aside to have discussions on how the anti-social behaviour orders were affecting their lives and how they could move on positively.

### **Outcomes/Impact**

- Young people have identified they have moved on with their lives, including improvement at school / college.
- Involvement in anti-social behaviour has dramatically reduced.
- Young people regularly participate in other projects with workers, including art projects, sports sessions, music projects, cooking and regularly attending a local youth club.
- Group having the confidence to participate in community events and become involved with other groups (local football teams etc).
- Each young person has achieved at least 1 recorded outcome.

The group consist of 9 young people, 5 of which are regular attendees

## **C9 NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training) Project**

### **Need**

A group of 17 NEET young people from Lewes identified that they needed extra personal support. Lewes is the county town of East Sussex and is relatively wealthy; as a result limited resources are available to support young people identified as being in need of additional support.

### **Intervention**

Workers from the YDS, Connexions, the YMCA and Millennium Volunteers were identified to help meet the needs of the young people. Weekly sessions were set up to address specific needs including life skills, sexual health, personal development, communication, drug and alcohol awareness etc.

### **Outcomes/Impact**

All 17 young people involved in the sessions 'moved on' :

- 3 moved onto E2E or pre E2E
- 2 supported housing
- 5 Millennium Volunteers
- 1 into pt employment
- 2 into ft employment
- 2 secured places at college

The group also applied for and were given £700.00 from the Save the Children and British Gas 'Here to Help' fund. The young people were able to positively contribute towards their community by planning and delivering a youth arts festival.

## **C10 FAB – Futures After Birth**

### **Need**

Hastings is an area of high teenage pregnancy, high levels of social deprivation and low employment levels. The teenage pregnancy strategy in 1999 proposed a target to integrate 60% of young parents back into education, employment and training by 2010. It was identified that young parents often need specialised support to enable them to return to education, training or employment with a secondary aim of providing guidance on benefit entitlement, housing issues, sexual health and general health promotion to avoid them from becoming isolated and slipping through the net.

### **Intervention**

Co-ordinated by a Connexions careers advisor and a health projects youth worker, a service is provided that addresses the particular needs of young parents and includes individualised action plans, home visits and attending group sessions to promote the project (such as babies and parenting support groups)

### **Outcomes/Impact**

Since April 05 FAB has had 80 contacts with young parents and a small number of these have achieved an education, training or employment outcome. The rest of the young parents continue to remain in contact with the project and are being linked into services and support groups within their community.

## **C11 Archery Youth Centre**

### **Need**

Mandy, an 18yr old young woman was regularly attending Charles Jewel Access Centre in Eastbourne. The centre manager knew that she had an interest in dance, so referred her to a dance consultation event at Archery Youth Centre. Mandy had been in 'dead end' holiday jobs in the area and although she had loved dance at school (she had done a GCSE in the subject) she had always wanted the opportunity to get involved with it again.

### **Intervention**

The event was a collaborative piece of work between the YDS and South East Dance which involved 30 NEET young people attending a dance workshop with a professional dancer, followed up by a consultation exercise re dance provision in the area for young people.

### **Outcome**

Through the event South East Dance were able to recruit Mandy as a 'dance apprentice' and she is currently working as a volunteer youth worker with the YDS. She will also be encouraged to apply for a paid P/T Post as a youth arts worker at the Archery Youth Centre.

May 2007