

Monitoring returns on Wellbeing projects

Project: Burmantofts Gateway Stone	
Lead organisation: Groundwork Leeds	Wellbeing Funding: £3,750
<p>The Burmantofts Gateway Stone was installed by Groundwork staff in July 2013. The stone was dedicated to PC Tony Sweeney who sadly passed away in December 2012. An official opening event is planned for autumn. Photos of the stone are available on request from the Area Support Team.</p>	
Project: Opportunities for Inspired Learning	
Lead Organisation: O.I.L Committee	Wellbeing Funding: £5,000
<p>The OIL motor project opened its doors in April 2013. The project has so far had 40 pre and post 16 learners through its doors. The Project has provided the Opportunity for young people to have the vocational experience of motor cycle mechanics in a safe environment, with qualified staff. The young people have started to build up portfolios of work towards accreditation. The Young people have been referred from the local high schools specifically John Smeaton and Leeds East Academy.</p> <p>One young person who was extremely un-manageable in the school environment has made brilliant progress attending the OIL project. The young man's behaviour is very good whilst he is attending the workshop environment and his involvement in ASB around his home has subsided. The young man's parents have also commented that the young man is coming in early on an evening when he has the OIL project the next day, this is in itself a massive improvement in attitude and outlook on life.</p> <p>The OIL project attended the Seacroft Gala and generated interest with regard to the Youth Bike summer programme. Also local residents were keen to ask about the Project and were complimentary about the change to the building and a positive venue for young people to learn in.</p> <p>All the equipment requested in the bid has been purchased for the project to enable full and efficient delivery to the young people.</p> <p>Post 16 young people have been attending the project one day a week. The young people are eager to learn new skills and learn transferable skills. Discussions with the post 16 learners have developed a secure link to future jobs and training. 2 members of the post 16 attendees have also secured interviews with Amber Train as a result of engagement with the Project and the link to Connexions.</p> <p>The projects initial lead tutor has resigned from the project therefore creating the difficulties with this paperwork etc. A new lead mechanic has now been interviewed and appointed this has enabled the project to have a new focus and direction. This has also resulted in the project starting Go Kart groups in September. A number of young people are very interested in attending these groups.</p> <p>The project also had its opening launch 8th July which was extremely well attended by all parties involved in the design, building and donation of parts and material to the Project. The apprentices from East North East homes who were responsible for the plastering and major building work were present at the Launch and were personally thanked by the chair of the Committee.</p>	

The Project is shaping up to be a progressive learning environment with the potential to expand into car mechanics and horticulture.

The project has benefitted from one volunteer from the local community who has again applied and been shortlisted and interviewed for the ENE homes apprenticeship jobs. The project is proving to be a great opportunity for development of confidence and self-esteem and self-worth not just for the young people but the volunteer also.

Project : Seacroft Methodist Chapel Refurbishment Project

Lead organisation: Heads Together Productions

Wellbeing Funding: £10,000

We launched the start of the Seacroft Methodist Chapel refurbishment project - chapelFM, on February 6th 2013 with an event in the chapel itself. It was great to see such a good turn-out: a chapel full of funders, volunteers, staff, board-members, young people, parents, teachers... all people who shared our excitement in announcing that our ambition to create the first-ever dedicated arts venue in East Leeds had just taken a massive step forward: we could confirm that we had all the money we needed to go forward into the final design and construction phase. Now the work begins!

We have appointed Yvonne Deane, as our Project Consultant. Yvonne has extensive knowledge of capital build projects in the voluntary sector. She began by running a special training session with our Board and Staff Team at the beginning of March, with the aim of sharing some of her knowledge about how a capital building programme works and what would (or should) be happening when. Certainly everyone went away afterwards much clearer about the plan and the programme. We created a timeline of the project from now through until we launch chapelFM in the autumn of 2014 Adrian Sinclair, Creative Director with Heads Together, is leading on the chapelFM development, working closely with architect, Matt Strong from Groundworks Architects.

Katy Hayley has been employed to cover Adrian's project management responsibilities. We have a very strong, committed staff and freelance team at Heads Together, which means that the planning stage for this refurbishment can go ahead as smoothly as possible.

The big job for us in March was to invite a range of Architects to tender for the job of taking the project through to completion (from reviewing Stage D [Design Development] to Stage L [Post Practical Completion] as defined by RIBA [Royal Institute of British Architects]). Yvonne, our consultant, took a lead for us in preparing the Invitation to Tender and in creating a rigorous structure for the appointment process, which involved the Chapel Sub-Group of the Heads Together Board. Following Matt Strong and Groundworks' appointment, we have re-visited our previous designs; with fresh eyes and new ideas.

We have also been consulting with sound specialist Russ Hepworth-Sawyer from Mottosound. Russ designed our current studios at ELFM and will be joining the Design Team initially to advise about the integration of the equipment we need to run our broadcast operations and the impact that might have on design of spaces; mechanical and electrical Services; acoustic needs etc.

Simon Sherwood from Mills & Reeve Solicitors has been acting for us in negotiations regarding the 99-year lease for the building. He has much experience in this kind of work (particularly involving public funding), and also offered to do the work pro bono (without charge) as a contribution to the project. We finally signed the lease on 27th June 2013. An article in Yorkshire Evening Post covers the signing of the lease <http://www.yorkshireeveningpost.co.uk/news/latest-news/top-stories/east-leeds-church-to-be-radio-station-s-new-home-1-5816376>

Alan Ross-Sercombe from Omnis VAT Consultancy has been acting for Heads Together with regard to the complex issue of VAT since we first registered with HMRC in 1998. Alan has successfully negotiated with HMRC so that we will be able to reclaim all VAT on the building works.

On a Saturday in May, we invited volunteers to ELFM, local residents and other organisations in the area to come to the Chapel to take part in further consultation. We had large sets of the latest plans with us and we physically marked out the areas with tape in the old Chapel building so that people could feel how it would work in the real life as opposed to on a sheet of paper. The response was very positive. Helen Burke is a poet who has performed at the Chapel during our Live@Chapel festivals and has also been involved with our educational work with local schools. She has also been part of our Access Group; looking to make the Chapel as accessible as possible for disabled people. After this latest event Helen wrote:

"The new layout for the lift to enable wheelchair users to access the stage is a much improved design. Very useable and user-friendly, no noise aspects and much less intrusive. The whole place looks better also! I liked very much the idea of lots of glass windows on the left hand side—and therefore lots of light coming in. And the downstairs layout — it feels welcoming and has a very 'free' feeling to it—easy to understand. Everything has been changed, but the character of the building has not been lost."

Inviting our volunteers to the Chapel also gave us an opportunity to introduce our newly appointed Public Artist for the project, Zoe Eady. Many of our volunteers had met Zoe before—as a musician and performer; as a volunteer and intern with Heads Together; and as a paid ELFM Station Manager. What they might not have realised is that Zoe also apprenticed as a glass blower's assistant on the Isle of Wight and recently started her own business—the Glass Garden. A combination of her creative skills and her understanding of the ethos of ELFM meant that she was successful in the competitive process of choosing a Public Artist for the chapelFM project. Zoe jumped straight into the role; asking the ELFM volunteers a series of questions, such as how everyone imagines the Chapel might be in fifty years' time.

The architect, working alongside the Quantity Surveyor, sent out the tender documents at the beginning of July. All tenders have to be submitted by contractors by 24th August 2013.