

Leeds City Council and St Luke's CARES



Working together to provide quality provision for young people whilst empowering local people to become involved and take ownership of their own communities.



Inner South Mobile Youth Provision (The Youth Bus) Project Report March 2009

The Youth Bus is managed by St Luke's CARES on behalf of Leeds City Council's Inner South Area committee, which has funded and commissioned this project.

REPORT SUMMARY AND HIGHLIGHTS

Numbers

Over the life of the project the Youth Bus has delivered services to 3,011 individual participants with 10,312 repeat attendances.

The breakdown in attendance by age group is:

- 8 to 12 – 55%
- 13 to 19 – 45%

2009/2010 Provision

In order to continue the provision at the current level 6 sessions per week across the 3 wards St Luke's CARES would hold the funding at the same level as 08/09 provision at £35,260 including staffing, insurance and fuel.

St Luke's CARES listened to the Area Committee regarding reducing costs and as a result £30,000 was raised by O2 to purchase a new Youth Bus which will make an additional saving of £7,800 to the Inner South Area Committee per annum.

Raison D'être – "The claimed reason for the existence of something".

The Young People

The Youth Bus exists to serve the communities of Inner South Leeds, it has built good quality relationships whereby scores of young people await its weekly appearance eagerly.

There are enough "needy/disadvantaged" young people in Inner South Leeds to sustain a dozen Youth Bus's however, there is NO other Mobile Youth Provision in the area that caters for the 8-11 age group.

Young People themselves are encouraged to progress, this has taken many forms, in sport - gifted and talented players have been spotted and then adopted at club level, others have become Young Leaders in their own right and are now engaged within their own communities running their own groups with our support.

The Wider Community

Where possible the Youth Bus is run and staffed by local people who understand the community and the young people within it. Specialist staff, for example Sport Workers, add variety and keep boredom at bay.

The Youth Bus is well recognised by the residents of the local communities as being a good quality Leeds City Council provision and it has been professionally run and maintained over the years as such.

Neighbourhood Regeneration

The Youth Bus encourages local residents to get involved in their own communities and more and more volunteers are coming forward wanting to set up their own groups for young people.

Partnerships have developed over time and the Youth Bus has helped small local churches and organisations to grow through joint staff involvement.

1.0 Introduction

The Area Committee contracted St Luke's CARES to deliver the Inner South Mobile Youth Provision (aka the Youth Bus) from 19th May 2006 and subsequently re-contracted the provision up to 30th July 2009.

The bus operates across three wards – Middleton Park, City & Hunslet and Beeston & Holbeck and is run by a Project Co-ordinator and sessional workers and drivers as well as volunteers and in partnership with other organisations.

The project's aims were stated as:

- To establish meaningful contact with young people through the Mobile Youth Provision providing a variety of activities and social interaction.
- To provide support, advocacy and information in collaboration with other agencies and to act as a catalyst for positive change, development and achievement
- To help young people develop activities and structures which reflect their interests and concerns
- To offer young people new opportunities and experiences and to encourage reflection and learning from experience
- To provide a positive role model for young people and to create a safe environment in which they can grow in confident, learning to value and support each other.

This report covers the whole life of the project up to the current date.

2.0 Numbers

Over the life of the project the Youth Bus has delivered services to 3,011 individual participants and 10,312 repeat attendances across the areas of Middleton Park, City & Hunslet and Beeston & Holbeck. This breaks down as follows:

Middleton Park – 1,139 individuals and 2,557 repeats
City & Hunslet – 1,056 individuals and 2,959 repeats
Beeston & Holbeck – 816 individuals and 2,601 repeats

The breakdown in attendance of males to females was 64% to 36%.

The breakdown in attendance by age group was:

- 8 to 12 – 55%
- 13 to 19 – 45%

3.0 Activities

The young people who attend the bus have been given many opportunities to take part in a variety of sports and other activities. Below is a selection of the kind of things they have engaged in over the period:

Arts and Crafts

Young people have been engaged in arts and crafts such as drawing, collages, writing in graffiti style and jewellery making. This has been particularly popular amongst the girls.

A small spray painting project was set up with Elaine Sims from Belle Isle Tenant Management Organization (BITMO) and this was enjoyed by all the participants. This came from a suggestion from the young people themselves as part of a participation exercise on their ideas for the youth bus.

Dance/MCing

Young people in Arthingtons and Balmorals suggested that they would like a MC project to take place in both these areas and this was organised and was received with great enthusiasm. In addition dance and MCing was also tried in Balmorals and proved very popular.

Sports

Selection of sites has always taken into account the availability of fields or other sporting facilities that can be utilised as part of the youth bus project. Sports have proven to be a very effective way of building relationships with the young people and as an inroad into discussions about behaviour, developing team skills and the encouragement of fair play. Some examples of the sporting activities are:

- Playing rugby in the Balmorals, taking advantage of the fact that there are a lot of Rhinos supporters in the area.
- At one stage the bus was able to take advantage of a football project being run at the Holbeck MUGA (funded by Groundwork).
- Sports were used in Cottingley to break down social prejudice, using recreation to tackle social exclusion and crime rates, whilst increasing low self esteem and confidence – addressing issues of frustration. This helped to play a part in breaking down area segregation by encouraging young people to get involved in sports at local club level.
- A variety of sports including rugby, football, rugby tennis was played at Hunslet Moor which the young people enjoyed. This encouraged some of the young people to attend the Friday Night Project and to sign up for football tournaments in their area.
- The staff in Sissons and Throstles started a football development group with the aim to build self confidence, gain new skills and increase fitness levels. This was extended to general sports development including badminton, rugby and cricket to include more young people.. The young people have become very interested in this project and are continuing to participate each week and some have signed up to the Duke of Edinburgh Award.

Issues, Information, Advice and Guidance

Once relationships were built up between staff and young people on the bus opportunities were then available to discuss issues and to provide information, advice and guidance. Examples of such activities are:

- Connexions staff talking with young people about E2E, college placements and other education and training opportunities. A number signed up to Connexions and continue to receive support.
- The staff in Cottingley had some positive discussions with young people surrounding the issue of healthy living and linked this to a project around girls rugby incorporating the Duke of Edinburgh award.
- Bus sessions were used to start training up new young leaders in the Arthingtons and Parkwoods areas helping them to address issues of responsibility, team working, safety, setting a good example, etc.

- All of the young people enjoyed getting involved in discussions surrounding issues in their lives and have taken part in various discussions including sexual health, education and racism. The staff made these discussions as positive as possible remaining aware of the dynamics of the group and sensitive of any prejudice that may occur.
- The staff organised activities around self esteem in Holbeck after concerns about a few of the young people attending.
- The staff in Cottingley had some positive discussions and did some issue based group work with young people surrounding helping young people address issues concerning crime.
- A number of sessions were held around bullying and future aspirations which included a lot of games which the young people enjoyed.

Miscellaneous

- The bus was on site for the Cottingley Fair and involved lots of young people throughout the day despite the poor weather – sports, art and jewellery making worked really well.
- The staff organised a Light Party including fun games, competitions and prizes which even the 13 – 19 year olds got involved in.
- St Luke's CARE's and the Frontline Project facilitated a community cohesion day aimed at 11 – 14yrs which included team building, voluntary talent show and DJ sessions. This took place on 16/12/08 and included 10 young people from Arthingtons and 10 young people in Balmorals.
- In January staff took a group of young people to the Ice Cube in Leeds city centre.
- In February a group of young people to Elland Road to see the Rugby World Club Challenge.

4.0 Issues

As well as providing activities for young people in the area, staff have also had to deal with examples of unacceptable behaviour or other issues which have caused problems to the delivery of the service. These issues have had to be dealt with in a positive and professional manner to engage the young people and hopefully effect a change in their thinking and actions. Below is a selection of some of the issues that were encountered over the period:

- In autumn 2008 there was an outbreak of young people climbing on top of the bus. Some also took to hanging onto the bus as it was being driven away. The young people were spoken to about their behaviour and the dangers that they were putting themselves in. When some took no notice they were banned for a short time and allowed back when they stopped doing it and apologised.
- On one occasion some older lads started singing inappropriate songs and talking about drugs. This raised the interest of a couple of the younger end who wanted to know what they were talking about. The older lads were sent off of the bus and staff had a good conversation about stuff with the younger ones.
- There were a number of issues with bad behaviour in Balmorals over a period of time. Racist comments and disrespect towards staff and other young people by two young lads meant that the police were called on one occasion as they would not leave the provision. On another occasion young people threw stones at a member of staff. Due to this ongoing bad behaviour the staff had to curtail some sessions early and ban some young people for a short period. They were later allowed to return after apologising to the staff. These actions along with talking to the young people and engaging with them resulted in much improved behaviour.
- Attendance at Hunslet Moor was low and erratic with young people attending irregularly. After several months of detached work in the area the attendance did not

improve so the bus was moved to a different area and the young people who did attend were made aware of the changes.

- During the winter period it became clear that the lack of street lights in the Arthingtons were causing a health and safety issue for the young people attending and also restricted the activities that could take place. As the Belle Isle location was well lit the two sessions were swapped so the Arthingtons could take place earlier and take advantage of natural light. This led to a drop in attendance from the younger age range at Belle Isle which the staff tackled with detached work and new activities. The young people in Arthingtons expressed the view that they preferred it when the bus came for the later session so they did not have to rush home after school. As a result of feedback from the young people of Belle Isle and Arthingtons, and because the nights were getting lighter, the session times were changed back.
- Due to a reduction in funding and a need to remain in all the areas the bus had operated in for a while, the sessions were reduced from two hours to one and a half hours each per week in each area. This led to a reduction in numbers.
- There have been issues of vandalism and theft – the bus aerial was broken and some equipment stolen (basketball, rugby ball and a couple of CDs). The relevant suspects were spoken to and the equipment kept locked in the front of the bus out of temptation's way

5.0 Consultation and Feedback

In late 2007 a consultation was undertaken with the young people who attended the bus to find out their views. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive with many young people reporting that they would be bored without the provision. The results are shown as Appendix 1.

A further consultation and feedback exercise is currently being undertaken and the results will be available in the final 'end of project' report in July 2009.

6.0 Partnerships

Staff have worked hard at improving and maintaining partnership work in each of the three Wards. The success of this can be seen by the range and quantity of other organisations that have had input into the Youth Bus by providing additional staff or running parallel projects that we were able to link with.

- Youth Service – now providing a mobile service to additional young people within Inner South Leeds.
- Middleton Football Club
- HOPE 08
- Crossroads Project
- Church of the Nazarene
- South Leeds Sports Centre (Friday Night Project)
- Frontline Project
- Urban Bar
- Groundwork
- The Friday Night Project
- Belle Isle Tenant Management Organization

In addition the bus was used regularly throughout most of the project for Operation CAVA and Challenger, a priority action for the South Leeds District Partnership aimed at reducing crime, fear of crime and anti-social behaviour through multi-agency initiatives to support the local communities.

7.0 Added Value

In order to provide a holistic service to all the young people we work with, the staff fundraise for/include in additional activities where appropriate. Many of these activities arise as a result of discussions with the young people on their interests and concerns and take advantage of other projects and facilities that can provide the young people with new experiences and environments, often where challenging behaviours can be addressed and concerns discussed.

There have been a variety of additional added value activities in each ward which are listed below:

Cottingley

26 young people Buckton House Residential
26 young people to Shropshire PGL
35 young people to Leeds Met Stand launch at the Leeds Rhinos v Warrington game
26 Leeds Met summer sport camp 2008
8 Young Girls play rugby for Leeds Service Area at club level
12 Young people visited Thomas Danby college with Leeds United

Arthingtons

8 young people Buckton House Residential
7 young people to Shropshire PGL. The young women achieved a formal qualification in Communication on this residential.
35 young people to Leeds Met Stand launch at the Leeds Rhinos v Warrington game
4 young people feeding into Bumpy motorbike project
8 young people engage in after school football
10 World Cup champions game Leeds Rhinos v Manly Sea Eagles at Elland Road

Sissons/Throstles

30 World Cup champions game Leeds Rhinos v Australia Seagulls at Elland Road
5 engaged in 2 day Team Building programme

Manor Farms

6 young people to Doncaster Stadium to watch Ireland v England pre world cup
6 young people feeding into Bumpy motorbike project
12 young people engage in after school football
4 engaged in 2 day Team Building programme

Belle Isle

12 young people taken ice skating to the Ice Cube in Leeds
2 young people signed up to Connexions

Balmorals

4 young people engaged in MCing with a visiting MC
20+ young people engaged with a visiting musician (drums, guitar, singing, etc)
4 young people engaged in break dancing with a visiting dancer
1 young person signed up to go to Sierra Leone

Hunslet Moor

4 engaged in a barbeque
1 young person feeding into Bumpy motorbike project
2 engaging with the Friday Night Project

Holbeck

20+ engaged with the football project at the Holbeck MUGA

Parkwoods

- 1 young girl now playing for a local football team
- 1 young person signed up to Connexions

8.0 Impact

The impact of providing the youth bus service to the young people of Inner South Leeds can be demonstrated by a comparison with the projects objectives and the five Every Child Matters outcomes:

Project Objectives

To establish meaningful contact with young people through the Mobile Youth Provision providing a variety of activities and social interaction.

Over 3000 individual young people during over 10000 repeat visits to the bus have been able to take advantage of the contacts, activities and social interactions provided by the provision and which are described in sections 3.0 and 7.0 of this report.

To provide support, advocacy and information in collaboration with other agencies and to act as a catalyst for positive change, development and achievement.

The use of Connexions and collaborations with other agencies (see section 6.0) and particularly the interventions of the bus staff, have helped young people to make positive changes in the behaviours and in terms of their own development and self esteem (see section 3.00).

To help young people develop activities and structures which reflect their interests and concerns.

Many of the activities described in section 3.0 and section 8.0 were as a direct result of conversations with young people in order to provide experiences that reflected their interests and concerns.

To offer young people new opportunities and experiences and to encourage reflection and learning from experience.

The staff have always sought to provide the young people who attend the bus with opportunities and experiences over and above merely attending the bus sessions. Many of these are described in section 8.0.

To provide a positive role model for young people and to create a safe environment in which they can grow in confidence, learning to value and support each other.

In providing the activities described in section 3.0 staff have always provided role models of behaviour and aspirations. With a number of staff coming from the local area they are able to relate to the young people and vice versa, providing support and promoting increased self esteem, in a safe environment.

Every Child Matters

Staying Safe

The youth bus has provided a secure environment for over 3,000 young people throughout the course of the project, giving them somewhere to go where they can relax and be safe.

Being Healthy

The staff team encourage young people to participate in positive physical and some form of sport is offered in every session, subject to light, weather or other disruptive conditions. The staff have also provided fruit and encouraged young people to think about healthy eating.

Economic Well-Being

Connexions Personal Advisers have visited the bus and relevant young people have been referred by staff to the PAs at Unity House. This has meant that young people have been given information, advice and guidance on how to access education, employment and training, thus contributing to their economic well-being.

Enjoying and Achieving

The bus provides a relaxed and pleasant atmosphere for the young people who attend, giving them access to arts and crafts, music, sports, reading, DVDs and the opportunity to participate in other activities eg visits to the ice rink and football, access to other projects.

Making a Positive Contribution

Some of the young people who attended the bus have gone on to work with St Luke's CARES on different projects as volunteers or young leaders. This provides the young people with a sense of responsibility and allows them to put something back into their communities.

9.0 The Community

Community involvement is an integral part of St Luke's CARES work. We give a few individual case studies from local volunteers who, once engaged, are now involved to a far greater depth in working within their own communities.

Amanda started as a volunteer on the Mobile Youth Provision back in 2006. She is a single mum of 2, aged 8 and 10, she was born in Beeston as were all her family for many generations. Amanda went to Cockburn High School, fell pregnant in year 11, however managed to struggle through her education and emerged with 8 GCSE's. Amanda is well liked in the community, the young people all know her and respect the fact that she wants the best for them and the local area. She did Way Ahead training with Tunstall Road and her placement with St Luke's CARES. She also has undertaken several participation activities for Leeds Voice gathering local information for funding distribution. Amanda now runs the Junior sessions at the Urban Bar – working with some of the more hard to reach young people aged 8-12 from an area regarded as one of the worst hit crime spots in the area.

Sam is a local young person from Hunslet who joined St Luke's CARES as a client on the Youth Bus and later became a young leader at various youth projects. Sam eventually became a sessional worker, and some of his work is now spent on the bus. The young people in the area interact very well with Sam as he is closer to their age and an excellent role model. His passion is football and he has run a number of football based projects, tournaments and leagues which many young people from the bus have joined.

Luke is a local Middleton resident who became aware of St Luke's CARES when he and his partner approached us wanting to set up one of the dance and pom groups. Luke volunteered

to help on the bus and has proven himself a valuable addition. As a local he knows some of the young people and gets on with them extremely well joining in the sports and other activities and on the bus. He is martial arts trained and works as a bus driver, a skill which is sometimes utilized when regular drives are absent.

10.0 The future

In our original application we agreed to look at a more sustainable approach to the Youth Provision:

"Sustainability

As with other projects St Luke's will explore any funding alternatives that come our way. We would consult with the Area Management Team (and others) as per any opportunities for funding that arise during this year."
(2006 Tender Document)

With this in mind we have been working closely with O2 for the past year and have managed to raise £30,000 in order to purchase a vehicle outright and we will be taking delivery mid April. After this date should the Area Committee wish to relinquish its lease on the current vehicle St Luke's CARES will be able to continue to provide the service, allowing any surplus funding to return to the Wellbeing fund.

Should the Area Committee wish to continue to fund the provision from July 09 then – it would be at a saving of £7,800 per year.

Costing for 2009/2010 Provision

In order to continue the provision at the current level 6 sessions per week across the 3 wards St Luke's CARES would hold the funding at the same level as 08/09 provision at £35,260 including staffing, insurance and fuel. This has been made possible through our partnership approach as a certain amount of sessions will include volunteers.

CONSULTATION AND FEEDBACK

Appendix 1

Young people and Volunteers were asked:

What do you think about the provision (bus)?

Good fun
Everything because it's funny to be here
I think it's well good
It is Good!
It's great
It's really great
Okay, tidy
It's cool
Ace
Proper cool, it's got loads of stuff to do
Really cool, I think it's really sick (sick meaning great in Y/p speak)
Its grat (sic) and free
I think that it is good and fun and keeps me out of trouble
I think it is good and its is somewhere to go when you are bored
Good, Its fun
Good, have a laugh and get warm
Its fun and better than walking about
It's a beast
Gives us something to do

"Great, kids love it and really enjoy working with the team. Have a variety of activities and areas they work in, also enjoy the music and interaction (Volt)

What do you like about it?

Everything coz it's funny
Its fun cos we do a range of things (its warm!)
Listening to music
It is fun so everything
Playing football
The music
The games on the feald (sic)
Can have a laugh with everyone and socialise (Holly age 8)
We listen to music and play games
You have a laugh with people you don't know
You can have a laugh with everyone and I love the music (Lou age 15)
Everything is free
It's sick (sick meaning great in Y/p speak)
I like the games and Jo especially (Roxy age 12)
It's a chiller
It's creative and very sociable
Keep warm, chill, draw and listen to tunez
Chilling
Its funny 'n' the people who work in it r sorted
It's something to do (female aged 17)

"It gets them enjoying themselves and gives them activities to do and the local people say its keeps them out of trouble"

How would you improve it?

Have more food
Probably nothing
Bigger bus and seats
Keep it like it is
Is nothing to improve
Don't know
Have more time
You can't improve the van
I wouldn't
It's good the way it is
Update CD's
More games, karaoke and update music
More activities and a bigger van for more people
Get more space and more things to do
Longer
Better music
Longer hours
Increase times in areas!

What are the best bits?

Tormenting Sam!
Picking on Sam cos he's funny also having a laugh with everybody that comes here
Music food and everything
Jo!
Chillin
Anoying (sic) Sam
The food
The music and drawing
Playing on the field
Playing rugby and football
The games we play on the hill
Listening to music
Drawing
DVD
Drinks/activities
Get food and drink
Playing football and stuff
Playing basketball
Sports, games and Jo
The best bit about is Jo and the sports and games
Drawing and music
Keep warm, chill and listen to tunez
Talking to the people who work on it

What would you be doing if we weren't here?

Watching Leeds play football
Nothing
At another youthie
Walking round
Walking about
Playing football on the street
Being Bored
'anging' on the streets bored
Sitting bored at home
Sat in house
playin
On street
Bored
I'd be in my cousins house in Hull
Lazing about in my house
Watching TV
At my dads
Making trubal (sic)
Fighting
Computer
In my house with nothing to do
Nothing, being bored on the street