

St Luke's CARES Youth Bus Review: 2010/11

Summary review

This is a summary of our review of the Mobile Youth Provision ('the youth bus') funded by the Inner South Area Committee. This summary covers the period April to December 2010.

Activities Delivered

The youth bus provides an excellent forum to support young people and engage each of them in positive and diversionary activities. We have provided: sports, craft, jewelry making, t-shirt painting, team building, confidence, learning based sessions, personal development, day trips, graffiti project, residentials, bowling, ice skating and cake decorating, educational trips – for example Liverpool Slavery Museum, themed sessions – i.e. sexual health/connexions.

Locations

We run 9 sessions a week from the youth bus – three in each Ward. The youth bus operates in targeted areas where there is little or no provision; the areas are agreed with Ward Councillors and are:

- Beeston & Holbeck Ward: Normantons, Cardinals, Cottingley
- City & Hunslet Ward: Brett Gardens, Balmorals, Arthingtons
- Middleton Park Ward: Sissons, West Granges, Arthingtons

Attendance

Over the nine months of the review we have had over 1,470 attendances by young people – 218 of these attendances were from young people who were new to us with 1,256 were existing young people who we had already worked with. Nearly a quarter of the young people (23%) were 5 – 8 years old, with 43% being aged 9 – 12 years and the remaining third (34%) being 13 Years +. On average there were 13 young people at the sessions.

Family Support

St Luke's CARES has a history of supporting children, young people and families. We ensure that a holistic approach is taken as we signpost families to our own provision (Hitbase) or the provision of other agencies in the locality. Wherever possible we engage families and parents in a volunteering capacity; and wherever possible we have a Young Leader on each session.

Partnership

We work in partnership with local youth and community providers and we have been involved in various initiatives including Back Yard Breeze, Operation Flame and the Brett Gardens Partnership Group which have partnership at their heart with a focus on co-ordination to avoid duplication of services. We attend the Police-lead tasking meetings to ensure that our service is responsive to changing needs and meets the challenges posed by anti-social behaviour.

St Luke's CARES Youth Bus: proposal 2011/12

We strongly believe our provision meets Leeds' priorities for children and young people and we are committed to turning the curve on Raising attendance, Reducing NEET, Looked after Children:.

Young leader programme

Young leader and life skills development programmes are crucial to our strategy of reducing the number of young people falling into NEET and are aimed at raising attainment, attendance and addressing NEET. Our programmes will address barriers to educational attainment and attendance, employment and training, addressing aspirations and confidence, healthy lifestyles, drug and substance abuse, family breakdown and domestic violence.

The young leader programme focuses on identifying leadership potential within the groups of young people causing anti social behaviour. The programme will aim to challenge and change negative patterns of behaviour and seek to build on the young people's natural leadership enabling them to be given the skills and support to gain accreditation, experience other cultures and settings, take part in overseas development projects and ultimately lead their peers into positive and worthwhile activities and education opportunities. The programme will typically work with groups of about 15 young people.

Proposal for 2011/12

We propose a flexible approach to youth provision depending on the need of each location offering a mix for each Ward over the year of:

- Activities run from the youth bus (as now)
- Activities run from static provision (i.e. from youth centres and other buildings)
- Young leader/mentoring courses (detailed in the paragraph above)

The matrix below is offered for discussion with the precise mix in each Ward to be agreed with Ward Councillors on the basis of three sessions each week in each Ward.

Ward	Proposed location	Need	Provision	Partners
Middleton Park	Sissons	Engaging young people at risk of ASB.	Static provision	NACRO. St Cross, Youth Hub
Middleton Park	Manor Farms	No provision. High priority to work with young people.	Mobile provision	None
Middleton Park	Across the Ward	Targeted vulnerable young people potential or actual NEET	Young leader programme	Youth Hub
Beeston & Holbeck	Normantons	Engaging young people at risk of ASB	Static provision	Local Churches, Hamara, PAYP, Youth Service
Beeston & Holbeck	Cottingley	Engaging young people at risk of ASB	Mobile provision	Local Churches, Youth Service
Beeston & Holbeck	Across the Ward	Target vulnerable young people potential or actual NEET	Young leader programme	PAYP, local churches, Hamara, Youth Service
City & Hunslet	Brett Gardens	NPT high priority area	Mobile provision	Brett Gardens Partnership Group
City & Hunslet	Balmorals	Engaging young people, children and families	Static provision	Involve, the Hunslet Club
City & Hunslet	Across the Ward	Target vulnerable young people potential or actual NEET	Young leader programme	Involve, the Hunslet Club

Wellbeing funding proposed

Our proposal includes the costs of hiring venues for static provision – static provision costs more because of the need to pay these charges. The average static session would cost £115 with the average mobile session costing £87.

We propose two options for consideration:

Option 1: 9 weekly sessions (3 in each Ward - 6 static and 3 mobile). This option would cost £49,500.

Option 2: 6 weekly sessions (2 sessions in each Ward – 3 static and 3 mobile). This would cost £32,000.

St Luke's CARES has successfully secured funding to enhance our youth provision including: £18.5k from the future jobs fund and £2k from extended services. We are confident of securing further funding to enhance provision.