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**Report of: Leeds Youth Service**

**North East (Inner) Area Committee**

**Date: 15<sup>th</sup> October 2007**

**Subject: Evaluation of the North East (Inner) Area Youth Development Worker project**

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**Electoral Wards Affected:**

Chapel Allerton  
Moortown  
Roundhay

**Specific Implications For:**

Ethnic minorities   
Women   
Disabled people   
Narrowing the Gap

Council Function

Delegated Executive Function available For Call In

Delegated Executive Function not available for Call In Details set out in the report

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**Executive Summary**

This report provides members of the Area Committee with an evaluation of the Youth Development Worker post, which has been funded through the Well-Being Fund (INE/05/24/LG). The report provides a summary of volunteers recruited, groups assisted and evaluation of the effectiveness of the post against the original objectives of the project.

## **1.0 Purpose Of This Report**

1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform members of the Area Committee of an evaluation of the effectiveness of the Youth Development Worker post since the start of the role on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2006.

## **2.0 Background Information**

2.1 The Youth Development Worker post was established to support the capacity building of voluntary agencies to help in increasing and improving youth work with young people. The Youth Service had lead responsibility for operational line management of the 18.5hrs post over an 18 month period.

## **3.0 Main Issues**

3.1 The objective for the post was to develop partnership delivery arrangements with the voluntary sector youth providers to meet need.

3.2 The main issues included supporting the voluntary sector with; policies and procedures, good practice, recruitment of volunteers, access to training and development for volunteers, and youth participation/involvement.

3.3 To use area plans to inform the work (Area Management Area Development Plan 2005/06, Area Management Area Action Plan 2006/07, Youth Service Ward Improvement Plan 2005/06 & part 2007/08).

## **4.0 Services Offered**

4.1 Support provided within the youth development post included:

- Direct support via email, telephone, letter and face-to-face contact covering youth work policies and procedures, national legislation impacting on youth work (5ECM/Youth Offer etc.), good practice sharing, support with volunteering, Criminal Record Bureau checks for volunteers, access to relevant training needs, etc.
- Organizational information included group constitutions, development plans, banking information, programme planning, youth participation working models and child protection policies/procedures.
- Training sessions including generic youth work delivery (area based) and individual support work/mentoring (Connexions) with volunteers.
- Briefings to partner organizations and partnerships.
- Developed, increased and strengthened partnership arrangements with voluntary sector agencies through the above including utilizing the initial mapping exercise to establish the current voluntary sector youth work delivery.

## 5.0 Achievements Gained/Outcomes:

### Volunteers

- 5.1 Volunteers were recruited from various voluntary agencies through existing partnerships, direct contact and as a result of marketing. The marketing included promotion via existing partnerships, Leeds City Council publications (Youth Service Team Talker Newsletter etc.) and Voluntary Action Leeds Recruitment Database (V-Base).
- 5.2 The original project objective was to *'assist in recruiting 12 more volunteers into youth work roles'* across all three wards. Out of a total **40** volunteers, **25** had successful CRB checks, of which **5** have gained paid employment with Leeds City Council Youth Service, **4** from Deen Enterprises Youth Project in Chapeltown, **10** from 3-Churches Youth Project in Meanwood and **6** within youth service area programmes across the Inner North East area. The remaining 15 volunteers had unsuccessful CRB checks, decided not to pursue volunteering or moved on.
- 5.3 **Seven** volunteers have participated in the Introduction to Youth Work Course and Connexions/Mentoring training enabling them to understand and underpin 'youth work' practice within their organizations. Other volunteers did not access the training offered for a variety of reasons. Four volunteers are seeking to participate in the newly developed (local) Youth Workers Course.
- 5.4 A presentation ceremony has been organised for the 5th October when the volunteers will be given certificates for completing the Introduction to Youth Work course by the Chair of the Inner area committee.

### Voluntary Agencies Capacity Building

- 5.5 The original project objective was to offer *'capacity building support'* to 18 voluntary agencies across all three wards, 6 in each. **70** voluntary agencies were contacted. It was soon evident that organisations required various levels of support.
- 5.6 Through the youth development role many more voluntary agencies now participate in the North East Leeds Youth Work Partnership (NELYWP) that brings together all organisations in the area that provide youth work programmes or services. This has enabled partners to work together more in offering a comprehensive package of services for young people through various methods; e.g. joint working, commissioning, contracting etc. This has enabled a joint Youth Services plan for the delivery of youth work to be agreed for next year that is equally relevant to the voluntary sector as it is to the local authority youth service.
- 5.7 Please see attached appendix 1 for list of organisations supported and feedback from 2 voluntary agencies.

### Mapping Exercise

- 5.8 The mapping exercise was originally a tool to aide and inform the work of increasing partnership arrangements with voluntary agencies. However, it became evident that this could be used for the promotion of the many voluntary agencies offering youth activities within the North East (Inner) area.
- 5.9 The "YAG-MAG" was produced using different formats for easy accessibility. **50** A5 sized hard copy versions have been produced and disseminated. This has been

sent to various local organisations including all local Primary and High Schools, Libraries, Children's Centres, Youth Centres etc. It has also been produced in an electronic format for easy storage on computer drives, web sites etc. The electronic version has been sent to a wide range of partners across all sectors and is available as a link on the Leeds City Council web site (internet & intranet) – Youth Services home page, Libraries 'Communities On-line' page.

- 5.10 A delay in the "YAG-MAG" production occurred due to a short term secondment that the youth development worker took up for two months. However, the "YAG-MAG" became an additional outcome for the project.
- 5.11 Promotion of the "YAG-MAG" was via existing partnerships and a press launch event is scheduled for the 5<sup>th</sup> October.

### **Youth Participation/Involvement**

- 5.12 The original project objective was to *'develop a sustainable model of youth participation'* within the North East (Inner) Area that could *'inform the Area Committee on issues that affect young people'* within the area. After initial research in the locality it was found that there were various models currently in existence. These included school councils, local youth committees, inter-faith forums and other small scale action groups.
- 5.13 The success of the 'CAYA-Chapel Allerton Youth Action' group has secured funding from 'IMPACT' to attend Herd Farm Residential Education Centre and a visit to London and the Houses of Parliament. The group with a total membership of **15** has focused on current local issues of concern to them from across the Chapel Allerton area as the membership derives from a variety of different youth groups (all sectors). The benefits for the young people have been two-fold; those for the young people as individuals and those for the whole group. Individual benefits include increasing self-confidence, developing key life skills, citizenship and raising awareness of others. Group benefits have included the effectiveness of team work, shared responsibility, group dynamics, the impact that an organised structure can achieve and an advocate of championing issues of concern on behalf of others.
- 5.14 A Moortown and Roundhay area based youth forum is still in its development stage and is scheduled to have their first meeting in October.
- 5.15 An original objective was to *'increase the engagement of young people with a total of an extra 150 'Reached'*. The actual performance figures for the North East (Inner) area of 11-19yr olds worked with was **310**, double the original target figure. Increases were greater in Chapel Allerton ward with less in Moortown and Roundhay. (source: Youth Service outcome targets 2006/07) These figures include all youth work partner agencies using the current Management Information System (MIS) 'YouthBase' to record 'Reach' figures etc.
- 5.16 Difficulties have been experienced in producing detailed performance analysis, ie. participation levels, as the current management information system the Youth Service uses does not have the capacity to accurately measure a range of detailed outcomes. However, a new and more effective MIS called 'Outreach' is to be rolled out this winter that will give much more detailed performance information in future.
- 5.17 An original objective was to *'reduce/prevent crime and anti-social behaviour involving young people'*. A measure was produced of the overall reduction/prevention of crime and anti-social behaviour by using the term as defined

by West Yorkshire Police of “youth nuisance” – a term used to describe any reported criminal activity and/or anti-social behaviour that involves young people. The figures for the North East (Inner) Management area have reduced slightly by 1.5%. (source: West Yorkshire Police ‘beat crime’ statistics Sep’05-Aug’06/Sep’06/Aug’07)

## **6.0 Conclusions**

- 6.1 In conclusion, this report summarises the actions, achievements and the evaluation of the effectiveness of the youth development post.
- 6.2 It shows that the key objectives of recruiting and training new volunteers has been achieved. A wide range of both ‘light touch’ and intensive support for a range of voluntary organisation across the three inner wards has been given and the production and dissemination of a useful Directory of youth provision in the area has been well received.
- 6.3 There has been an increase in the capacity of organisation to deliver more programmes for young people and more young people have engaged in these as a result. Alongside this there is evidence both data wise and anecdotally from resident groups and the police that there has been a noticeable decrease in young people’s nuisance and antisocial behaviour in the last few months, in particular.

## **7.0 Recommendations**

- 7.1 The Area Committee is asked to note the content of the report.