

## **The Cardigan Centre youth work**

The Cardigan Centre organise and run a number of sessions and support in the Inner North West wards of Weetwood, Headingley, and Hyde Park and Woodhouse. In the last year we have been asked to target these areas even more and as such the numbers of sessions we do in these areas has increased. I'm pleased to say all of them have been a success, in that young people are attending them and that the work we do has been supportive of not only the young people but local schools, families and the police. The three main areas of this funding is from the targeted youth work provision from the council and the Youth Activity and Well Being funds.

We have also been providing Pathways support throughout the area, but this funding for the Cardigan Centre is stopping at the end of March. We do, and will continue to offer support on our Talent Match for 18-24 year old's who have been long term NEET and require support and training to get back into Education, Employment or Training.

The following is a number of our regular youth work weekly sessions we run throughout the INW and just outside.

All groups have two youth workers present unless mentioned differently.

**1. Monday - Welcome Inn Youth group** 11-18 year olds 6.30-8.30pm (in partnership with Youth Service who provide an additional staff (so we have three in total)).

This group has been running now since September last year and we have had a steady increase in numbers attending. At present we get between 10-15 young people but we see this only increasing as times goes on.

**Activities** include dodge ball, pool, table tennis, card games, chats, involved in inter-generational work, and many arts and crafts activities - Its youth led and the young people direct spending and what is ran.

**Of note** - this is targeting young people who are vulnerable, been referred by the schools or who are known to the police (some). It has been key to including attendance from closed groups to bring them more into the community in a positive fashion. At present we also have three student placements here too.

**2. Tuesday Ralph Thoresby School (closed group)** 3pm-6pm (Inner North West Wellbeing fund – targeting young people living on the Silk Mills and Ivesons that attend this school).

This group is a targeted closed group including names referred by the police and Amanda Bradly at Ralph Thoresby. We have worked with 8 young lads so far who have had a range of difficulties and we have engaged with all, bar one, successfully (reduced contact with police and community issues).

**Activities** The group started out as a combat training scheme to build relationships with the young people to then engage them -this has then adapted to physical training, dodge ball, basketball and X Box sessions as decided by the young people. This group works very closely with PC Groves.

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**Of Note** - PWA meetings have expressed their thanks for the work we have done and the lack of some of the lads cropping up on reports now. Relationships are building very well and we have started to engage some of the young people into our Monday and Wednesday Welcome Inn youth groups to be volunteers and be good role models - This has been a great success so far!

Staff is a youth worker, a PT instructor and PC Groves.

We have also been attending the school when the lads kick off or get into trouble to try to mediate and advocate for the young person too - this has been above and beyond what funding is granted for but felt it all adds to the support for these young people.

### **3. Tuesday Detached youth work** - 4-6pm (Hyde Park and Woodhouse ward).

This is our only detached youth work we do walking the ward meetings and chatting with young people. This is totally hit and miss and we gain our information from word of mouth and areas of trouble from PWA meetings. Some sessions we meet no one, while others we could see dozens.

**Activities** - none as such as it is detached youth work - we do try to let young people know how to contact us if they need and direct them to our sessions we run in surrounding areas.

**Of note** - numbers in winter are always lower than when it is lighter and warmer.

### **4. Tuesday Little London Community Centre Youth Group** 11-18 year olds - 6-8pm.

This group has around 10-15 young people attending and started around September last year.

**Activities** - DJ workshops, circus skills, dodge ball, card and other board games, arts and crafts and drama.

**Of note** - this is a good mix and we have worked with the local police to ensure there are patrols when the young people are leaving since some worries about being followed home was mentioned on one occasion - police support has been great in this.

### **5. Wednesday Welcome Inn Youth Group** 8-17 year olds - 6-8pm (Youth Activity Fund).

Started in September last year and this has gone from strength to strength with up to 30 young people attending! - Very hectic and includes some of the young people from Monday and Tuesday (closed group being volunteers). We tend to get the younger age group attend this group and it shows the need in this area due to the numbers present - also many sibling groups attend this group.

**Activities** include DJ workshops, dodge ball, pool, table tennis, card games, chats, involved in inter-generational work, and many arts and crafts activities - Its youth led and the young people direct spending and what is ran.

**Of note** - this is targeting young people who are vulnerable, been referred by the schools or

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who are known to the police (some). It has been key to including attendance from closed groups to bring them more into the community in a positive fashion. At present we also have one student placement here too.

### **6. Wednesday Central Library Games group** - 11-20 year olds 4-7pm.

I thought I'd add this in as it attracts young people from all over the city and is around 15-30 strong each week. It attracts a lot of young people with Autism and is vital to enabling them a safe place to socialise and feel safe.

**Activities** include all manner of card and board games, roleplay games and wargames.

**Of note** - We have had some amazing feedback from parents and young people about how this group has changed their lives and what joy it brings to many. We support a number of young people with autism and Aspergers to volunteer here too and this massively adds to the group and their own development.

There is just one youth worker and up to 3 library workers and several volunteers in this group.

### **7. Thursday Holt Park Community Library Games Group** 11-18 year olds 3-5pm.

This attracts mostly young people from the Weetwood and Headingley wards and is attended very well with up to 20 young people with a variety of needs including autism, downs syndrome and learning difficulties.

**Activities include** all manner of card and board games, roleplay games and wargames.

**Of note** - Similar to the Wednesday group it is very challenging but a safe place for young people to socialise and meet other people with autism or learning difficulties  
1 youth worker and 1 library staff and up to 2 student volunteers.

### **8. Cardigan Centre Cooking Youth Group** - 11-18 year olds 6-8pm.

We have approx 6-10 young people attend this group and is the most diverse in ethnicity out of all of the groups - it has a large kitchen and hall for the young people to not only cook and eat but to also do other activities too.

**Activities** - Cooking, physical activities, board games, magic tricks, circus skills and arts and crafts.

**Of note** - This group started late last year and due to funding cuts to youth provision from Better Leeds Communities, we decided to run this group. We managed to get BLC's youth worker Steff on-board with one of our youth workers so we didn't lose those young people attending sessions that were stopping - as such we managed to keep that provision going with minimal disruption.