

Report Title: West North West Youth Service Report 1st October to 31st December 2017

Introduction

1. This short report details the youth work intervention delivered in West North West Leeds between October and December 2017.

2. **Issues - Outer West :**

- Crime/Youth Nuisance/ASB
- CSE – Internet Safety
- Sexual Health Awareness
- Social, emotional and mental health and wellbeing
- Support schools and settings to improve attendance and positive behaviour

Issues - Outer North West:

- Social, emotional and mental health and wellbeing
- Drugs, alcohol & tobacco awareness
- Crime/Youth Nuisance/ASB
- CSE – Internet Safety

Issues – Inner West:

- Crime/Youth Nuisance/ASB
- Community Cohesion
- Young People who are NEET
- Social, emotional and mental health and wellbeing
- Support schools and settings to improve attendance and positive behaviour
- Healthy Lifestyles

Issues – Inner North West (Weetwood):

- Social, emotional and mental health and wellbeing
- Support schools and settings to improve attendance and positive behaviour.

3. **Intervention/Action Taken -**

Crime/Youth Nuisance/ASB

The WNW Youth Service Team attended multi agency bonfire night planning meetings in the lead up to Bonfire Night and were part of a joint approach ensuring a mostly incident free period. Three detached teams supported West Yorkshire Police over the 3 night bonfire period. Street based Youth Workers in the Hyde Park area were instrumental in informing the police about the youth nuisance ensuring a quick response.

The Saturday Night Project in Armley continues to attract a high number of young people offering positive alternatives to hanging around the streets. We are pleased to offer our continued support by having a youth worker deliver an issue based session as part of the weekly provision.

1:1 Support – This quarter The Youth Service received referrals from agencies including Social Care, ESNW Cluster, Farnley Cluster, Armley Cluster, Aireborough Cluster, Pudsey Cluster, Preisthorpe Academy, Crawshaw Academy and Ralph Thorsby School.

The WNW Youth Service Team continues to respond to issues highlighted in PWA Tasking Meetings by delivering mobile sessions in areas with reported youth nuisance. These areas include the Hawskworth Wood Estate in Kirkstall, Butterbowl/Bawns area of Farnley, Waterloo area of Pudsey, Guisely Retail Park, Oak Road area of New Wortley, Silk Mill area of Weetwood, and Farsley Farfield Estate. As a result, The Youth Service has been able to engage with some of the most difficult 'hard to reach' young people and update partners highlighting observations and concerns. Both preventative and reactive measures have been taken and youth workers have been able to engage successfully with some of the most vulnerable cases on a 1:1 basis.

We remain committed in developing sessions on the Hawskworth estate in the Kirkstall Ward working closely with its 'Tasking' partners to identify young people who might need extra support. The late evening mobile sessions have been attracting good numbers from the estate and youth workers have had conversations with HAVA and the YMCA in the hope of creating a centre based provision in the area.

A particular challenge has been around Guisely Retail Park. Large numbers of young people have reportedly been drinking and putting themselves in vulnerable situations. We currently deliver 2 late evening mobile sessions and work closely with the police to help tackle the issue.

Horsforth Seniors and the Friday Café have maintained popularity with a very high attendance. Due to the high volume attending Horsforth provisions, quality youth work interventions are sometimes difficult and several young people are noticeable isolated from the main groups as not 'fitting in' with the crowd due to image and lower confidence.

Following a meeting with Armley Juniors a further meeting between The Youth Offending Service, Youth Service, and Harpreet Singh (Area Officer Communities and Environment) was arranged. The aim of this meeting was to look at joint work in tackling some of the issues in relation to youth nuisance of the Heights Estate. After a very positive meeting it was agreed that The Youth Offending Service would submit a funding bid to Community Committee to run a programme for those causing the nuisance. It is hoped that this programme will be delivered between YOS and The Youth Service in partnership with Armley Juniors.

Support schools and settings to improve attendance and positive behaviour

Transition programme Inner West



As part of the Locality Review, the Communities Team WNW have been leading on a pathfinder project on the New Wortley estate in the Armley Ward of Leeds. A Core Team was established, in December 2016, to take the pathfinder project forward. The initial focus of the group was to respond to the issues raised at the West NIB, relating to crime and ASB. The Core Team developed a 'working differently' plan, which incorporated five themes to help focus programmes of work going forward. Under the theme of children and young people Transition work was identified as a key priority. Agencies were asked to consider how they can enhance the existing offer to support the transition of pupils into year 7.

The West Leeds Transition Programme originated from The Core Team Plan and was developed and implemented by Leeds Youth Service in partnership with Signpost. The aim of the transition programme was to support a year 6 class with their move to secondary school. Students were supported to give their feedback and recommendations in order to make improvements for future transition programmes. To provide a more targeted approach – the proposed 'enhanced' transition programme was an opportunity to focus on pupils who could benefit the most from extra support, and to start thinking about their needs earlier.

The first part of the transition programme ran for 9 weeks starting in May 2017 until the end of summer term. Different topics were covered during each weekly session. Subjects covered included; Hopes and fears, coping with change, personal strengths, learning about my new school, school routines, and making new friends

Phase 2 of the Transition Programme was about keeping in touch with students once they had started their new school. During the Autumn Term young people were given the opportunity to catch up with their old school friends and discuss any worries and concerns with staff. Practitioners were able to provide support and reassurance to those students who were struggling with the transition to high school. Wednesday evening sessions were delivered from Castleton Children's Centre from September to December 2017.

The WNW Team have been working closely with ESNW Cluster to deliver some outdoor activities at Yeadon Tarn Sailing Centre over the February half term holidays. This programme will be geared mainly towards referred young people who live in the Weetwood area.

Social, emotional and mental health and wellbeing

In September ward Councillors for Weetwood held a meeting with The Youth Service and Cardigan Centre and agreed an exciting new youth project for the area. We were pleased to hear that our grant application had been approved by

Community Committee and the Youth Café opened its' doors in October. The session has been very well received by the young people in the area with weekly attendance growing to 18 in a short space of time.

SEMh - The WNW Team continues to develop strong links with local schools and will be taking part in an 'Engage evening' at The Farnley Academy in January. Parents will get the opportunity to meet youth workers who can offer advice and guidance on how they can support their children around concerns such as confidence building, identity, sexuality, drug use, peer pressure, social media, and mental health.

Anti- Bullying Workshops – In November the youth workers delivered an anti - bullying programme to more than 60 high school students. Pupils enjoyed taking part in a fun interactive quiz which highlighted the scale of the problem.

"Thank you for your support with Anti-bullying week this week. There was a real buzz from the students as they came into your van and after" **Lisa Clark , Vice Principal , The Farnley Academy**

The Youth Café at Pudsey Wellbeing Centre continues to go from strength to strength. In June Graeme Tiffany who is Vice-Chair of the Federation for Detached Youth Work ran the Pudsey 10k and managed to raise £500 for our Youth Café at Pudsey Wellbeing Centre. In September young people were invited to an awards evening and delivered a drama presentation based on how the grant was used and what the young people learned/experienced. Graeme was impressed with what the group had achieved and commenting that this was an superb example of what can be achieved when outcomes aren't prescribed and young people are given the freedom to develop their own ideas. We are delighted to report that the Youth Café in Pudsey is now attracting more than 20 young people per week. This is a partnership piece of work between The Youth Service, Love Pudsey Charity and NHS and takes place at Pudsey Health and Wellbeing Centre.

The after-school mobile at Ralph Thorseby has continued to be a valuable presence in the ward and young people use the session to explore, and seek support on a range of issues, including relationships, health, confidence and for one young woman her first experience of bereavement – she came for several weeks to explore her feelings and we extended the sessions to support her.

The Outer North West Team have received a number of self-referrals for mental and emotional wellbeing support which the team have dealt with effectively for young people needing emotional support and positive peer influences.

Drugs, alcohol & tobacco awareness

Mobile sessions at Westfield Retail Park (and other locations) are beneficial – yp have sought support on career, health, relationships etc. A younger group has started attending on Wednesdays and some have needed support of school as well as relationship issues.

Work around appropriate behaviour, alcohol use and personal safety are ongoing and we have commenced detached work around Mickfield Park in response to some issues identified through area Tasking.

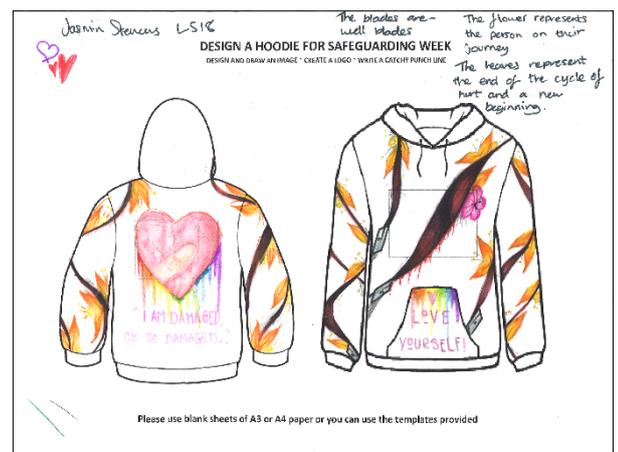
Safeguarding/CSE/Online Safety



Safeguarding Week (October)

Across the area we explore young people's understanding of safeguarding and what sort of support is available. We ran a 'design a hoody' competition which was very effective at giving focus for some young people who talked more openly while 'distracted' by designing – the overall winning design represented self-harm and the hope and optimism that can come from turning something destructive into something positive. The winner spent two whole sessions on the design and found praise quite difficult to accept so this process was valuable for her confidence.

White Ribbon Campaign



Following on from Safeguarding Week The WNW Team also took part in the White Ribbon Campaign that marked 16 Days of Action between 25th November and Sunday 10th December. This was an international event that involved men and boys working together and pledging to 'make a stance against all forms of violence towards woman and girls. Youth workers delivered various activities including creating displays in mobile youth vans, delivering workshops in youth clubs, and promoting the campaign as part of The Farnley Academy's Empowerment Week. Throughout this campaign youth workers delivered sessions that created space for discussion around more positive, healthy ways of being a teenage boy. The workshops highlighted the scale of the problem and stressed how boys need to become part of the solution, alongside girls.

Community Cohesion

We continue to run provision in Armley targeting young people from the East European Community. The youth project at Strawberry Lane Community Centre caters for a group of young people predominantly from Slovakia. They participate in a variety of activities including arts, crafts, karaoke and cooking.

The Youth Service continues to deliver a well-attended basketball project in Armley that provides an opportunity for young people at Swallow Hill Community College to try an activity which will help them stay fit and develop new skills. This weekly session is in partnership with and West Yorkshire Police.

We continue to run provision at the Bramley Community Centre, supporting young people with additional needs. The programme includes indoor games, arts and crafts, cooking and issue based programmes. There are now 5 'older' young volunteers who help deliver the session. Weekly attendance has increased to 20 following a promotion push to local schools.

Healthy Lifestyles

Yeadon Juniors – 12 yp on average attend these including LAC and vulnerable yp at risk of negative peer influence (substance use) and asb.

The Youth Service continues to deliver a football project in partnership with the Leeds United Kicks Programme at the Holy Family Primary School in Armley. The youth work team provide refreshments on the youth bus for players between games but also support the football coaches with managing difficult behaviour when it arises.

As part of the transition programme the Youth Service ran a trip to West Leeds Activity Centre in the October half Term. Young people stated that they loved the activities with the instructors commenting on their determination and fantastic behaviour.

Young People who are NEET

Working in partnership with the Leeds Pathways Support Team is proving very effective in offering support for those young people who are not in employment or education. Several NEET Sweeps across WNW have taken place this quarter resulting in young people finding college courses and employment.

4. Challenges

Ongoing challenge of engaging with 'hard to reach' young people whilst delivering street based work. Young people's reluctance to give details for monitoring purposes.

Mobile provision – session delivery has been affected with all the mobile provision units going in the garage for repairs, inspections, and MOT's.

Several street based sessions, particularly in Otley have had erratic attendance so times/locations will be reviewed in the next period.

Case Studies

Case Study: BS (Inner West)

- The Safe Project made a referral to The Youth Service requesting support for BS who is a 15 year old young woman who is a looked after child.

- BS also receiving support from Barnardos
- History of missing episodes and potential trafficking

Needs

- Developmental needs around English and reading
- Due to lack of educational attendance BS lacks understanding in social interactions with peers.
- BS engages in high risk taking behaviour and not permitted to be alone in community.
- Hope that engagement with Youth Service will support socialisation and develop skill base that she needs to become more independent and make safer choices.
- Youth Service to help 'skill up' BS around safety and sexual wellbeing.

Outcome/Impact

- BS has so far attended 4 sessions with her allocated youth worker and has formed a positive relationship.
- BS has undertaken work around CSE awareness and completed work around healthy relationships and risk taking behaviour.
- It became apparent that BS had low career aspirations and her youth worker is currently arranging a visit to Leeds City College to look at the hair and beauty programme.
- BS has requested help with completing her CV which is something her youth worker will be supporting with.

Case Study : EG (Outer North West)

- EG (Female 16) has just moved out of home after relationships breakdowns with father and is now in independent supported living.
- Youth Worker had supported her previously when she had conflict with her parent and come to us for support when angry and upset.

Needs

- She has an Early Help Plan in place and feels, on occasions, is in need of some emotional and practical support.

Outcome/Impact

- EG asked her youth worker to be part of the Early Help Plan as she has developed a positive relationship.
- EG has received support from her youth worker and has been offered some additional 1:1 sessions if necessary.
- EG feels in a much better place and has stated that although everyone wants to support her and help her transition, she feels other agencies don't always understand her need, so appreciates youth worker support.

Case study: DW (Outer North West)

- DW started attending the mobile a few months ago. He is a 15 yr old looked after child who has just recently moved to the Guiseley area.
- When DW first started attending the mobile he was a very angry person with regards to the way he spoke to staff and peers.
- DW didn't get along with his social worker felt his views were not been listened too.

Needs

- DW felt his views were not been listened to and felt frustrated.

Outcome/Impact

- Youth worker supported DW and gave him advice on how he might deal with the situation.
- Youth worker suggested DW to jot down his concerns that he wanted to raise.

- Having weekly supportive chats with his Youth Worker DW has really grown in confidence. He has become a more active member of the group and is a good role model to others by pulling them on their bad behaviour. He appears to get an awful lot out of attending this weekly session.