

LCC Youth Service/BARCA Mobile Youth Provision Inner West

26th March 2008

Project Summary

The project has been delivered by Leeds City Council Youth Service and BARCA-Leeds. It became operational in May 2007 and is well supported by young people and the community. The mobile unit's purpose is to engage with hard to reach young people who are at risk of offending/anti-social behaviour. It also targets young people who may not be attending existing provision due to accessibility issues/lack of suitable venues. The mobile operates up to six evenings /weekend 2 sessions per evening. The provision is now well established. It has enabled young people to meet others in a safe environment with support from youth workers. Young people have been involved in the design and delivery of the project right from the start making sure that their ideas and views are taken on board. Here are some examples of young people involvement,

- Young people consultation
- Supported staff to identify geographical areas
- Designing the interior layout
- Choosing the resources needed
- Designing the programme that suits their needs e.g. times, venues

Young People who have benefited from the project

Since May 2007 over 200 young people per week have accessed the mobile and engaged in the activities. During the Summer Programme the mobile engaged in the Breeze and Mini Breeze projects with over 200 young people attending the event. Of that figure 80% were aged 13 and above and 20% were under 13. The majority of young people who accessed the mobile were those who would not normally access mainstream provision and find the mobile is their preferred choice.

Activities

The mobile has provided young people with opportunity to engage in other different types of activities alongside an open and accessible advice and support provision. Through the support of Health Education, sports activities, play work

and Connexions it has enhanced and added value to the existing programme. The activities delivered have included

- Sports Programmes
- Junior Jam (d j skills)
- Theatres visits
- Motorbikes
- Outdoor Education
- Accredited Programmes
- Drugs Awareness
- Sexual Health (Inc C Card)
- Healthy Eating Programmes
- Arts and Crafts
- Issue Based Sessions
- Signposting Opportunities
- Connexions
- Play Support (work with under 13)

Geographical Areas

At present the mobile covers the following areas but is flexible according to need of young people and community.

Armley

- New Wortley
- Cedars
- Armley Park Road
- Cockshott Lane
- Spring Valley

Bramley

- Summerfields
- St Peters
- Fairfield
- Sandford

We also have developed 2 Connexions sessions staffed by Personal Advisors and Youth Workers. These sessions are during the day and target NEET young people.

Young peoples comments

Most young people comments about the provision have been really positive. Some young people said that the staff are friendly and help us .One young male aged 14 said “the bus is great and I like coming” Another young male aged 15 commented that they were disappointed that the provision had to close because of the Bank holidays. Young people have expressed that this provision is what their need and it must continue.

Overall Summary

Like any other new project it experienced some teething issues .A major hurdle was the fact of working in partnership with different policies and procedures. This issue was quickly overcome and we moved forward .It took a while to build staff relationships and to designate areas of responsibility and cooperation. Due to good publicity and staff outreach work the mobile was, within 3 months, up and running .Many issues were resolved and both partners began working well together.

The young people in the first instance were fairly low. Numbers of young people increased and regular groups formed from then on. The weather has also played a part in the attendance of young people as it has been an exceptionally cold winter. Even though the mobile has heating it has been hard at times to encourage young people but on the other hand some young people prefer to come because it cold.

On the whole the response and commitment from the young people is very encouraging .The mobile offers a safe and confidential envirimomet enabling the workers to engage with young people where there are and on their terms.

Janice Dix BARCA-LEEDS

Linda McHale LCC YOUTH SERVICE

Date 26th March 2008