

Friday / Saturday Night Projects key information

Background

The Friday Night Project (FNP) was established as a pilot project in 2007 at South Leeds Sports centre. There was a number of reasons for the project starting these included a focus by the Government of the day to target resources and provision through PAYP funding to provide activities to engage young people in hard to reach areas. Meetings at a local level with Area management, Police and Youth Services identified increased racial tensions in the community and it has long been identified as a hotspot for ASB in the local community. At this point South Leeds Sports Centre had availability on a Friday evening. The management team supported the development of the project and recognised the need to have complete use of the building. There was a real drive to develop a model that would be able to target specific young people but provide the space, the activities and the right support to all young people in the area. Having a broad age range 8 to 19 yrs meant that we had the volume of young people to fill such a large building. Creating a members club feel underpinned the model with a range of activities including sports creative arts dance and a space to just hang out. Working in partnership with local youth organisations we were able to pull together a very skilled team who were able to engage across the age groups. 4 years on and we have continued to develop the model by developing strong partnerships in quiet difficult times

Rationale

- We wanted to provide a Safe space for young people to go, particularly in Winter months, with interesting activities and support staff from local organisations. This coincided with the Governments Youth Promise and move to provide more provision on a weekend.
- To provide regular high quality sports and arts provision in Anti Social Behaviour Hot Spots.
- The emphasis is on a club feel that young people could identify with and belong to and attend on a regular basis.
- Local agencies to provide additional support where needed.
- We wanted to get young people used to using the local Leisure centres.
- Take over the full centre so young people could fully enjoy the space with their peers. This means the pool, Gym, sports areas and activity rooms where we put on a range of arts workshops
- We want to build on these around the city to enable us to run 'leagues' across different areas – football tournaments for instance where groups from different postcodes mix in competitions and events
- Through a project steering group local ownership and working in partnership bring funding from a variety of pots and resources which reduces individual cost for organisations.

The Projects in Practice

- The Projects take place in Middleton, Armley, Pudsey and the Dennis Healey youth centre in East Leeds. Past projects ran at East Leeds and South Leeds Sports Centres with great success. Nearly 1,700 individual young people have attended the clubs to date. Our intention is to build up the numbers of

centres that run this provision with an increasing number of shared projects like Sports tournaments and arts projects that encourage young people to meet and build relationships with other communities in the city.

- We capture information from the members through the Breezecard. This allows us to drill down into where we are attracting young people from and allows us to target underrepresented estates/areas and link this to ASB data to see if there are any patterns or trends.
- Measuring attendance allows us to see how successful we are in attracting the age groups, genders and ethnicity it also allows us to present awards for key milestones achieved and we recognise these at 25, 50, 75 and 100 visits. We currently have a number of members in the Middleton project on the way to 75 and 2 girls just short of 100
- Each of the projects is overseen by the City Project coordinator who liaises with the centre management team, partners, parents and carers and support agencies should concerns be raised regarding individual young people. The coordinator makes sure agreed standards are agreed looks at opportunities to engage projects outside of the sites, explores new funding opportunities, links the projects together and organises cross over activities and events so young people have opportunity to mix. Some projects are well established now and young people attending are playing a greater part in their own community including raising further funding, taking part in community clean –ups and initiatives to brighten up their locality. We are getting great feedback from the local community as well as a reduction in the number of ASB incidents which involve young people in the environs of the projects.
- The multi agency partnerships involve Local Voluntary and statutory Youth Service, Community Safety, the Police, extended services, Sport, local arts organisations, ASBU, YOS, Connexions, Health and are co-ordinated through the Out of School Activities team.
- We measure impact by charting the incidents of local ASB in the area, before we started the project and at other times in the week.
- The evenings are split into two sessions Juniors 8 – 12 and Seniors 12 – 19. The age split allows a transition period for the young person.
- If young people attending are identified as having additional needs we arrange support from PAYP keyworkers, YIPS or other local agencies.
- This provision is also a good way of introducing keyworked young people into local provision, where support is still available through local service providers.

Evidence of Success

- We have local ASB statistical data showing a reduction of ASB in the area during the time when the provision runs, we also have individual case studies on young people who have benefited from involvement with Friday and Saturday Night Projects
- 1,570 young people have attended this provision and are members of the Friday night Clubs.
- Some accreditation has been achieved but these are mainly clubs for leisure activities
- Families are kept well informed, particularly with regard to behaviour where a strict code is observed through a jointly agreed 'Behaviour matrix' – here all partners agree on thresholds and young people behaving badly, bullying or

using unacceptable language and behaviour are challenged and subject to a temporary bar which is discussed with and where possible also enforced by the family.

- We have several case studies of young people coming through the clubs and being referred for additional help or being introduced to the clubs by their PAYP Keyworkers, or travellers link worker. In some cases going on to volunteer.
- A young traveller has recently headed up a successful bid to purchase mobile equipment for use by young people across the city in the Summer Breeze on Tour Events in parks in Leeds. We are now working with her and Leeds Gate who offer travellers support to get some permanent play facilities in Cottingley Springs Camp Site in Leeds.
- They also provide a progression route for very vulnerable young people who have been referred to PAYP for keyworker support. This is Gareth's story: when originally referred to PAYP for -1- keyworker support Gareth was not attending school, he subsequently attended the Breeze Sports Academy (also part PAYP funded) in his words:

*I didn't go to school from Year 9 onwards. PAYP found a college course called Educ8. Now I have left this course but I continued to access Educ8 5 days a week free-willing. I'm going to college in September then aim for university.
'I Went through to Payp because I was very naughty. Then went to sports academy. Then I started to grow up. When I started with Payp I started accessing activities for young people such as Friday Night Project. It Keeps you off the streets. Keeps us active - puts the games console away. Like a community so you get to meet more people and learn new skills. E. G. Communication.....*