

The YOT's demanding target of getting young people into 25 hours Education Training or Employment has improved by 17% since 2004. This has been achieved through strong partnership work between Education Bradford, the YOT, schools and voluntary and community partners.

YOT Education Officers have strong and regular links with Inclusion Officers in the Behaviour Support service of Education Bradford. We work jointly in order to address issues of engagement with hard-to-reach young people.

We have also forged strong links at a number of levels with Bradford's schools - especially the 28 Secondary schools - and the Secondary Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) system. These links enable speedy joint working as soon as a new case with education issues comes through the Court system.

The role of Education workers in the YOT

- Two Education Bradford staff are seconded to the YOT - **Robin Martin** and **Bob Drake**. Their roles are to provide advice and guidance to YOT caseholders in the first instance.
- Where more serious education issues are identified regarding behaviour or access to education, caseholders follow a clear referral process to YOT education staff. The school /education provider is then approached, more detailed education information obtained and a joint plan of action implemented, involving parents, young people, other agencies where appropriate, Bradford YOT and school.
- YOT education staff continue to support Bridging Providers from the youth and voluntary sectors in order to re-engage young people who have "fallen out" of the education system.
- YOT education staff have forged strong links with Education Bradford at a variety of levels. This enables a good exchange of information and joint strategic planning.

To celebrate the success of the young people and their work with Connexions Bradford, Careers Bradford and other partner agencies, the YOT hold regular award ceremonies for young people, parents and partner agencies.

Certificates and testimonials are presented by the Lord Mayor of Bradford in the presence of representatives from a range of youth, community and voluntary organisations that support young people in education training and employment.

Achievement Events at the Bradford City Football Ground



"The importance of education in the rehabilitation of young offenders should not be underestimated. Our partnership with Education Bradford and all the other providers working with young people is critical in our efforts to reduce youth crime and re-offending."

Paul O'Hara, Bradford YOT Manager

Schools Response to New Legislation Reduces Exclusions

New Legislation from September 2007 required that schools provide full-time education from the 6th day of an exclusion.

For any exclusion, pupils are the responsibility of parents for the first five days. There is a new duty on parents to ensure that, during the first five days of an exclusion from school, their child is not found in a public place during school hours, without reasonable justification

Permanently excluded pupils are able to access full-time provision from the 6th. day at The Junction, a centre run by Education Bradford, where they can access the basic curriculum. After an assessment at one of the PRUs, pupils will then be placed back into a new school.

Behaviour and Attendance

Secondary schools have grouped themselves into Behaviour and Attendance Collaboratives (BACs). By pooling their resources the schools now have places available at various educational provisions for their pupils who are excluded, or who have serious behavioural problems.

By having regular meetings they are also able to provide "managed moves" of pupils between schools, reducing the need for parents to go through a lengthy application process.

Case Studies

CASE STUDY 1

D is a Looked After child aged 14. He received an Action Plan Order. The YOT discovered that he was only attending 1 day part-time at school. No other provision, bored, and disengaged.

The YOT arranged Bridging provision x 3 half-days via our partners at PRISM & Justart. D took to these immediately. Reparation & offending behaviour sessions were also set by the YOT.

A multi-agency meeting was convened with Social Services and school. Alternative provision was then agreed with all parties' support which built on this success in order to gradually integrate D into mainstream provision.

CASE STUDY 2

L is an 11-year-old female with anger and other issues. She received a Supervision Order. We discovered that she was not attending any education.

The YOT convened meetings with family, school and Connexions. School were very supportive and a range of alternative provisions, work experience placement and YOT Bridging Provisions were tried.

With pastoral support from all parties and much patience, L gradually engaged to 20 hours regular attendance by the end of the Order.



FOCUS ON

Mike Vigurs - Education Bradford

Can you explain your role in Education Bradford?

I joined Education Bradford (EB) as the Strategic Manager of Behaviour and Attendance on 1 October 2007. I have previously held posts in Barnsley, Calderdale & Lancashire. The post I held prior to coming to Bradford was Head of Children & Young Adult Services. I am committed to helping young people access education and I'm delighted to have been invited to be the Education representative of the Bradford and District Senior Officer YOT Management Board.



How do you see the YOT and Education Bradford working together?

I am very pleased to note that EB has been a strong supporter of the YOT since its creation, having seconded two teachers. The YOT education staff have played a key role in raising the profile of the educational needs of young offenders.

Clear links have been developed with schools; joint work has been undertaken with a range of EB services, particularly within my service areas of Behaviour, Attendance and Inclusion. I see this work continuing to develop. There are still many challenges that together we have to overcome.

What differences have we made?

My predecessors and I have seen big changes; the YOT education target has improved by 17%. The recent YOT inspection highlighted significant achievements in YOT education performance. I am pleased that YOT and Secondary PRU system regularly meet to discuss young people where there are areas of concern.

The support of the YOT is key to motivating young people to engage in learning, and this they help us to achieve through a whole range of services. The joint Awards Ceremony with Careers Bradford is a good example of agencies working together to make a difference in young people's lives. I note with interest and delight the success of the YOT Summer School in inspiring and engaging difficult-to-reach young people.



For more information on the YOT's education support contact:

Robin Martin or **Bob Drake**
YOT Teachers / Education Workers

01274 436060

robin.martin@bradford.gov.uk
bob.drake@bradford.gov.uk