

Frances Done - Youth Justice Board Chair

Visit to Bradford - March 2009

Frances Done, Chair of the Youth Justice Board for England & Wales, spent a full day in Bradford visiting a wide range of projects and activities delivered by Bradford YOT and its partners, and met a group of magistrates from the Bradford Youth Court. She also met with managers, staff and young people to gain first-hand knowledge of the many innovative and effective programmes and interventions which help Bradford to deliver a successful service which has reduced youth crime and re-offending rates across the district.

Frances met with Julie Whiting, Deputy Manager of Bradford Youth Development Partnership (BYDP) and Sofia Mahmood from BYDP's Educational Learning project to see first-hand the work they carry out.



The day's very full programme began with a meeting with Kath Tunstall to get an overview of the range of interventions delivered by the YOT and partners, and how this work fits with Bradford's overall strategy for children and young people.



Frances travelled on the Leeds Bradford Canal on the Bradford Motor Education Project (BMEP) canal boat which young offenders use for reparation and education skills. Frances is pictured with Eric Gibbs MBE and Trevor Roberts from BMEP.



The day ended with a visit to The Academy where Frances saw a dance performance by young people and presented certificates to mark their achievements. Also present were Roger Bowers, High Sheriff of West Yorkshire, Kath Tunstall, Andrew Coggins of Dance United and Paul O'Hara.

"We were delighted to welcome Frances Done to Bradford and show her the work we are rightly proud of. She was able to see a wide range of activities including our prevention programmes, reparation, Youth Offender Panels and our unique Academy project. I know our partners and many young people were very pleased to be given the opportunity to showcase their work to such an important and influential figure in the national youth justice system. My thanks go to Frances for making the time to visit Bradford and to all the managers, staff, partners and young people who helped make the day such a success."

Paul O'Hara - Bradford YOT Manager