

NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2004

Young People's Support Unit (YPSU)

The focus of Barkerend Road has now changed and to reflect the new multi-agency crime prevention centre, it has been given a new name. It is now the Young People's Support Unit. There are a number of projects based at the Unit with staff from the YOT, Youth Service, Connexions and the Children's Fund. It is hoped that children and young people will receive a much more "joined up" service with projects sharing information and resources.

Celebration Event

In recognition of the commitment shown by young people who have participated in the project we organised an event at the Matrix Bowling Centre at Skipton, on 3rd November 2003. 19 young people and 8 staff turned up to the event, where Certificates of Achievement were given out, alongside formal awards for some young people. We hope to plan something similar for July this year.



Activities

Staff continue to provide a number of activities and overall attendance is very good. There are specific programmes such as outdoor pursuits that covers climbing, walking and caving.



There are also multi sport programmes which cover skiing, bowling, swimming, cycling, snooker, ice skating, fitness programmes and other activities. Girls are still referred to the Girl Empower project where appropriate and two girls are currently involved in the Going for Gold, dance project.

Some young people also attend educational projects and events such as the Motor Education project.

Football

There are three football projects running at the present time but it is hoped that a fourth one will soon be established. Positive Futures staff run one on a Monday evening and the Youth Service

have two projects, one in Keighley South and one in Keighley West. All the groups are well attended and it is hoped that some young people will receive accreditation and/or Positive Futures awards.



The Youth Service is looking at starting up a third group aimed primarily at Asian young people. We are also arranging to hold football tournaments during the half term holidays.

Personal Development

We are required to deliver messages about staying healthy, particularly in relation to the use of illegal drugs and alcohol, as well as encouraging young people to be more socially responsible. On the whole staff incorporate this work into the activities that they are undertaking, but we are still working with Airedale PCT to deliver more detailed information around specific health issues.

Sport Keighley

Sport Keighley is a network of non-constituted partners from local communities, statutory, voluntary, and private agencies.

The network was set up in order to promote physical activity in the Keighley area and a Physical Activity Action Plan has been drawn up. Keighley will be one of the first areas in the Bradford District to get a generic Sports Development Worker, and will be one of the first areas in the country to get a Community Coach. Positive Futures has benefited from membership of this group.

Case Study

We are particularly proud of the achievements of one of our young women. A 17 year old girl came into the project area from another part of England.

Despite a very troubled background and a number of difficulties that she was experiencing in her personal life, this young woman showed great potential in gymnastics, gaining four recognised, national awards. We were working towards this young woman taking a gymnastics coaching course but unfortunately she has returned to her previous address. Communication has taken place between our staff and staff where she is now living, to see if she can continue with a similar course locally.

Key Figures

From January 2003 to December 2003:

Referrals..... 208

Average number of young people who have participated per month..... 40

Total contacts.....2083
 Successful contacts.....1835
 (88% successful attendance)

Number of young people engaged in the project.....126

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