



Making a Positive Contribution



Creating Opportunities for Young People

## Foreword

I am delighted to see so many positive stories about the lives of young people across Bradford. The people of this District should be proud of their courage, determination and positive attitude. It is good news for all of us that they have such ambitions and hopes for the future.

I congratulate all the young people featured in this booklet, as well as the many others being worked with by the very dedicated and professional staff at the Young People's Support Unit.



## Kath Tunstall

Strategic Director of Children's Services for the City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council



## Acknowledgements

Thanks to all the young people who gave permission to be featured in this booklet. They are representative of the many others who are also, with the help and support of the Young People's Support Unit (YPSU), working hard to achieve positive things in their lives. We are also grateful to the staff themselves, particularly those whose helped put this booklet together. There was a lot of escorting and transporting done, usually in very cold weather!

## Introduction

In January 2004 the Young People's Support Unit was created as an 'umbrella organisation' bringing together a number of different youth Projects/Teams with the common aim of tackling social exclusion of young people.

A single referral form was devised so that relevant agencies/individuals could refer young people to the Unit without having to differentiate between the range of projects i.e. a 'One-Stop-Shop'.

Between them the Projects cover the age range of 8-19 years and though some have specific geographical boundaries, others cover the whole of the Bradford District.

Staff from the different organisations, with a variety of funding streams, have been working in partnership to create opportunities for young people to help meet the 'Every Child Matters' targets of:

**Staying Safe**  
**Being Healthy**  
**Achieve Economic Well-Being**

and, above all, to:

**Enjoy and Achieve and Make a Positive Contribution**

The following stories feature just some of the many young people who have benefitted from the support from staff from the Young People's Support Unit.

**Colin Barker**

YOT Prevention Manager

**Paul Bose**

Youth Service Inclusion Team Leader

Paul



## Paul

Paul has been involved with the Trident project in Bradford and taken part in lots of activities and group work.

Faye, one of YPSU's Play and Learning Zone (PALZ) Co-ordinators, has known Paul for a while. "He's really great with the younger ones. I've seen him when we've been on trips and he watches out for them."

Paul enjoys getting involved and helping out. He's also attending school regularly and making good progress with his work.

And when you're older? "I'm definitely going to be a youth worker. I know a lot of stuff other kids should know about - it'll help them stay out of trouble."

If Paul continues to work hard at school and display the same levels of commitment and energy then he'll make it happen.

*"I know a lot of stuff that other kids should know about - it'll help them stay out of trouble."*



Milly

## Milly

Milly always turns up. She never lets people down. Her willingness to get involved and help other people makes her very popular amongst her friends and the staff who work with her.

School hasn't always been easy for her but the confidence and support that's come from her participation in YPSU projects and activities is beginning to show real results for her.

Milly is working hard at school and making real progress.

Her mum is also very proud of what she's achieved. "Milly's really made an effort and is 100% happier because of it. The help she's had has been great but it's actually down to her."

Milly enjoys helping the younger ones in the projects she's involved in. "I just seem to get on with them - I don't know why, I just do, it's fun."

What about the future? "I'm not sure what I want to do but I know it'll be working with children."

*"I'm not sure what I want to be but I know it'll be working with children."*

Elizabeth



## Elizabeth

Elizabeth has dealt with a lot of difficult situations in her life having lived in a children's home since she was 14 but, despite those challenges, she's now a bubbly, confident young woman with lots of plans and ambitions, and energy!

"I've been round the UK, got involved with the Bradford and Keighley Youth Parliament, the Duke of Edinburgh awards, Ju Jitsu, you name it!"

Tracy from Bradford Youth Service's Positive Activities for Young People (PAYP) Project said, "She's totally reliable and gives 100% all the time. She gets on with

everyone and isn't afraid to have a go."

And what will she be doing when she's older? "I'm doing Health and Social Care at Craven College now, really enjoying it. I want to be a Social Worker. I think I'd be good at that."

Elizabeth has had a lot of opportunities through the YPSU. She's grateful for that and says, "You don't get anywhere if you're not given a chance." That's true but Elizabeth is a striking example of another truth: you have to make the most of the chances you are given. She's definitely doing that.

*"You don't get anywhere if you're not given a chance."*

Danny



## Danny

"I used to be proper shy." Sitting in the Central Library cafe, listening to Danny talk about his life and ambitions, you wouldn't think so. "I never used to go out or do stuff at all."

He got involved with the YPSU and gradually built his confidence through activities, trips and just being with other young people. Danny was outstanding on a visit to London where he took the lead by map reading as his group navigated the city on a project.

"Things are great now. I've got a lot of mates and my

mum says the house isn't big enough!"

He's recently started on a full-time Brickwork and Construction course at Bradford College

What about spare time? "I do a lot of walking. I like walking, going places I haven't been before."

Danny has plans. "When I'm 25 I'm going to have my own business and be doing well." He's a determined, thoughtful young man - you'd back him to make it happen.

*"When I'm 25 I'm going to have my own business and be doing well."*

PHOTOGRAPHY

come to Bradford's Nation



Kimberley



## Kimberley

It was cold, gloomy and early in the morning. The wind cut across the front of the National Media Museum but Kimberley never stopped smiling.

She's a very positive character and full of enthusiasm for everything she gets involved in.

Amanda, Kimberley's worker from Positive Futures said, "Kimberley was brilliant on the Virtual Babies Project. I don't know how she managed to stay so calm. It was so realistic but she handled it all really well."

Kimberley achieved formal accreditation on the project and an ASDAN Residential Award.

"I really enjoyed it and I think I learned a lot. I'm not having a family 'til I'm much older."

She has a very clear idea of what she wants to do. "I'm going to be a midwife. It'll be hard work but I know I can do it. I want to help young mothers."

*"I'm going to be a midwife. I know I can do it."*

Joe

TOP STORIES



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Yeung talk

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Carson Yeung  
investment  
regarding a  
takeover.

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**BBC NEWS** 14:47

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## Joe

"I've been naughty." Joe's got a cheeky smile as he says it, "but I don't do that anymore."

John, his former worker, said, "Joe was a real problem. You name it, he'd been in trouble for it! He was definitely heading for custody - probably sooner rather than later."

He explained, "I spent a lot of time with Joe. We did a lot of stuff. What was your favourite?" Joe thought for a moment. "Dunno. Fishing? Just doing something a bit different."

John, who at the time was working with the Anti-Social Behaviour team, said, "A big part of Joe's problem was the company he was keeping. He was very young."

Joe agreed, "I don't hang out with them anymore and I don't cause trouble now. I can do other things, which is better."

Joe has now been out of trouble for a quite a while. He's also got a good attendance record at school. He's working hard to keep it that way.

*"I don't cause trouble now. I can do other things, which is better."*

Lorrell



## Lorrell

"I love dancing and performing. I've been involved in a lot of projects and I just enjoy being part of it."

"She's being very modest!", Amanda added. "She's also very good!"

Lorrell has been part of the Positive Futures dance project for three years and already achieved ASDAN accreditation for her work. She really works hard at rehearsals and throws herself into the performances. Loads of energy and enthusiasm and a lot of talent.

"I can break down complicated dance routines and movements into little parts. It helps me remember them."

She's performed at the Showcase events at the Alhambra. "That was great. I was very nervous but as soon as it starts you just concentrate on the dance."

Lorrell is applying for a place on a performing arts course in Leeds next year. That'll be a big step for her but she's very positive about her ability to succeed.

*"I've been involved in a lot of projects and I just enjoy being part of it."*



Billy

## Billy

Billy lives in a children's home. He got into a bit of trouble, which is how Mehnaz, his worker from YPSU, came in contact with him.

"He's really grown up in the last year and put all that behind him. I think he's developing the strength and confidence to make up his own mind about what he does."

"I'm not going to mess up my own life by just following others."

Billy's got an excellent attendance record at school and is working hard.

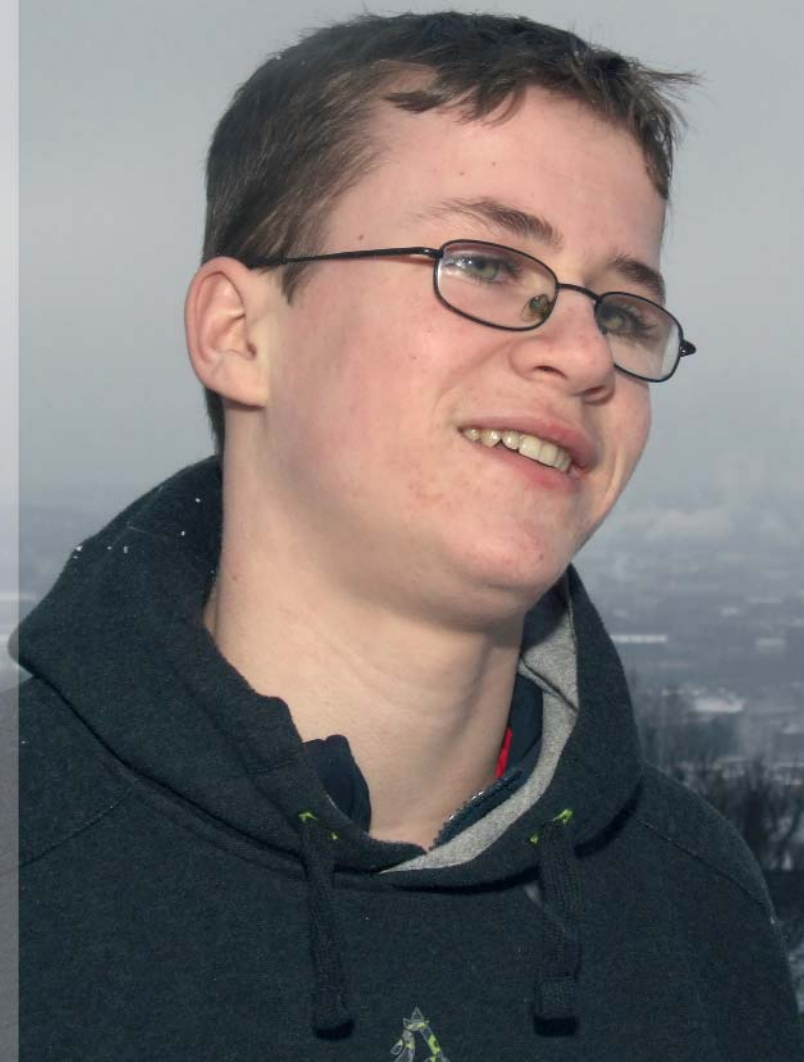
"I'm good at Maths and English and P.E. I like football and boxing."

The location for the photograph was Billy's idea and he had a clear picture of how he wanted it to look. That's a measure of his confidence.

He's also got a clear idea of what he wants to do in the future. "I want to prove a lot of people wrong. Whatever I do I'm going to be a success."

*"I want to prove a lot of people wrong. Whatever I do I'm going to be a success."*

Thomas



## Thomas

It was freezing. The photo-shoot was in Undercliffe, overlooking the city. Snow, a cold icy wind, the lot. But Thomas was up for it and was patient and cheerful throughout. Sammie, the Youth Inclusion Programme (YIP) manager, said, "That's typical of Thomas. He's prepared to get stuck in and have a go."

Thomas has certainly done that. It would be quicker to list the things he hasn't been involved in but whatever he's tried he's learnt from and contributed to. From the Bradford and Keighley Youth Parliament to a trip to France, he's

really made the effort, participated and grown up as a result. "I wouldn't have done all these things if I hadn't been involved with the YIP. It's been a great experience."

Sammie said, "He's got lots of opinions and isn't afraid to let us know what they are! But he's prepared to listen as well."

Thomas has plans for the future. "I'd like to join the Police, maybe as a Police Community Support Officer to begin with. I know I'll have to do better at school but I'm prepared to put the effort in."

*"I wouldn't have done all these things if I hadn't been involved with the YIP."*

Shereena



## Shereena

Shereena has been taking part in Youth Inclusion Programme (YIP) activities for almost three years.

“I don’t know what I’d have been doing if it wasn’t for the YIP. Just hanging around, maybe?”

She’s had a go at just about everything on offer - trips abroad, rock climbing, arts and much more. Sammie said, Shereena’s a really popular person in all the groups she’s been involved in. She’s friendly and gets on with everyone.”

“I feel a lot more confident. I’m happier and believe in

myself a lot more.” She added, “I liked the dancing. I was in the Girls Empower group at the Alhambra. That was great.”

She’s not exactly sure what she wants to do but she’s doing well at school and knows that’s important to give her choices in life.

“I might become an electrical engineer. Why not? It’s something I’m interested in and I’ve got relatives who do it.”

Her confidence means anything’s possible.

*“I feel a lot more confident. I’m happier and believe in myself a lot more.”*



Thanks to all our partners:



Bradford Youth Service, West Yorkshire Police, Bradford Council Sports and Recreation Department, YMCA, Bradford Youth Development Partnership (BYDP), On Track, Joint Activities Service (JAS)

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