

# Report of the Strategic Director of Environment and Sport to the meeting of the Bradford East Area Committee to be held on 16 June 2016

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### Subject:

Youth Service – East Area

### Summary statement:

This report gives an update on work undertaken by the Youth Service in the East Area from April 2015 – March 2016. It also gives details of the budget for the Youth Service in 2016 / 2017.

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**Portfolio:**  
**Neighbourhoods and Community Safety**

**Overview & Scrutiny Area:**  
**Children's Services**



## **1. SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This report gives an update on work undertaken by the Youth Service in the Bradford East Area from April 2015 – March 2016. It also gives details of the budget for the Youth Service in 2016 / 2017.

## **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 On 6 July 2014 the Youth Service was transferred from Children's Services to Neighbourhood and Customer Services and is managed through the Area Co-ordinator's Offices.
- 2.2 Area Committees received reports at their July meeting in 2015 giving an update on the work undertaken by the Youth Service in the Bradford East Area from July 2014 – March 2015.

## **3. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS**

- 3.1 The work carried out by the Youth Service is designed to meet the following commitments:
- maintain an appropriate level of open access provision across the Area;
  - deliver clear and agreed targeted work with young people aged 13-19;
  - provide informal learning opportunities that support improving educational attainment and the continued reduction of the number of young people Not in Education, Employment and Training (NEET);
  - maintain support to vulnerable young people through the 'early help' offer and support for young people on the edge of care;
  - the development of a clear District-wide 'offer' for young people, based on a breadth of opportunities open to young people provided by the Council and voluntary and community sector youth provision and the wider leisure, cultural and arts based opportunities;
  - the involvement of young people in the future development and delivery of the 'Youth Offer';
  - a focused approach to increasing volunteering that builds capacity to deliver youth services.

### **Planning**

- 3.2 The Youth Service currently plans on a quarterly basis which allows young people, communities, partner services and elected members to feed into the process to capture emerging needs and issues.
- 3.3 The Service also captures the voice of young people as they identify what they see as priorities for their neighbourhood and this is fed into the annual ward planning process.

### **Staffing**



3.4 Each Area has a staffing compliment of one Advanced Practitioner managing all the Youth Work staff, delivering some youth work and co-ordinating delivery; one full time staff member graded at JNC 20 – 23 delivering youth work and ensuring effective support is in place for vulnerable and NEET young people; five full time staff graded at JNC 16-19 delivering the bulk of the face to face professional work and 144 hours of part time staffing.

#### **Tier 1 NEET contract**

3.5 NEET young people are those aged 16–18 years who are Not in Education Employment or Training. Tier 1 refers to young people with the highest level of need that require intensive support. They are the most vulnerable young people.

3.6 Local authorities have a duty to “encourage, enable and assist the effective participation of those persons [up to 19 or 25 with learning difficulties] in education or training.”

3.7 Although no longer a national service, in Bradford we have retained the brand name ‘Connexions’. Prospects Services Ltd deliver the District-wide service, which is to provide a service to all those young people in EET (schools, FE), plus non intensive NEETs (Tier 2 & 3).

3.8 The Youth Service has the contract to deliver a service to those who are NEET, and assessed as requiring intensive support (Tier 1) to overcome barriers to move into EET. They do this by:

- providing a named Personal Advisor for an agreed T1 NEET caseload;
- supporting via high priority groups; long term NEETs and the most vulnerable groups, i.e. young people on the Youth Offending Team caseload care leavers, pregnant/young mums;
- working closely with other organisations, encouraging a seamless approach within the Connexions service;
- tracking young people and developing relationships with them to breakdown barriers to EET;
- assessing need, action planning and reviewing;
- signposting - referring young people to EET destinations.

3.9 All the NEET services, including that provided by the Youth Service for Tier 1 young people, have made significant improvements over the past year in bringing the overall NEET rate for Bradford District down to its lowest ever at 3.5%, with the average for England standing at 4.2% and that of West Yorkshire at 4.7%. Bradford's performance is the 5th most improved nationally, and the lowest rate in West Yorkshire.

3.10 A key factor in the improved figures is the strong partnership working between the Council, Connexions (which is run by Prospects), education and training providers, and the voluntary sector. This partnership approach led to the success of initiatives such as ‘NEET-free Keighley’, where organisations worked together to share



information on joint projects to reduce the numbers of NEET young people in hot-spot areas of the town.

3.11 A number of other factors, involving the Youth Service, have been important in reducing the figures. Among them are:

- very focused support and tracking of the school leaver cohort;
- better results for the vulnerable school leaver group (one NEET child looked after when the activity survey was measured);
- better tracking of out of area young people via the out of area schools and closer working with other local authorities to share information;
- the work done specifically in Keighley around 'NEET-free Keighley' which took about 60 young people off NEET;
- emphasising the changes made to the age at which young people can leave education and training (Raising the Participation Age – RPA);
- door-knocking every week round hot spot areas to contact young people.

## **Budgets**

3.12 As part of the budget decisions taken by the Council for the financial years 2016-18, the Youth Service budget needs to find savings of £550,000 over the two years. The savings will be made in the following ways:

- removing the Senior Youth Worker posts due to their additional responsibilities to that of a Youth Worker no longer being required (i.e. Tier 1 NEET and buildings co-ordination);
- reducing the number of professionally qualified Youth Workers;
- reducing the number of part-time Youth Workers;
- reconfiguring of the Youth Information Service as a district wide support service including the introduction of an App based solution;
- removal of the District-wide Duke of Edinburgh post;
- removal of the District-wide Volunteering Co-ordinator post;
- removal of the two dedicated finance support posts;
- reducing the activities and Youth Opportunities Fund (YOF) budget from £35,000 per area to £10,000 per area;
- removal of funding for Youth Service mini-buses.

3.13 A further £200,000 will also be taken out of the budget following the removal of the Tier 1 NEET responsibility from the Youth Service when the new NEET contract begins in September 2016.

3.14 Appendix A sets out the budget for the Youth Service by Area for 2016-17. The majority of these resources are for full and part time staff in each Area.

3.15 Following the Council's budget decisions each Area has a reduced allocation of £10,000 to cover funding for Area-wide activities, including school holiday activities, and any grants that the Area Committee wish to make under the Youth Opportunities Fund (YOF). The recommendation is to not allocate any funding to the YOF and allocate the full £10,000 towards activities.



- 3.16 An amount of £10,000 is being held centrally to fund work with young people which is District-wide, for example work with LGBT young people, Duke of Edinburgh's Award and Voice and Influence work. A further report detailing the various aspects of this District-wide work will be presented to Area Committees in June each year.
- 3.17 The total amount of funding available to support Youth Service buildings in 2016 / 2017 is £132,000. The allocation of this across the Areas is linked to the costs associated with running each building.
- 3.18 The two Information Shops are currently managed by the Advanced Practitioners in Keighley (Keighley Town Hall staff) and Bradford West (Culture Fusion staff). There is also currently a dedicated post to ensure a comprehensive approach to volunteering is in place across the District and this post is managed through the Advanced Practitioner in Shipley.
- 3.19 During 2015 - 2016 a dedicated District-wide Duke of Edinburgh post has been in place to ensure young people are offered positive accredited experiences and this post is managed by Bradford South's Advanced Practitioner. The Advanced Practitioner in Bradford East takes a lead role for the District around Young People's Voice and Influence work.

### **Commissioning Role**

- 3.20 A proportion of the Youth Service budget is held centrally to fund the Commissioner (Youth Provision) post and to implement the review of Youth Services available to young people from the breadth of providers. The Commissioner has significant involvement and a clear relationship with the delivery of youth work within the Area structures and, whilst being a part of Children's Services, has a role in supporting and assisting Area-based delivery in neighbourhoods.
- 3.21 The Commissioner has also led on a number of District-wide initiatives and activities including the transfer of Youth Service buildings to community groups, the Youth Offer Working Group and some key 'Youth Voice' events, e.g. consultation on the Council's Budget, consultation for the Children's Trust Board and the visit of the Children's Commissioner for England to Bradford in March 2016.

### **Youth Service Buildings Review**

- 3.22 At its meeting held on 10 March 2015 the Council Executive considered a report from the Commissioner (Youth Provision) detailing the findings of the Youth Service Buildings Review.
- 3.23 In accordance with the Executive's resolutions the following properties have been retained by the Council for the Youth Service to manage and fund, with further investigation being undertaken to explore income generation and increased community use:
- Shipley Youth Café in Shipley Constituency
  - TFD Centre in Bradford South Constituency
  - The Pod in Bradford South Constituency



- Parkwood Centre in the Keighley Constituency
- Canterbury Youth Centre in Bradford East Constituency
- Ravenscliffe Youth Centre in Bradford East Constituency
- Laisterdyke Youth Centre in Bradford East Constituency
- Toller Youth Café in Bradford West Constituency

3.24 Furthermore, the following properties have been transferred to community management under a Community Asset Transfer process:

- Denholme Youth Café in Shipley Constituency
- Scholemoor Centre in Bradford South Constituency
- Silsden Youth Centre in Keighley Constituency
- Haworth Youth Centre in Keighley Constituency
- The Eco Pod in Bradford East Constituency
- The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Centre in Bradford East Constituency

Talks for progression towards community management are at an advanced stage in relation to the Buttershaw Youth Centre in Bradford South Constituency.

3.25 In addition, with regard to the Bingley Youth Project, further exploration has been undertaken to provide a more joined up approach to services in the Bingley area with increased working with the local voluntary and community sector organisations. This has resulted in the VCS and Youth Service working together from the Bingley Youth Café premises and as there has been no interest in asset transfer of the Bingley Youth Project this has been vacated and the Council's Estates team are making arrangements for disposal.

3.26 Also, with regard to Highcroft Youth Centre, promotion of the building space and development of a user group has enabled and increased use of the premises. This has not yet developed to an extent whereby it is completely self sustaining, but indications are that this should be able to be realised within this financial year.

3.27 Finally, extensions or amendments have been negotiated on the existing lease arrangements for:

- Addingham Youth Centre and
- Ilkley Youth Centre

### **Youth Offer Review**

3.28 In June 2015 the Youth Offer Working Group was formed following the independent Youth Offer Review and reports and recommendations were taken to the Council's Executive in March 2015. The aim of the Youth Offer Working Group is to bring people together from across the youth sector to explore the review findings, and develop closer working arrangements in order to enable recommendations from these reports to become reality. The Youth Offer Working Group has representatives from the voluntary sector, the Council, the Police, community and faith sectors and feeds into the Core Strategic Group of the Young Lives Bradford Network and Bradford Council's Active Citizenship New Deal Partnership.



- 3.29 In March 2016 the Youth Offer Working Group produced its report 'Delivering a New Youth Offer for Bradford District' which outlines the summary of discussions in relation to what are considered to be key elements of the Bradford Youth Offer, what this looks like now and where the opportunities are to make changes. It has used the findings of the review to formulate the recommendations in light of a changing environment in which youth work operates and the pressures on public sector funding.
- 3.30 A copy of the report 'Delivering a New Youth Offer for Bradford District' is included in the report 'District wide Youth Service provision 2015-16' which is being submitted to Area Committees in June 2016. It is intended to support the Council's budget considerations in relation to youth work and its future in the District. It recognises the need to do things differently and to increase the sharing of expertise and resources across the whole youth sector.

### Current Performance

- 3.31 The Table below shows the Youth Service membership and participant figures for the 13–19 age groups as recorded at 31 March 2016. The figures exclude young people below or above this age group worked with and do not include young people who access the Information Shops or Youth Service provision on an anonymous and confidential basis. In terms of the percentage of 13–19 year olds worked with by the Youth Service, the service target, set by Children's Services, is 25%.

	<b>13 - 19 Total</b>	<b>Total Members as at 31/03/2016</b>		<b>Total Participants as at 31/03/2016</b>		<b>13 - 19 SEND Total</b>	<b>Members with SEND as at 31/03/2016</b>	
East: Bolton and Undercliffe	1595	776	48.7%	584	75.3%	30	11	36.7%
East: Bowling and Barkerend	2305	502	21.8%	302	60.2%	46	20	43.5%
East: Bradford Moor	2406	432	18.0%	281	65.0%	46	20	43.5%
East: Eccleshill	1602	887	55.4%	650	73.3%	37	19	51.4%
East: Idle and Thackley	1002	519	51.8%	345	66.5%	16	7	43.8%
East: Little Horton	2300	688	29.9%	406	59.0%	42	18	42.9%
<b>East</b>	<b>11210</b>	<b>3804</b>	<b>33.9%</b>	<b>2568</b>	<b>67.5%</b>	<b>217</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>43.8%</b>

- 3.32 The East Youth Service Team has supported 41 young people with disabilities and additional needs into youth work provision across the constituency.
- 3.33 The East Youth Service Team has supported 122 young people to achieve Accredited Outcomes (formally captured by a nationally recognised form of certification) ranging from; Mayor's Award, Duke of Edinburgh Award, Community Sports Leadership, First Aid, and Food and Hygiene awards.
- 3.33 The East Youth Service Team has worked with 74 vulnerable Tier 1 NEET young people spread across the team with all young people being worked with receiving a formal assessment or action plan.
- 3.34 The East Youth Service Team has worked closely with other agencies as part of a strategy to support a significant number of young people who are vulnerable and those who are involved in anti-social behaviour-see - appendix B.



- 3.35 The Team has been supporting young people to take on volunteering and active roles within East provision. Currently, there are in excess of 20 young people who are actively volunteering and developing their own projects across the constituency - see appendix C.
- 3.36 The Team has pro-actively responded to new and emerging needs within the East Area communities and in particular developed new provision to address the needs of Eastern European young people. These young people are being worked with on a weekly basis at a youth centre base, in schools and after school provision - see appendix D.
- 3.37 Young people in Bradford East have benefited from a number of successful funding bids to support the development of provision, for example Awards for All, POCA and YOF. Just over £27,000 has been secured to provide services. In addition, the Youth Work Team is working in partnership with other agencies and schools to further develop provision for young people across the constituency.
- 3.38 East Youth Service Team actively engaged in the voter registration of young people ensuring that they understand the importance of their vote and that they are registered to vote. To date the team has registered 1,505 young people to vote.
- 3.39 East Youth Work Team carried out a number of district wide initiatives under their connecting communities' banner. Young people participated in a number of curriculum based events/activities such as a youth voice focussed residential, an alcohol awareness mocktail event, and equality and diversity sessions - see appendix E.
- 3.40 East Youth Work Team has developed work with schools and partners to ensure vulnerable young people are supported to succeed in their transition into adulthood. Projects include Boys in Woods, supporting ensuring European Union young boys to remain education, Power Girls work with young girls at risk of low level CSE, Time to Talk, a one to one space for young people to share and get support for personal troubles, and the recent launch of the Phoenix Youth Group, a group for young people indentifying as transgender or questioning their gender identity - see appendix F.
- 3.41 Young people in East have actively engaged in the People Can initiative. Over 1200 young people took part in the budget consultation and used the opportunity to raise ideas about how they could contribute towards making their communities a better place for all to live. Young people have engaged in a range of People Can initiatives across the wards including, community clean-ups, intergenerational programmes and community activity days.

#### **4. FINANCIAL & RESOURCE APPRAISAL**

##### **4.1 Financial**

As part of the budget decisions taken by the Council for the financial years 2016-18 the Youth Service budget needs to find savings of £750,000 over the two years (see





paras. 3.12 – 3.13 above for details of how these savings will be implemented). A breakdown of the 5 Area budgets and central costs for 2016-17 are contained in Appendix A.

4.2 Specific budget proposals for 2017-18 are still being worked on and, as they will include staff reductions, will be subject to consultation with the Trade Unions and the staff affected.

4.3 Staffing

The Area Co-ordinator has responsibility for directing the staffing and resources of the Youth Service in line with the decisions of the Area Committee, local communities and young people.

**5. RISK MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE ISSUES**

The implementation of the budget savings for the Youth Service is subject to the internal risk management plan of the Council and progress is reported to the Environment & Sport Departmental Management Team on a monthly basis.

**6. LEGAL APPRAISAL**

The Council has a responsibility to co-ordinate and offer support for the health and well being of young people set down in statutory guidance issued in 2012. The duty is to secure equality of access for all young people to the positive, preventative and early help they need to improve their well-being. This includes youth work and other services and activities that:

- connect young people with communities so they contribute to society including through volunteering and ensure they have a voice in decisions affecting them;
- offer young people opportunities in safe environments so they develop a sense of belonging, socialise safely with their peers, enjoy social mixing, experience time with older people and develop relationships with adults they trust;
- support the personal and social development of young people to build capabilities needed for learning, work and the transition to adulthood;
- improve young people's physical and mental health and emotional well-being;
- help those at risk of dropping out of learning or not achieving their full potential to engage and attain in education or training and
- raise young people's aspirations, build resilience and inform their decisions – particularly to address risky behaviours.

**7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

**7.1 EQUALITY & DIVERSITY**

The Youth Service, as part of the Council's commitment to the District, has a responsibility to ensure that the Service is accessible to all young people and that participation in the Service reflects this approach.

**7.2 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS**

The Youth Service delivery enables local initiatives to be supported, encouraging groups and individuals to undertake activities that improve the social, economic and environmental well being of their communities.



### **7.3 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IMPACTS**

Greenhouse gas emissions and wider environmental impacts was a consideration of the Buildings Review.

### **7.4 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

A number of youth projects are either directly or indirectly concerned with improving community safety within local communities. The increased involvement of young people in local decision-making has the potential to improve community safety. The Youth Service plays a key role in ensuring that young people's voices are heard. The strengthened approach to the devolution of the Youth Service will allow for:

- an increased sense of local democracy for both young people and communities;
- young people to be more active in democratic, decision-making processes alongside their political representatives;
- the voice and influence of young people to remain central, meaningful and paramount in identifying and addressing needs and issues in their communities and
- the requirements of the localism/devolution agenda to be met effectively and efficiently.

### **7.5 HUMAN RIGHTS ACT**

There are no direct Human Rights implications arising from the recommendations below.

### **7.6 TRADE UNION**

The specific budget proposals for 2017-18 will include staff reductions and will therefore be subject to consultation with the Trade Unions.

### **7.7 WARD IMPLICATIONS**

Youth Service projects and activities support young people and communities within all the Wards in the Area.

## **8. NOT FOR PUBLICATION DOCUMENTS**

None.

## **9. OPTIONS**

9.1 That the Bradford East Area Committee adopts the recommendations outlined in this report.

9.2 That the Bradford East Area Committee adopts the recommendations outlined in this report, with amendments.

9.3 That the Bradford East Area Committee decides not to accept the recommendations outlined in this report

## **10. RECOMMENDATIONS**

10.1 That the work undertaken by the Youth Service in the Bradford East Area, as detailed in this report, be noted.



- 10.2 That the Bradford East Area Committee notes that the deployment of current Youth Service budgets, as set out in this report, meets local need.
- 10.3 That the Bradford East Area Committee allocates the amount of £10,000 towards area-wide activities programmes engaging closely with young people and Ward Councillors.
- 10.4 That the East Area Co-ordinator submits a report on the work of the Youth Service to the Bradford East Area Committee on an annual basis.

## **11. APPENDICES**

- 11.1 Appendix A: Youth Service Budget 2016 / 2017
- 11.2 Appendix B: Partnership work to address anti-social behaviour.
- 11.3 Appendix C: Volunteering
- 11.4 Appendix D: Work with Eastern European young men
- 11.5 Appendix E: Connecting communities programme
- 11.6 Appendix F: Supporting vulnerable young people

## **12. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

- 12.1 Youth Service Report, Document 'E', Bradford East Area Committee, 22 July 2015.
- 12.2 Youth Service – Bradford East Area, Document 'F', Bradford East Area Committee, 22 July 2015.



## Appendix A

### Youth Service budget 2016-17

	East	South	West	Shipley	Keighley	Area-based budget Total		Central budget	Youth Service budget Total
<b>Full time staffing</b>									
1 x Commissioner								£53,000	£53,000
Finance posts								£53,700	£53,700
Pension Cost								£12,100	£12,100
5 x Advanced Practitioners	£44,096	£44,096	£44,096	£44,096	£44,096	<b>£220,480</b>			£220,478
5 X Senior Youth Workers	£37,542	£37,542	£37,542	£37,542	£37,542	<b>£187,710</b>			£187,710
2 X Senior Youth Workers- Info Shop & Kly Connexions			£37,542		£37,542	<b>£75,084</b>			£75,084
28 X Youth Workers (inc 1 info shop)	£167,563	£201,075	£201,075	£201,075	£167,563	<b>£938,351</b>			£938,351
2.92 x Information officers - Info Shop & Kly Connexions			£47,776		£21,977	<b>£69,753</b>			£69,753
<b>Part time staffing</b>									
32 x 24hrs per week	£91,082	£106,262	£91,082	£106,262	£91,082	<b>£485,770</b>			£485,770
<b>Buildings</b>									
Constituency Building	£10,000	£27,000	£52,000	£29,000	£14,000	<b>£132,000</b>			£132,000
Rent in each Constituency	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000	<b>£50,000</b>			£50,000
<b>Administration</b>									
Mileage claims, DBS, Licences etc	£6,000	£6,000	£6,000	£6,000	£6,000	<b>£30,000</b>			£30,000
<b>Activities and YOF</b>	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000	<b>£50,000</b>			£50,000
<b>District-wide support</b>								£10,000	£10,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>£376,283</b>	<b>£441,975</b>	<b>£537,113</b>	<b>£443,975</b>	<b>£439,802</b>	<b>£2,239,148</b>		<b>£128,800</b>	<b>£2,367,946</b>



## Appendix B

### Partnership work to address anti-social behaviour (ASB) – Eccleshill Ward 2016

In the last 6-9 months the levels of incidents and reports of anti-social behaviour have dramatically increased in the 5 Lane Ends area with groups of up to 50-60 young people congregating. This led to local businesses at 5 Lane Ends, Police, Youth Service, and Ward Officers meeting in March 2016 to look at a co-ordinated approach to addressing the situation.

It was agreed that the best way forward was a detached youth work approach. Youth Workers carried out two nights of detached work per week on different nights dependent on what was happening in the area. Young people reported that they were bored, had nowhere to go and nothing to do, and some complained of the recent closure of the Greenwood Centre. Five Lane Ends has become a central meeting place for young people, bus routes from local neighbourhoods lead straight into the vicinity and McDonald's has the free-wifi. Whilst on detached there were no issues with young people, they just wanted a place to meet friends, hangout and chat.

There are regular meetings and conversations with the Police, local business, and Ward Officers to keep each other informed. Referrals have come from the ASB meetings and Youth Workers have successfully made contact with the young people.

Ward Officers successfully accessed funding which has allowed weekly youth work sessions to take place. Church on the Way which is close to Five Lane Ends has agreed to allow Youth Workers to use the building. The sessions will start late June and will run for 6 weeks.

The Police continue to pass on details of young people who have been issued with yellow warnings for anti-social behaviour. These young people will be targeted to engage in the youth work session where a programme based on their needs will be delivered. The work will be delivered within an ethos of empowerment. They will be heard, they will be encouraged to raise and resolve issues they feel strongly about and they will have the opportunity to organise and engage in community activity so that that they begin to feel like valued members of society.



## **Appendix C Volunteering**

Volunteering has been built into the heart of youth work delivery within Bradford East. There is an active recruitment programme to recruit and train volunteers not only to work in youth service provision, but also to support voluntary sector youth organisations. Volunteers undertake a minimum of two days training. They are offered support and after a year's volunteering they are given the opportunity to engage in a training pathway which leads to being a part time qualified youth worker. Volunteer opportunities are bespoke to the needs of the individual with some people volunteering on a regular weekly basis while others volunteer as and when they are available, matching the needs of the service.

Currently we have regular volunteers at Springfield, Greenway, Ravenscliffe, and Laisterdyke. We are encouraging young volunteers to run their own initiatives. Laisterdyke young volunteers have undergone a 12 week programme and have planned and run a number of one-off sessions for their peers. In August they will pilot a junior youth club at the Laisterdyke Centre with a view to running a regular junior session for 8 to 12 year olds. As there is a short fall with the numbers of African Caribbean young people volunteering, a group of young people have been recruited and are currently undergoing training to organise a community event in the summer.

To date three cohorts have been trained and are volunteering. The next training cohort will take place late June and 8 people have signed up to participate. They have been recruited to support the Springfield Summer School and the Gateway Summer Play Scheme.



## Appendix D

### Work with Eastern European young men

#### BOYZ IN THE WOOD

The Boyz in the Wood project came about through building relationships with young Slovakian and Hungarian lads who attended the Greenway Youth Club in an evening and came to trust us and talk about their lives.

They were concerned about school and we realised their attendance was very poor. We contacted their school, Hanson Academy, and met to talk about possibilities. The School shared our concerns, and they funded us to run a 12 week group for one day a week in the summer term. The aim was to engage the lads through forest school activities to improve their skills in team work, communication, conflict resolution, ability to express themselves, relating to others and healthy relationships. We partnered with Woodland Adventures Yorkshire to deliver the sessions.

The group became very popular, with 8 enthusiastic members, who also organised a half term swimming trip for their friends. They enjoyed the outdoor setting, which was culturally familiar to them, which enabled them to relax and focus on working together and interpersonal skills. Our youth work flexibility enabled us to include a lad from another school, and one who was NEET.

The group provided the lads with a fixed focus every week, which previously some had lacked. Their relationships with peers and adults became calmer and more reflective, and they gained confidence and new skills. 4 have since gone on to ESOL at Bradford College, one is working and 3 remain at school. 3 of the lads have become young volunteers, and they have set up a group to do activities, and are hoping to set up a session for young EU people in East Bowling.



## Appendix E Connecting Communities

The diverse communities of Bradford East and the challenges diversity brings is mirrored within the youth provision settings. In recognition of wider world issues which encourage prejudice and fear the youth work team planned a connecting communities programme. Connecting communities is a range of events / sessions and activities which are curriculum-based. The concept was to bring young people from across the constituency together, build friendships, celebrate difference, play together, and be active members of society.

Below are the connecting communities events which have run to date.

Date	Event
August 2015	67 young people attended a 3 day self esteem residential
September 2015	52 young people attended a Manchester United football match
October 2015	Black History month workshops delivered in units, followed by 30 young people visiting the Slavery Museum in Liverpool.
November 2015	Alcohol awareness week – over 120 young people attended a mocktail party they planned and organised.
December 2015	Ravenscliffe young people hosted an Eid party.
February 2015	Young people from 3 wards participated in volunteer training.
March 2016	49 young people attended a 3 day residential focused on youth voice.
April 2016	Lazer quest knockout.
June 2016	Area wide 5 a side football competition.





## **Appendix F**

### **Supporting vulnerable young people**

#### **POWER GIRLS**

This group started with 5 vulnerable young women from my caseload. They all lacked self-confidence and the opportunity to work with others in a group setting. The group focus was adventurous activities which would help the girls gain confidence without focussing on their issues and problems. Young women from Pakistani, Bosnian, and Romanian origin were involved, helping them to overcome preconceptions around each other's cultures. Alongside workers, they organised sessions of climbing, kayaking, ropes course, cycling, boxercise and woodcraft and also organised a trip for their younger brothers and sisters to Butterfly World in Leeds. The young women supported each other, and used breaks in the activities to discuss their lives and dilemmas, and to build relationships with staff which have endured. The group changed when 4 of them reengaged with education, and one returned to Romania. Two young women wanted to continue and volunteer to find new members. We contacted local schools, and Hanson Academy were interested in involving girls from years 9 and 10 who lacked self esteem and were vulnerable to being bullied. There has always been 10 members in the group from a variety of backgrounds – Polish, Pakistani, and English, maintaining the cohesion dynamic. Initially it was planned for 12 weeks, then 7 of the girls wished it to continue, and the school referred 3 new members. Now it will run one afternoon a week through the summer term. The girls say it is the highlight of their week; somewhere they can support each other and be themselves without fear of what others will say and do. They say it has helped them be more confident at school, share coping techniques, and to feel better about themselves. They organised a residential to Malham and are aiming to fundraise for a camping trip. The girls have started accessing other youth work opportunities, such as the east wide residential, youth club activities, and some of the group have volunteered to help set up a pilot girls night at Womens Zone.

#### **Time to talk**

A partnership has been drawn up with Hanson School and the youth work team to support young people going through difficult times. School staff refer pupils to the youth worker who attends for 3 hours per week to work with



pupils on a one to one basis. Issues raised have ranged from bullying, eating problems, gender identity, sexuality and safe guarding concerns.

### **Phoenix Youth Group**

Having seen a marked increase of young people identifying as transgender at the Sound Youth Group an action plan to bridge the gap was put in place. The aim was to set up a youth group for transgender young people or those questioning their gender identity. All full time youth workers attended a transgender awareness course. A partnership was developed with the Equity Centre. Free use of the building was agreed and that the transgender development worker would support the youth work sessions. In December 2015 the first session took place. Twenty three young people have attended the group. These young people have come by word of mouth. The group use the session to support each other. Doctors from the Portman Clinic in Leeds have attended the group to talk to young people about the services on offer at the clinic. Youth workers are working in schools to support students and school staff. At the end of June Youth Workers will train school staff at St. Josephs College. The Phoenix Group will organise a national conference for young people identifying as transgender next year.

