
NEATH PORT TALBOT YOUTH SERVICE

Anytown Youth Summer Scheme Application & Evaluation Report

Application for and report of a project carried out between Monday 5th and Sunday 18th August, providing challenging, high quality diversionary activities for young people aged 11-19 yr.

- An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure -

Application: Anytown Youth Summer Scheme

Anytown Youth Initiatives

Previous local studies have identified Anytown as an area where some young people abuse alcohol and other substances and have limited access to facilities (Streetwise reconnaissance report, 1999). Anti-social and nuisance behaviour by some young people has also been a source of concern to residents and public bodies in recent years. Residents have worked voluntarily with young people for example on boxing classes and the local community Police officers have been proactive in consulting young people and instigating projects. Voluntary sector provision has taken place with the Guiding Hand Association operating a Motorvation project.

Additionally, funding has been used to pump prime projects tackling social exclusion and disaffection. A secondary objective has been to provide an element of sustainability for the existing youth provision.

Involving Young People

Young people are keen to have a say on issues that matter to them. Around 25 young people have attended Communities First meetings. Young people have also attended the local youth providers' forum to have their say on the current youth club, and have also taken part in a discussion on proposed initiatives including:

- A skate park
- A Multi Use Games Area (MUGA)
- A bigger youth centre, open more evenings and for longer periods

The skate park and MUGA are on their way, however, securing a larger and more comprehensive youth centre has been more problematic.

Crime & Disorder Strategic Objectives

This programme of work contributes to meeting the objectives of the crime and disorder strategy. The project will work with young people from Anytown offering leisure-based activities and skills for personal development.

The programme will provide a mixture of leisure-based activities and personal development opportunities including a programme of first aid and careers options.

The programme will contribute to the following objectives of the Neath Port Talbot Crime and Disorder Strategy:

- Delivering youth elements of the NPT community plan and the Education Strategic Plan

-
- Build on links with other agencies to co-ordinate and promote diversionary activities for young people
 - Delivering a flexible, relevant programme of work, offering informal, educational, recreational and leisure activities
 - Developing positive citizenship programmes for young people

In addition to furthering the second aim of the strategy, this programme of work will contribute to achieving the target of:

- Increasing the number and range of youth related activities and educational opportunities for young people, particularly those at risk of offending.

The table below contains details of the programme:

Day	AM	PM	Evening
1	Registration (YDT)	Induction / H&S (YDT)	Ice Skating
2		Climbing Wall (Bedlinog)	Drop-in (YDT)
3		Heartstart Wales	Blue Light Disco
4		Heart Start Wales (YDT)	Boarding (Porth)
5		Drop-In & Tee Shirt Art	No Fit State Circus
6			
7			
8	St Fagans (Cardiff)	Millennium Stadium / Museum (Cardiff)	Karting (Porthcawl)
9	Fun Day (Afan Lido)		Drop-in (YDT)
10	Careers Day (YDT)	Careers Day (YDT)	
11	Camping (Afan Argoed)		
12	Camping (Afan Argoed)		
13	BREAK		
14		Beach Party & BBQ	

Outcomes of the Programme

Evaluation would be an integral part of the programme and would allow young people a say on important issues for them. It is hoped that a diversionary programme of this nature would reduce the opportunity for youth offending, youth annoyance and anti-social behaviour associated by large groups of young people 'hanging around the streets' with nothing to do for weeks at a time.

Linked Initiatives

The community has benefited from a recent anti-drugs campaign attended by 30 young people where the WGCADA young people's worker gave a talk on the dangers of alcohol and other substances. This was followed by a series of workshops including creative writing and E-Jay electronic music studio workshops. The roadshow was finished off with a disco. Anytown had been identified as the second highest priority area within the County Borough.

The project takes place every other Sunday and provides a forum for issue-based work, team building activities and a girls only space. The project has worked with 12 girls and young women and to date has addressed issues of:

- Stereotyping
- Peer Pressure
- Alcohol & Drug Abuse
- Sexual Health

The project has also recently been successful in attracting funding to run a communication skills and self-defence programme for girls and young women throughout the Upper Swansea and Amman Valley area.

RADS

This is a Relationship Advice and Drop-in Service for young people aged 13-19 yr, targeting those aged under 16 yr. A partnership between Health Promotion, Bro Morganwg and Neath Port Talbot Youth Service, this initiative runs once a week and provides:

- A confidential service offering information and guidance on relationships, sexual issues and health and lifestyle issues including alcohol and substance misuse. The initiative also refers on to other services.

Anytown Youth Club

The youth club runs in the basement annexe of the Anytown Development Trust. There are currently 74 registered members of youth club. On average, around 30

young people attend the youth club per night. The age range of members varies from 11-17 yr.

A number of members of youth club volunteer information about being suspended from School for behaviour ranging from dyeing their hair pink to verbally abusing staff and smoking tobacco to physically attacking other pupils.

The youth club offers a variety of traditional activities although is unable to house a pool table or table tennis. The youth club runs in one room, which causes significant problems with matters of privacy and confidentiality. The room is a multi-use space which is used for yoga and other adult education classes. This has caused problems when setting out tables, putting away equipment and being unable to display the usual array of posters and young people friendly publicity material. By no means do the majority of the members exhibit anti-social behaviour. The following shows the achievement of some youth club members.

- ***Senior Member Training:*** 1 member completed successfully
- ***Youth Council:*** members are interested in taking part in Youth Council
- ***Communities First:*** 15 young people have taken part in CF meetings

Anti-Social Behaviour

A small number of youth club members regularly exhibit extremely challenging behaviour. This is demonstrated both in youth club and on the streets. This anti-social behaviour has been getting progressively worse over the last month. The youth club staff are concerned about the 'atmosphere' at club and also when young people (not all of who are members) are hanging around outside.

The youth service has been liaising with the local community constable (Problem Oriented Policing Squad) in an attempt to stop an escalation in this behaviour.

The latest incident has involved young people breaking into a disused building. This also resulted in a great deal of mess along the entranceway to the youth club and directly in front of the door. An unsuccessful attempt was then made to set this alight.

Subsequent action has involved the community constable visiting youth club to speak to the young people about the risks associated with anti-social behaviour.

Target Group

The programme will target 30 young people at risk of committing crime and provide diversionary activities. The programme will be open access to all young people between 11-25 yr. It is hoped the programme will provide lifeskills and other informal education opportunities in a fun environment. There will be an

employment element to the programme where Action Team for Jobs will work with some of the group on employability and CV writing.

Financial Breakdown

Cost Area	Costs (£)
<i>Salaries (incl. employment costs)</i>	2,500
<i>Beneficiary Costs</i>	2,200
<i>Rental</i>	500
<i>Petty Cash</i>	500
<i>Total</i>	5700

Evaluation Report: Anytown Youth Summer Scheme

Foreword

The project was a challenge from start to finish. Many individuals and groups have been involved in making the project a success.

I would like to thank the Crime and Disorder Strategy Group for agreeing to fund the project at short notice. This can't have been an easy decision to make but I hope the report will show that it was a wise one.

I would like to thank the part time staff involved in the project who worked long and hard to make sure the project ran smoothly in sometimes-difficult circumstances.

I would like to thank Anytown Development Trust for their support, patience and photocopying facilities without which the project would have been impossible.

I would like to thank Anytown Community Centre committee for allowing us to use their car park for meeting the many groups of young people away from any busy roads.

I would like to thank Andrew Vaughan and Daniel Jones of the Ambulance Trust for their kind help and expert first aid tuition.

I would like to thank Action Team for Jobs for their contribution to the programme, which I hope, will result in young people at least improving their employability.

Many organisations provided activities for young people during the programme including Afan Argoed Country Park, The Museum of Welsh Life, Nofit State Circus, Hobo Backpackers, and the National Climbing Centre.

Ken Hopkins Coaches helped us out at short notice. I am sure that the young people who benefited from the extra places provided were more than grateful.

I would like to thank full time colleagues from the youth service who donated their time free of charge in support of the programme.

I would also like to thank the young people who made the project such a unique experience. They entered into the spirit of the project and ensured that the project was a real success.

Anytown

The Locality

Background

Anytown is a community of 920 households situated within the Valley. A population reduction of 6% over the previous 10 years has resulted in a current population of 2495. Anytown is ranked 8th within the County Borough in terms of deprivation and 47th of the 865 wards in Wales. There are 398 children of school age, 60% of the population speak Welsh and 37% of homes have no access to a car. Of significant concern also is the fact that Anytown ranks 34th poorest in terms of health indicators of the 865 wards in Wales. In terms of employment the ward is ranked 29th poorest of all the Wards in Wales (www.statistics.gov.uk).

Previous local studies have identified Anytown as an area where some young people abuse alcohol and other substances and have limited access to facilities (Streetwise reconnaissance report, 1999). Anti-social and nuisance behaviour by young people has also been a cause for concern to residents and public bodies in recent years. Residents have worked voluntarily with young people for example on boxing classes and the local community Police officers have been proactive in consulting young people and instigating projects.

The lack of a consistent facility in which to run a building based youth centre has proved problematic in recent years. The local Comprehensive School, Ysgol Gyfun Anytown has housed a youth club in the past, as has the Community Centre and most recently the basement Annexe of Anytown Development Trust.

The majority of the centre-based activities were held at the basement of the development trust.

The Need

The community of Anytown is geographically isolated, the village is quite expansive, and some houses almost clinging to the hillsides while other nestle in the valley bottom. Somewhere in the middle of the community lie the shops, café's and post office. It is in this area where young people have congregated in recent years.

Young people hanging around in large numbers has meant that older residents and some young people feel at risk. This has caused significant difficulties in the past. Leisure facilities are limited in the area and it could be argued that this lack of facilities contributes to the boredom and hopelessness felt by some young residents. The problem of limited leisure opportunities is somewhat exacerbated by the comparatively poor public transport links.

This (sometime perceived) lack of places to go and things to do results in significant number of young people hanging around the streets, which in turn causes older residents to become alarmed and in fear of crime.

During the summer months the problem of large numbers of young people hanging around can be made worse by the long school and college holiday period. While children under 11 have access to a traditional 'play scheme', facilities for young people aged 11-19 have traditionally been almost non-existent.

This project will seek to offer a programme of opportunities which will appeal to young people aged 11-19, divert them from causing undue annoyance and seek to impart new skills and knowledge. The project also sought to offer young people at risk of exclusion a route back in to mainstream youth provision in the village.

The Aims

The aims of the programme were threefold:

1. To provide an accessible programme of challenging activities that would appeal to a wide range of young people aged 11-19.
2. To provide informal learning opportunities for young people, where young people would acquire skills and knowledge.
3. To broaden young people's experience of playing, working and learning together with their peers with the support of their youth workers.

The Objectives

The objectives of the programme were:

- To provide new and challenging opportunities for young people
- To enable young people to gain skills in first aid
- To enable young people to gain skills in job seeking and career choices
- To use a mentoring approach to encourage young people to address negative or anti-social behaviour
- To provide a relaxed and fun environment free of bullying and oppressive language and behaviour

The Programme

DAY 1 10.00AM Ice Breakers, Enrolment and Health & Safety

Ground rules were discussed, ice breakers were played and eventually young people were invited to sign-up to take part in the different activities. This session carried on until 2.30pm when we had to organise who was going on tomorrow's activities. This took until 11.00pm and involved inputting all young people's preferences and details into a database (thanks Joanne) and allocating all the activities throughout the two weeks. A letter and list of who was taking part in what was sent out to each parent/ guardian the next morning.

5.00PM Ice Skating

A trip to the Wales National Ice Rink in Cardiff. An opportunity for the group to get to know each other and to meet the rest of the staff who will be working on the project.

48 young people took part. Young people had the opportunity of aerobic exercise and learned basic skills in the techniques of ice skating. A new opportunity for over 50% of the young people who had not taken part in ice skating before.

Young people said:

- ✓ It was wicked, cool. Richard age 15
- ✓ I had an excellent time today when we went ice skating, I was a bit scared at first but you did help me, so thank you and I hope all the trips will be like this one. Thank you. Catherine age 12
- ✓ It was good but cold. Gavin age 15.
- ✓ I had lots of fun. Thanks for the staff for taking us and the council. Chris age 17.
- ✓ I thought today was very fun at the ice rink, but I fell over once Zuleika age 18.
- ✓ Today was excellent, Ice skating was hard, but I had good determination and kept trying Gareth age 18.

DAY 2 10.00AM National Climbing Centre, Bedlinog

An opportunity to climb on a 25metre wall. 23 young people took part in this visit. Young people worked together with a resulting increase in self-confidence and motivation. All young people supported each other to conquer the different walls. Increased coordination and technical skills

were acquired. Also served to empower the young people who may not have achieved highly in the past.

In particular, two young people showed outstanding potential and their achievements were noted by the centre staff. Sam aged 14 has been invited back to the centre to take part in a regional climbing competition in September. Kieron aged 17 was presented with a pair of climbing shoes to keep practising climbing. The service will respond by working with young people to set up a climbing club and apply to the local community chest committee. Kieron has also been referred into future suitable training available through the service such as the single pitch award. He is interested in a career in outdoor education.

Young people said:

- ✓ Even though I was afraid of heights it was brilliant. Anon
- ✓ Awesome, hope we go again. Richard age 15
- ✓ Wicked day out, cheers, Keiron age 12
- ✓ It was really fun, I learned something too. Chris age 15
- ✓ I thought today was a good experience, interesting and fun. Anon.
- ✓ I enjoyed climbing, it was very educational. Nick age 12
- ✓ It was awesome! But it was too high for me to climb but I think it was still cool, Mathew age 12 (Mathew was petrified of heights)
- ✓ It was very good today, and I might go to the finals, please. Sam age 13

DAY 3 2.00PM HEARTSTART WALES

40 young people took part in this interesting 2-hour workshop. They learned skills in resuscitation, how to cope in an emergency, how to recognise signs of difficulty and basic CPR.

A lot of the young people gained a lot from this learning activity and have registered their interest in beginning a St John's Ambulance cadets group in the community.

Young people said:

- ✓ It was OK, I learned a lot that could help in a bad situation. Yasmin age 12
- ✓ It was OK, keeps people off the roads and stops them getting into trouble. Lee age 15.
- ✓ I think the YDT is cool, the community is very helpful for everything they are doing for us kids and thank the staff members, Katherine, Amanda, Darrel and Brian. Chris age 17
- ✓ It was good but embarrassing. Genna age 17
- ✓ I thought it was interesting and it can help in the future. Sam 15.

DAY 3 6.30PM Blue Light Disco, Pontardawe.

30 young people took part in this trip and had the opportunity to socialise and build friendships in a relaxed and safe environment.

Young people said:

- ✓ I really enjoyed. Zuleika age 18
- ✓ It was awesome. Shereen age 14
- ✓ I had a really good time. Sam age 15
- ✓ Fantastic, I had a laugh and I'd go again. Kayleigh age 15
- ✓ I thought today was OK but there wasn't many people and drinks were expensive but the music was brilliant. Emma age 15.

DAY 4. 1.30PM Drop-In and Tee Shirt Art

39 young people took part in this session. The session gave young people a chance to express themselves through the medium of art by personalising a blank tee shirt with fabric pens. Young people had a real sense of ownership of the shirts, which were proudly worn throughout the programme. A dance competition was held during this session where young people competed against each other using a Playstation console.

Young people said:

- ✓ It was good to have somewhere to go in the afternoon. Gavin age 15
- ✓ It was funny seeing some of the boys dancing. Richard age 15
- ✓ Why was everyone laughing at my dancing? Kimmy age 15
- ✓ My tee shirt looks really cool. Kayleigh age 14

DAY 4 5.30PM NOFIT STATE Circus

14 young people and three youth workers took part in this visit to see the alternative circus in Bute Park, Cardiff. The show covered issues of mortality, aging and prejudice, the lengths people will go to stay young. Topical issues such as cloning we also covered. Young people had the chance to interact with performers and the performance sparked lots of spontaneous discussion. The experience was a completely new one for the group and they found it quite overwhelming.

Young people said:

- ✓ It was fun but spooky. Sam age 14
- ✓ It was brill, I really enjoyed myself, San age 14
- ✓ It was good but a bit of it was scary. But I still liked it, the people had good tricks and that's what made it so good. James age 12.
- ✓ It was good but freaky. Shereen age 14

-
- ✓ At first I thought it was going to be boring, but then it got better. We had a laugh; it was good but scary. Emma age 14

DAY 5 10.00AM BIG MONDAY

Museum of Welsh Life

30 young people took part in big Monday. From pick up time at 10.00am to drop-off at 12.30am the fun went on and on. Young people had the opportunity to visit the museum of Welsh life and take in a horse ride guided tour and a pottery making display. They discussed the millennium house and used ICT to find out how the house had been made. This learning activity increased young people's understanding of environmental issues and sustainability.

Millennium Stadium Tour

Millennium Stadium Tour, the young people loved this, having photographs taken in the dressing room Arsenal had used in the community shield the day before. The opportunity to hold trophies and visit the Royal box all proved a really special experience for all the young people. This activity appealed to some of the more hard to reach young men. The guide made a real effort and complimented the young people's enthusiasm really well. One lucky young person had the honour of 'captaining' the team and leading them out onto the pitch with the noise of the crowd ringing in their ears.

Karting

After a safety briefing the fun began, after 7 heats the final came and brought the whole group together. This opportunity broke down barriers of age and size among the group. Some of the young women took part after affirming all day that they wouldn't get in the karts. This showed that they got over their initial lack of confidence and fear of driving 'in front of the boys'.

Young people said:

- ✓ I enjoyed the millennium Stadium was big! Sam age 15
- ✓ I thought go-karting was fun and St Fagans was interesting Anon
- ✓ Go Karting was the most fun I've ever had in years, thanks. Anon

DAY 6 9.30AM Afan Lido Fun Day

Swimming, A film and Skateboarding

This was a chance to keep the travelling to a minimum and for the young people to take some exercise. The weather was good and young people took the opportunity of using the half pipe just installed on the sea front.

Young people said:

- ✓ It was brilliant. Liam age 14
- ✓ It was really really fun. **Corry**
- ✓ It was very good. I liked the swimming and the skatepark but some others hogged a ramp with their bikes. Anon.

DAY 7 11.30AM Action Team for Jobs, Drop-In & Oakwood After Dark

Action Team for Jobs

This session covered the basics of what's needed to get a job and how to begin to put together a C.V. This session was attended by around 48 young people.

Oakwood After Dark

One minibus and a coach went to Oakwood. More than 60 young people had the opportunity to take part thanks to the support of the youth service paying for the coach. A top quality day out.

DAY 8 10.00am Camping, Afan Argoed Country Park

15 young people took the plunge and went Camping. The programme was a busy one. After a briefing by the Senior Youth Development Officer and the Mountain Bike Instructor the young people were split into groups.

One group went mountain biking and the other was given a catering budget and put together a shopping list for their stay. When the list was completed the group were taken to the local supermarket and completed a shop for the whole group. This was an invaluable exercise in numeracy, handling money and discussion/ agreement and teamwork.

The second group were provided with mountain bikes and went through a rigorous safety check with their own machine. This enabled them to pick up skills of bike maintenance and increased their appreciation of proper riding technique and health and safety while riding off road, including the need to look out for each other and to wait for each other and follow instructions.

This activity also provided an opportunity to discuss young people's fears of stranger danger and issues of personal safety while growing up today.

Young people said:

- ✓ The mountain biking was wicked. I was really proud of myself working up to riding the single track on the 9 feet trail. Theresa age 19.
- ✓ I really enjoyed the muddy trail; it was worth riding up all the hills for. Craig age 13.
- ✓ The biking was hard but the others kept me going. Daniel age 13.
- ✓ It was great having our own money and getting value for money in the supermarket. Sam, Kayleigh and Emma, Shereen and Sam.

Day 9 5.00PM Monday Beach Party

The idea of the beach party was to round off the programme in a relaxed and informal manner. 48 young people took part in this event. The age range was wide, from 11-19 years. The five staff were vigilant and forward planning avoided any undue mishaps. Burgers and chicken portions were pre-cooked and barbecued on the beach. Beach games were enjoyed and young people's behaviour was first rate.

Young people said:

- ✓ I thought today was good but it would have been better if we were at a part of the beach where we could change and the water was cleaner. Ceri age 13
- ✓ Today was a lot of fun and I liked the barbecue. Zuleika age 18
- ✓ It was OK but people was chucking sand at me. Kaylie age 14
- ✓ I thought today was great. I would like to go again if we could. Sam age 15.

Overall Evaluation

Young people said:

- ✓ I thought the scheme has been brilliant and I really enjoyed. I can't wait until you do it next year. Cath age 14.
- ✓ I thought the two weeks were excellent and would like to thank all the staff for everything. Chris age 17.
- ✓ I wasn't here for the first week but I really enjoyed and think we should go again. Richard age 14
- ✓ Good 2 weeks. I really liked the ice-skating and on the beach party the grub was good too. Thanks youth workers. Anon
- ✓ The two weeks were very enjoyable and made the summer break more interesting because everyone had something to do and look forward to. Thanks. Anon

Conclusion

The community appreciated the activities during the Summer Scheme. The programme proved a real win-win experience for the whole community.

- ✓ The staff benefited from working with the young people in such a focused and concentrated way,
- ✓ The community benefited directly by the young people having planned, structured activities to take part in and look forward to,
- ✓ The Youth Service benefited from an increase in skills and knowledge of staff,
- ✓ The Young people benefited doubly, from having appealing activities to take part in and from having learning opportunities to take part in such as first aid and job search skills.

Some reports say that each youth crime costs some £18,000, if this scheme has stopped one young person committing a crime then it has been real value for money.

There were no real incidents throughout the whole programme; young people had access to a broad, balanced and varied programme of activities.

The programme gave young people the opportunity to take part at a pace and at a level that suited them. I would like to mention three young people in particular for the effort and hard work they put in, Martin, Theresa and Verity helped and supported the staff time and again.

The project was a challenge from start to finish. Many individuals and groups have been involved in making the project a success.

Once again I would like to thank Crime and Disorder Strategy Group for agreeing to fund the project at short notice. Without this support the project could not have gone ahead. I would also like to thank all the other individuals and groups who helped and supported the project.

I would like to thank the 76 young people who took part in the project for their enthusiasm. This enthusiasm is a two-way process and it's what keeps me motivated as a youth worker.

Staff – the staff were superb, Kathryn, for her 110% commitment to the programme and the young people, to Karen, in at the deep end, to Chris, for turning up after working shifts at his day job, and all the staff from the Youth Service support which enabled the project to get off to a cracking start.