

# OLDHAM YOUTH SERVICE

## TERMLY REPORT COVERING



ROYTON YOUTH CENTRE

## APRIL- JUNE 2008

NAME	SUSAN PALFREY
POSITION	SENIOR ASSISTANT YOUTH WORKER

# CONTENTS

Annual programme targets.....	2
Linking work to curriculum .....	2
Thanks to the partners worked with over the term .....	2
Examples of good practice .....	3
Coming up.....	7
Accumulative Involvement with Young People aged 13 –19.....	8

## ANNUAL PROGRAMME TARGETS

	Minimum Target	Actual to date
Residential	1	
Interclub Visit	2	
Social Events	4	
Sport/Physical Challenge	4	2
Open Day	1	
Workshop discussion	4	7
International work	1	
Creative Arts	6	5
Performing Arts	6	1
Trips	4	3
Triangulation Events	4	1

## LINKING WORK TO THE CURRICULUM

Key curriculum area	No of pieces of work undertaken this term
Personal and social skills, increasing aspirations	5
Empowerment, democracy and decision making	3
Equality and diversity	7
New opportunities and challenging experiences	6
Healthy lifestyles	12

Thanks to Partners worked with over the term

- Brook Advisors
- West Penine Health Authority
- GMP
- Royton and Crompton School
- Area Action Team

## EXAMPLES OF GOOD PRACTICE

The young people of the youth centre have recently been involved with updating the images that are on display, but instead of choosing posters from catalogues they decided to produce their own, choosing the subjects and words that they wanted. By using Publisher and Clip Art they have produced some excellent pieces of work which look like they have been printed professionally. The young people who have been involved are very keen to show off their work to their friends and peers which encouraged others to get involved. The work that they have produced is accredited through the AQA unit short award scheme.

We have tasked some of our longstanding members with the responsibility of looking after our newer members and introducing them fully to the centre; this has been especially successful with one of our members who has additional learning needs and had previously had little chance to socialise with her peer group other than at school.

As a staff team we continue to deliver the planned programme and are versatile in our approach so that the needs of the members and that of the centre can be met. The young people have been involved in several of our art workshops and have produced an array of work that is displayed in the centre. The most recent pieces of art are to decorate the centre for the forthcoming summer party and a banner for the Dragon boat race. Unfortunately the banner was coloured in with water soluble paint and so when it rained (as is traditional) the banner did not finish in the same way it started although it had become quite a realistic water scene!!

We continue to bake with the members whose culinary skills are improving, although we still have to work on getting them to clean up after themselves!! We are also looking at low fat options since the waistlines of the workers have expanded, now that the young people have stopped burning things.

As previously mentioned we have a planned programme that we work to, but in addition to this we add other activities into the session, to adapt to any issue that as a team, we identify to enable a young person to develop skills, raise awareness or look for solutions to any difficulties that they may be facing.

**Education:**

We continue to use the AQA short unit award scheme to offer the young people the opportunity to gain extra qualifications, by participating in the activities that they enjoy. Through the programme of activities that we deliver we are able to improve the life skills of those we work with: cooking, budgeting, communication and group skills, to name a few. This informal style of education is well received and even more so when accompanied by an accreditation.

We have successfully completed another ACE project for Royton and Crompton School. The individual issues of the young people were identified and the programme was adapted accordingly.

**Community Cohesion:**

The members of Royton Youth Centre support Borough wide events to enable young people to mix from different backgrounds and cultures; this has given the young people a greater awareness of their peers' lives and is working to break down preconceived ideas and barriers.

As a staff team we have been working with the neighbours of the centre to improve the relationships between the young people and the residents. Through consultation and working with GMP many of the identified issues have been improved and the work that is done at the centre and by the staff team has been recognised for its good work.

Royton Youth Centre members are part of a Community Cohesion Cluster Group and so take part in activities with young people from other centres and groups from around the Borough, these activities are well received and offer our members the opportunities to make new friends with young people that they would possibly never mix with.

**Equality:**

As a staff team we are consistent in our commitment to equality and ensure that oppressive behaviours and language is challenged appropriately. A wide range of activities are on offer and are planned so that they can be adapted to the individual needs of our young people. We have two members at present that need extra support whilst at the centre. As previously mentioned we utilise other members to do this, but we also designate a member of staff to ensure that they engage with their peers positively and offer situations and activities so they can do this 'naturally' i.e. working and cooking in the tuck shop.

**Empowerment/ Participation:**

Through the workshops and activities that we offer, we raise the awareness of our members on many different issues; this means that they are able to make informed decisions for themselves. Many of our longstanding members have now taken more responsible roles within the centre; they introduce and induct new members and they help them to fill in the registration forms and run the tuck shop; we have a new party planners group who are taking their role very seriously and have not only planned the summer party but have started to plan the back to school one in September and their Halloween fancy dress one. Before we begin to plan our programme of activities the young people are consulted through their youth committee meetings, but to ensure that every member gets the chance to have their input, we discuss possible activities individually and in small groups in advance of planning.

**Fun:**

When planning activities our first port of call is our young people; we use the youth committee meetings and smaller discussion groups to find out what activities they would like to be involved in. Once we know this information we ask them to plan how the sessions can be delivered so that we get as many young people getting engaged as possible.

We have an enthusiastic staff team who have many innovative ways to engage young people and who recognise that young people attend the centre in a completely voluntary manner, and if we hope to ensure their attendance we must make the centre THE place to be.

Some of our young people working on the displays for their Summer party



## **COMING UP**

- 1. Body Conscious – this includes several different activities to raise the awareness of different issues regarding the human body ; from organ donation and transplants – disabilities and the affect that this has on the equality of opportunity (Accredited outcome)**
- 2. Summer Beat - a party to celebrate summer, the event will be organised by the current party planners**
- 3. Hot Stuff – these are cooking sessions where the young people will bring in their favourite recipes and will be supported by staff to make them for the other members in the club (Accredited outcome)**
- 4. The Oldham Way Challenge – the young people are going to take part in the forty mile walk (Accredited outcome)**
- 5. Your Soo Cool – these are activities and discussions to raise the self esteem of our young people**
- 6. Getting Plastered – this is an art project ; the young people will make casts of their hands which will them be used for a larger art project whose theme will be cultural diversity**
- 7. Art Youthy style - a graffiti art workshop**
- 8. The Spin Inn – music workshop where young people will be encouraged to produce cd's of their own (accredited)**

# Accumulative Involvement with Young People aged 13 –19

