

OLDHAM YOUTH SERVICE

TERMLY REPORT COVERING



EMPOWERMENT AND PARTICIPATION

JAN – MARCH 08

NAME	JODIE BARBER
POSITION	SENIOR YOUTH WORK MANAGER EMPOWERMENT AND PARTICIPATION

CONTENTS

Annual Programme Targets 3

Linking work to the Curriculum 3

**Thanks to the Partners worked with over the
term: 3**

Coming Up 7

Over to *Our* Young People 8

ANNUAL PROGRAMME TARGETS	Minimum Target	Actual to date
Residential	1	9
Interclub Visit	2	21
Social Events	4	10
Sport/Physical Challenge	4	11
Open Day	1	N/A
Workshop discussion	4	76
International work	1	1
Creative Arts	6	21
Performing Arts	6	17
Trips	4	19
Triangulation Events	4	N/A

LINKING WORK TO THE CURRICULUM

Key curriculum area	No of pieces of work undertaken this term
Personal and social skills, increasing aspirations	59
Empowerment, democracy and decision making	84
Equality and diversity	44
New opportunities and challenging experiences	28
Healthy lifestyles	8

Thanks to the partners worked with over the term:
 11 Million, The office of English Commissioner for Children and Young People, the NW Regional Youth Work Unit, Oldham Young Carers, Our elected members from the Overview and Scrutiny Project Panel, Oldham Children's and Youth Alliance, Extended schools team, Connexions Oldham, Children in Care Forum, Full service schools, Forum For Age, Oldham Race Equality Partnership and Oldham Young Carers.

EXAMPLES OF GOOD PRACTICE

During this term the Youth Council members have attended a fantastic residential trip to London. During this exciting trip the young people met with the office for the English Commissioner for Children and Young people where they learnt about the role of the commissioner and how policies affecting young people in England are dealt with in the office. The trip enabled Oldham Youth Council members to gain a wider understanding of the role of the commissioners and how different political process operate across the UK. The young people really enjoyed the trip and felt London was a great city full of culture and history.

Young people from the Positive Perceptions project went on a cultural and historical fact finding residential to the City of York. The Young people visited York Minster, the city walls, the York Museum and the Jorvick centre, whilst carrying out a photographic treasure hunt.

The Youth Council Planned and delivered a youth consultation event called Shout about Health – @ Hathershaw college. With over 50 young people participating in sharing their views and opinions on Health.

Representatives from the Youth Council participated in a consultation event on the development of a Charter for young people's active involvement.

Youth Council members attended a residential for young people from across the Northwest region to explore the Youth Opportunity Fund. This involved training on equality and diversity issues when considering the promotion and distribution of the funds.

Representatives from the Youth Council attended the UKYP – Northwest Circles of Influence event. The event was aimed at decision makers from across the region and enabled young people to debate issues of relevance such as transport, the environment, things to do etc. Two of the Oldham representatives actually chaired on of the circle debates.

This term we held the Youth Council elections for the 2008 to 2009 term of office. Over 70 candidates put themselves forward and all young people from across Oldham could vote using an innovative on line system. Approximate 1200 votes were cast and 45 new youth councillors were newly elected, and 13 existing members were re-elected

The work throughout this term has demonstrated the following principles of practice.

Empowerment

Most of the work undertaken this term has focused on enabling young people to be actively involved in decision making processes such as the involvement in the Overview and Scrutiny panel, Kerrching decision making panel and the Youth Council meeting as well as the trip to London. Young people have also been empowered to devise and deliver their own events and activities such as the Shout About Health event, Kerrching Review and the Active Involvement Charter day.

Education

All pieces of work we have carried out have focused on developing young people's skills, such as decision making, time management, teamwork, presentation and planning. The work undertaken has enabled young people to develop their confidence and participate in new and challenging experiences whilst increasing their ability to take on roles and responsibilities.

Community Cohesion

Through our work we are able to bring young people together from across the Borough to work together. All our work is aimed at ensuring young people have a positive shared experience and are able to build friendships with young people from differing cultures, backgrounds and communities. The Youth Council meetings and Fuse on Sessions are examples of Community Cohesion work.

Equity

All the work undertaken this term has been underpinned by Equality of Opportunity. In all our work issues of access are always considered and programmes are developed and planned to ensure all young people can access the work we do.

Young People have learnt the Following within this Term's Work.

- Raised awareness of democratic processes
- Raised confidence and self esteem
- Valuing diversity
- Understanding of decision making processes within the local government
- Understanding of decision making processes within the United Kingdom
- Ability to plan and research for funding
- Raised awareness of democracy and decision making
- Group work Skills
- Communicating assertively
- Articulate own views and ideas
- Negotiate effectively
- To show awareness and respect for the needs of others
- Develop problem solving skills
- Awareness and appreciation of history and culture
- Debating skills
- Chairing event skills
- Leadership skills

COMING UP

1. The first Youth Council meeting of this term of office – 16th April
2. Representatives from the Youth Council will attend the Regional UK youth Parliament residential – 16-18th April
3. Members of the Youth Council will be involved in the recruitment and selection of the Executive director of Children, Young People and Families – 23rd April
4. Members of the Youth Council will support and help out on the Talking Sense event that is organised by the Forum 4 Age – 29th April
5. The Youth Council induction and training residential to Conway Centre, North Wales – 3rd - 5th May
6. The Senior Member training course for young people who would like to take on positions of responsibility within the youth work settings – 29th May (runs for 8 Weeks)
7. Kerrching Youth Opportunity Fund short listing – 31st May
8. Youth Council members will be participating in the Youth Alliance fun day, hosting, running a stand and taking part in the Dragon Boat race – 21st June

OVER TO OUR YOUNG PEOPLE



“ I am so pleased that I have been elected onto the Youth Council . I feel really proud and I can't wait to get started' - *Newly elected Youth Council member*

Re: the London Residential

I think the trip was brilliant. The show was excellent and was my favourite part of the trip. I had a great few days. The open top bus tour was really good fun and I learnt that London is a lot busier than I expected. I also learnt that the Government are nasty for not letting us into the houses of Parliament. It was really good fun, thanks,
Frances

I think the trip was good!! It was a great experience to and meeting the commissioner's staff was really helpful in understanding about children, young people and families in England. Seeing the city and Westminster was good. When we spoke to the Peace protester in Parliament Square it was really good to help us understand other people's strong opinions around politics and 'democracy' within our country especially compare to Scotland.
Jacob.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my visit to London I have particularly enjoyed spending time with my friends on the Youth council.
I have been inspired by the beautiful architecture of Westminster abbey and the parliament building.
I was impressed by London's Underground system, which I found to be a reliable method of transport.
Visiting the commissioner's office was really useful and interesting, we found out how legislation comes into place, which affects young people in the country.
Jodie, Bernie, Abdul and Sarah did a really fantastic job organising the event and ensuring every one of us had an enjoyable experience. Thank you I loved the trip,
Grace x