



KDYT YOUNG LEADERS VISIT THE KNIFE ANGEL STATUE

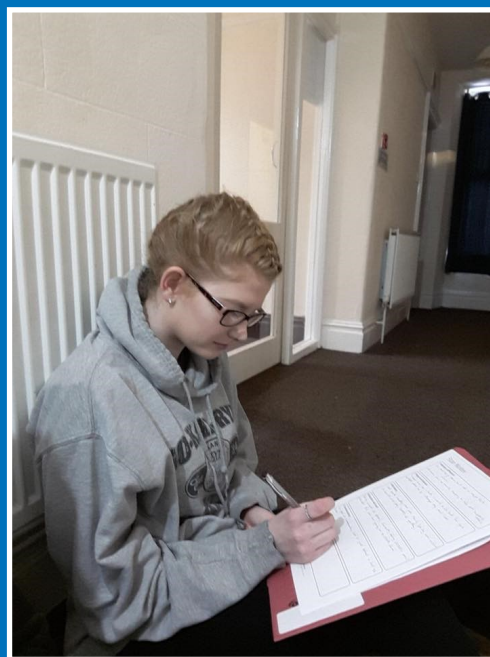
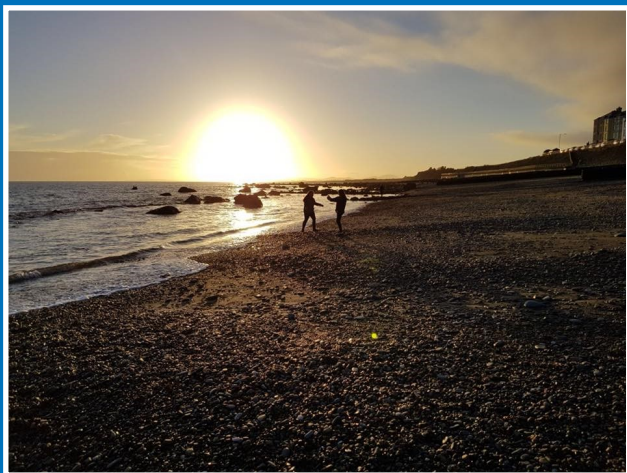


INCREASING RESPONSIBILITY, PROMOTING OPPORTUNITY.

A KIDDERMINSTER & DISTRICT YOUTH TRUST INITIATIVE FUNDED BY JOHN CAMPION, WEST MERCIA POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER.

PROGRAMME REPORT







INTRODUCTION:

Kidderminster & District Youth Trust has been working with young people for over 50 years and engage, encourage and support young people through a range of different methods.

Through our research, youth clubs, 1-1 support, detached and outreach work, and through talking to partners and the wider community, we were made aware of how anti-social behaviour (ASB) affects people and how young people can find themselves drawn into behaving in negative ways.

We started to work with young people to identify the causes and possible solutions to this, we engaged young people involved in, or at risk of being involved in ASB, in local parks and other areas where ASB was taking place. We spoke with partners including the Police, Community Safety Partnership, Local Friends of Parks groups and to victims of ASB.

We were visited by John Campion the West Mercia Police & Crime Commissioner who saw what was happening at KDYT and was impressed by the *"Grass roots Youth Work taking place"*, he also challenged us to think about how we could work to help reduce ASB.

From this, KDYT developed the 'Increasing Responsibility, Promoting Opportunity' programme which was kindly funded by John Campion in 2017/18.

This report provides an overview of the project, how we met our aims, key learning from young people and our plans to carry this work into the future.

We hope you enjoy reading our report and if you would like further information about the work we do, please do not hesitate to get in touch using the contact details on the back of the report.

KEY OUTCOMES:

We feel that the programme has met the original outcomes we outlined in our funding application:

REDUCTION IN ASB IN AREAS TARGETED:

The funding has allowed us to build on our detached and outreach work, engaging over 108 young people during the project, using opportunities such as community events and holiday activities to engage young people in positive activities, whilst also discussing with young people about the impact of their behaviour.

We continue to provide youth clubs which engage over 200 young people each week and our work has helped challenge and reduce incidents where groups of young people are being anti-social without, at times, even realising they are.

CASE STUDY: *A local area was experiencing issues with ASB and asked KDYT to carry out some detached work to engage the young people. KDYT encouraged the young people to come to Kidderminster Youth House and engaged them in discussion about their behaviour and its impact.*

We also asked them about what they felt would help divert them away from behaving as they did. They mentioned that having a Youth Café during the afternoon would be a significant help as it would be somewhere to go to relax and get support if needed, KDYT has since successfully raised over £25,000 towards creating the KDYT Youth Café, which we hope will be open before the summer.

YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE AN INCREASED AWARENESS OF THE IMPACT OF THEIR BEHAVIOUR:

Throughout the programme we have engaged young people in conversations about the impact of anti-social behaviour on the community and individuals. Through our roles as Youth Workers we have enabled young people to reflect and learn about this in a safe environment, where they can be challenged and supported.

CASE STUDY: *During the course of the programme KDYT were made aware of 'baiting videos' appearing on social media, these are videos of young people fighting, usually in a park, surrounded by other young people who encourage them. We spoke with the Safer Neighbourhood Team and closed Youth Club that evening inviting young people to come and talk to us about the videos.*

Three young people who were participants in the programme were amongst the young people surrounding the fight and we were able to have a discussion with them about their behaviour and the impact of it. One young person was very angry and refused to speak with youth workers, but when she arrived the following week she explained that she felt she had let herself down considering how far she had come on the programme and her work as a young leader, she was able to articulate what she had learned from this experience and contextualise it with her learning on the programme.

YOUNG PEOPLE ABLE TO TAKE MORE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEIR BEHAVIOUR AND HAVE INCREASED RESILIENCE TO NEGATIVE INFLUENCES:

The programme enabled young people to identify what their responsibilities might be in their lives, a key cause of anti-social behaviour is young people struggling to take responsibility for their actions, yet when challenged and given the chance to do so, they took it up and reflected well.

During the programme, and through their training, young people were enabled to see how they could gain control of their lives by taking responsibility in difficult circumstances. We then worked with them to help them develop communication skills and also to take safe risks so that they could see the positives of being in charge of what happens and at times being brave in order to create change.

CASE STUDY: *A young person attended a session with a group of friends, they had turned up stoned. We do not allow young people who have been drinking or smoking drugs into the building, but instead of just asking them to leave we engage them.*

We used the opportunity to continue our ASB discussions around drugs and how it felt for communities to witness drug taking, how people funded their drug use and the health implications of using cannabis, following this they left, but one of the group came back to apologise for his behaviour and that of his friends.

He told the team that following the chat with youth workers, he had stopped hanging out with the group and was concentrating on his GCSEs, later we were pleased to hear he had done very well with his GCSEs and is now studying music at College, he made a special visit to thank the team and play some music he had created.

YOUNG PEOPLE ARE DIVERTED TO POSITIVE ACTIVITIES:

A big success of the programme has been the link we have managed to create between the programme and the range of activities we have on offer for young people at KDYT and in Kidderminster Youth House. The link is twofold with young people involved in the programme being able to access activities and those who are taking part in activities being able to benefit from the learning taking place on the programme.

CASE STUDY: *A group of young girls who were causing low level ASB engaged us at a park event, they took part in the activities and discussions and attended the next youth club. It was identified that they would be better at our Fusion Youth Group (for young people with additional needs) and a referral was made to a partner agency for them to attend sessions with them, also based at Kidderminster Youth House, which has been successful. The young peoples behaviour over the past year has improved considerably with one of their parents encouraging their siblings to join our other clubs.*

YOUNG PEOPLE SUPPORTED WITH ADDRESSING PERSONAL ISSUES AND DEVELOPING PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT PLANS:

The young people who took part in the programme continue to be supported in accessing services they may need in their lives. This is a key strength of KDYT and has been for years, we support and involve young people for as long as they need us and this allows us to ensure that programmes such as this are not one off pieces of work, but rather part of the journey young people take with us.

Advice and support has been given to young people on the programme and includes: relationship advice, money advice, healthy eating, education, training, employment issues, family issues and much more.

Whilst not excusing poor behaviour, many of these issues contribute to young people feeling disaffected and subsequently lacking empathy, key triggers for young people getting involved in anti-social behaviour.

CASE STUDY: *A young person who took part in the programme had recently been resettled after being asked to leave the family home. He was being well looked after by a local housing provider which gave him security. Through his work on the programme we supported him to access a training programme and successfully applied for some money for him so he was able to buy a computer to help him with his studies.*

He worked exceptionally well on the residential with the junior members and despite finding some of the activities a challenge he took the lead well and enjoyed it.

He continues to work with the KDYT team to address other issues in his life.

FEEDBACK

"I think my choices are the best for me, I think I am doing a good thing. I am going to cut down on smoking and continue to play sports!"

"As a mum , I think it was very well organised, the kids were well looked after and cared for, so very thrilling for them, it was brilliant, thank you so much."

"I loved the mountain climbing and getting Mike into the cave with the waterfall. It was amazing a once in a lifetime experience."

***"I would say that I keep safe now,
I stay out of trouble and I am
doing a course that will allow me
to get back into college."***

***"It was really good, super fun all
of the people were lovely.
I have learned that you have to be
brave to try things!"***

***"It has helped me to improve my
social skills and helped me to
come to terms with my identity,
plus it is a neat place to hang
out."***

EVALUATION:

The Big Lottery Fund produced 'Good Practice in Reducing Anti-Social Behaviour and Working With Young People who have Offended or are at Risk of Offending', which outlines best practice gained from a range of successful projects funded by them. We are using their guidelines to help evaluate the project:

DIVERSIONARY ACTIVITIES.

Enjoyment is key to success, engaging young people in positive & enjoyable activities in the presence of a positive peer group is an important first step in addressing ASB: The programme identified this as a key outcome from the outset, KDYT has years of experience delivering positive activities to young people and all evidence from this work shows that it has an incredible impact on young people and their lives. The programme was successful in engaging over 108 young people during the year and getting them into positive activities which many of them continue to access.

This has a significant impact on ASB, as young people engaged in positive activities are channelling their energy in positive ways and feel good about this, they are supported in recognising the difference between this and negative behaviours and the long term impact of behaving in an anti-social manner for themselves and others. It also builds resilience, communication skills, team work, confidence and contributes to raised self esteem; all of these key factors in young people making positive decisions.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PERSONAL AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT.

Opportunities for young people to build trust in others and gain self confidence before they progress to more focussed and targeted interventions: The residential weekends were designed to achieve just this, the activities young people chose to do were challenging and many young people were really scared. We supported the young people to support and encourage each other, despite their own feelings, fears and concerns. In doing so the young people managed to overcome their fears, grow self confidence and learn to trust each other.

The impact of this was significant; one young person didn't take part in one of the activities and felt really bad afterwards, some of the Young Leaders supported her and encouraged her and she took part in the next days activities without question. KDYT staff were able to speak to the Young Leaders and help them recognise their achievements in supporting others.

BREAKING THE CYCLE, THE IMPORTANCE OF A POSITIVE SOCIAL NETWORK.

1. Successful interventions involved young people interacting with a different social group: Young people were selected to take part in the programme from different social groups engaged by KDYT, this provided a diverse group of young people who had to work together through group processes and get to know each other. We also encouraged young people to do activities with friends outside their peer groups and with younger youth club members. The result of this was young people learning new ways of communicating, increasing their social interaction skills and thinking outside the box. It also allowed for young people to develop negotiation skills, a good example being the choice of music on journeys. Here young people stepped outside their peer networks to encourage their friends to play a variety of music for everyone on the bus. It might seem a small action but being able to challenge their peers positively is a key element in challenging negative behaviours.

2. Young People formed friendships in addition to just mixing with others: A big success of the project was the network of friends formed by young people who took part in the programme. These were as a direct result of the project and help young people to extend their networks and avoid being drawn into negative behaviours more easily. A really positive outcome from the project is that Junior Youth Club members have older young people, in the KDYT Young Leaders, who they can look up to and talk to. The impact of this has been particularly evident in a young man who used to attend Youth Club and sit quietly in the corner. Since his involvement in the project he has many new friends, increased confidence and gets involved in many more activities.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR ACTIVE INVOLVEMENT.

Being actively involved in the development, delivery, management and evaluation of projects can bring about significant benefits for young people, organisations, communities and society as a whole: KDYT always involves young people in all aspects of the running of the charity and the projects we do. The design of this programme came about through discussions with young people and how we could work with them to deal with the issues of ASB.

The programme enabled us to train a new group of KDYT Young Leaders who are involved in all levels of the Charity, including on the KDYT Management Committee where they have equal voting rights with Trustees on key decisions and supporting Youth Workers in running Youth Clubs, taking part in this way enables young people to develop skills in engaging with adults and working in leadership roles.

ROLE MODELS THAT YOUNG PEOPLE CAN RELATE TO.

Young people very often respond to messages about behaviour change when they come from others who they feel are like them and with whom they share common ground: On the second residential the role of the KDYT Young Leaders was very important, our junior youth club members listened to them and respected them, they had seen many of them in School or in local communities and it was interesting to watch the interaction between them.

The younger members clearly enjoyed being involved in activities with older young people and the young leaders themselves benefitted from the responsibility they had been given. One of the young leaders struggled with the cold of the Gorge Walking activity, but was supported to encourage other young people in the group. Afterwards he felt really pleased that he had done the activity but also because he was able to overcome his own issues and support others.

EARLY INTERVENTION IS IMPORTANT.

Early intervention can steer young people away from criminal behaviour according to Home Office Research Statistics: From the outset of the project KDYT intended to engage those young people who were just beginning or at risk of beginning to get involved in ASB. We do work with young people who are involved in the criminal justice system and support them in a variety of ways, however this project was designed with early intervention at its core.

This produced some really positive outcomes in a relatively short time, one engagement was with young people causing damage to trees in a local park and also experimenting with cannabis, this created a very negative atmosphere for other park users. KDYT spoke with them and encouraged them to reflect on the impact of their behaviour, which they saw as a bit of fun. When they realised that they were actually making people feel scared they considered their behaviour and said they would stop damaging the trees, KDYT offered to work with them on their drug use too.

THE VALUE OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT.

Working in, with and for the community is key to successful interventions with young people who participate in anti-social behaviour or who are at risk of doing so: In the early stages of the programme KDYT visited many community events and liaised with key partners including, the Safer Neighbourhood Police Team, Safer Wyre Forest Partnership, local Schools and the Wyre Forest Local Children's Trust Group. This enabled us to reduce duplication and also ensure that we engaged the right young people for the project.

Our Young Leaders have also been involved in many community events, including the Big Lottery Funded Celebrate Event, which saw the communities of Wyre Forest coming together and celebrating diversity and difference. This allowed young people to gain a deeper understanding of their local community and an increased sense of ownership. It also helps them to see that behaving in a positive way has many rewards and allows them to see that they can move on from behaving negatively.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:

KDYT feel that the Increasing Responsibility, Promoting Opportunity programme has been a real success, we have learned some very interesting information which we have acted on, and all the young people involved in the project have fed back that they have benefitted from it.

The project will leave a lasting impact including:

THE KDYT YOUTH CAFÉ:

Key feedback from young people we engaged through the programme told us that, whilst they value and enjoy youth clubs, they would like more opportunities to have a safe space where they can meet their friends and get advice if needed. They felt strongly that Kidderminster Youth House provides this space, this is backed up by 203 new members joining KDYT in 2017/18, but said they would like to see it changed to a more modern café environment, one where they didn't feel pressured to buy food and drink.

KDYT has worked with young people both on and off the programme and has supported the KDYT Young Leaders trained by the programme to develop this project. Over £25,000 has been raised towards making the KDYT Youth Café a reality. Young people have been actively involved in deciding the look of the café, its opening hours and how it will run.

The KDYT Youth Café will provide a place for young people to engage in positive activities, to get support with challenges in their lives, to have fun, access other services and will be somewhere they can start to plan positively for their future.

KDYT YOUNG LEADERS:

The programme allowed us to spend time and engage young people who were involved in, or at risk of being involved in anti-social behaviour. It also allowed us to run a complete Young Leaders programme which will see all Young Leaders receive an accredited outcome, which will be presented to them later this year.

John Campion, West Mercia Police & Crime Commissioner, challenged us to think innovatively about how to engage young people and divert them away from being involved in ASB. We have shared this challenge with young people and have asked them to reflect on their own behaviour.

Whilst it is not always an easy conversation, it is a necessary one, it is also one we have had with a number of our young leaders and it has produced positive outcomes, which we will continue through peer work into the future.

KIDDERMINSTER & DISTRICT YOUTH TRUST:

The young people we have engaged through the project were very articulate about the impact of the work we do at KDYT. They wanted more opportunities to engage with us and to be able to come to Kidderminster Youth House.

Young people told us that while engaging with KDYT they are less likely to get into trouble, they feel this is due to a number of factors including a safe venue, qualified youth workers and being challenged in a style they can accept and learn from.

KDYT hopes to continue this work and has developed 'Growing Together' our ambitious 5 year plan, backed up by a robust financial plan which looks 12 years into the future, we look forward to the challenge of realising this.





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