

**Youth Leadership**

- We have signed up 34 new volunteers between September and December 2010 working in various community projects in the Sutton and Erdington area, including Fosseway youth club and
- We are supporting 12 young people from Bishop Vesey on their enrichment programme some volunteering at Town Junior School, Vodafone store and Highway Computers.
- We have signed up for two community cohesion projects with the Sutton Central Group one being peer mentoring with Penns Primary School and National Play day event 2011
- 1 volunteer has signed up with Action for Children as a Volunteer administrator
- We took 14 volunteers on a 'Thank You' meal to the Old Speckled Hen pub in Mere Green
- Ian has been contacting YMCA's nationally promoting the Are you aware of Disability campaign, he has had a positive response and we have set up a number of meetings to organise the campaign nationally
- We are currently supporting the Sutton Coldfield Community Games Event in 2012 we are helping to supply volunteers and help risk assess the games/event and organise games & events for children and young people with disabilities
- We have provided a teacher training day trip for Queensbury School. We took the young people to Hatton Country World.
- We have signed up 1 young male Downs syndrome with to volunteer 1 day a week admin support for all staff. Angus will be starting his 3 month period on the 11<sup>th</sup> January 2011
- We have taken 10 young people from Stockland Green School to Modern China as an introduction to a new project. The volunteers will be undertaking play training with Birmingham play Care Network.

**Case Study**

I wanted to move my career in a different direction; I had an interview with Danielle at the YMCA and we applied for a position at Birmingham Nature Centre. Danielle gave me the details of where I needed to go. After an interview at the nature Centre I was offered the position. We agreed that I would volunteer for three days a week for four months. I attended an induction session with Danielle at the YMCA, and was given information about general office procedures.

'My first day was quite chaotic. When I arrived in there was no one to brief me. There was also confusion as to where I was to be based. I felt that the organisation wasn't really expecting me, and my presence was a bit of a nuisance. At the beginning there wasn't any particular structure to my role, and I was asked to help out whoever was the busiest. I felt that the organisation hadn't really taken time to consider what my role would be, or take account of my skills. The tasks that were given to me weren't particularly demanding - I wasn't learning anything new, and I didn't feel that my skills were being used.

Danielle came to visit me on my first week and I explained my thoughts of the placement and how I had been treated. Danielle spoke to the manager and was able to iron out some of the problems. She told me to give it another try and if I still had problems we would look for an alternative placement. I was happy with this as I really wanted to give it a try and give it my best shot.

The situation did improve and I was given specific projects to work on. With hindsight, my expectations were probably too high, and they wasn't prepared for me as a volunteer.

It's important to make volunteers feel they have a place in the organisation, particularly on their first day. I think I have managed to get something out of the experience.

Danielle and I have sorted out a new placement to start in the New year which I am really looking forward to.

Richard Collins - Aged 17

### Disability

- During October Half Term we provided a week's provision for Short breaks, having new contacts and referrals from Queensbury school
- We have designed and delivered a parenting course call Sanctuary for parents. It gives them a chance to chill and relax with other parents.
- Provided teacher training day trips for Queensbury school we took 7 young people to Hatton Country World – something a lot of them have not been able to do before
- We took 11 young people who are performing with the Royal ballet to see the original performance of Cinderella. Gave the young people experience of seeing the volume of people that will be attending and also to see some of their dance teachers performing. A good night was had by all
- Continuing to provide support for parents including helping with benefits, hospital and social work interviews. Over the 3 month period we have worked with 15 parents/carers
- One of our young men with Downs Syndrome has been referred to the youth leadership project. He will now be volunteering at the YMCA 1 day a week for a 3 month period
- One of our young females has been awarded the Rosie Ross award for improvement over the past year. She currently volunteers with KKats and on a 3 day placement with holy trinity pre school
- The young people will be performing this week at the Hippodrome on their version of Cinderella
- Dress rehearsals for our production of Beyond the Rainbow are in full swing and looking at being a sell out
- We have linked our after school provision at Queensbury school with African Dancing with other young people from the school

### **Case study - Young man age 15 yrs high functioning Autism.[B]**

B joined the group 12 months ago. He is unable to except his disability he has tried to excess main stream provision but lacks the social skills and understanding required to mix with his peers resulting in him been bullied which has left him feeling angry and not wanting to join other groups .B was referred to the YMCA via a family support worker after working with the family for a few months B was encouraged to join the disability group ,he found it difficult to except the other disabled young people in the group due to the none acceptance of his Autism B asked to leave the group.After several conversations with mum and B we felt he might enjoy trying another service at the YMCA, a smaller group that were running a computer course.B joined the group and has proceeded to complete a certificated computer course .B has regained some of his confidence and is now receiving counselling to help him come to terms with his disability he is looking at volunteering at the local scout group .

### Streetwise Board Report

- The girls group in Stockland Green with Parveen and Shiree has continued with sessions on relationships, careers, self-esteem and a chill-out video night amongst others.
- Football sessions in Stockland Green with Tom and Parveen have now moved to Saturday afternoons due to lack of light after 4pm on the football pitches. Despite the cold, we are regularly getting over 30 people turn up each week, and some of the older lads have naturally taken on leadership roles within the session (see more in the next point).
- A group of 10-15 of the lads we have met through the football session are now volunteering with Tom at Clifton Road Youth Centre with the Oasis group of autistic young people. Tom is also planning on getting them involved in some music workshops at the centre before this group. This is a great success – many of the lads have been involved in crime and street life, and some are unemployed, so we are hoping to raise aspirations and work with them more and more in the future, to put them through volunteer training and encourage them to become leaders in their own community, not just in the football.
- On Sat 13<sup>th</sup> Nov, 8 volunteers from Stockland Green helped us with a Community Clean up event organised by Bethany Pentecostal Church on South Road. They worked really hard at weeding, litter picking and clearing gardens of bulk items. A further 8 volunteers had already helped with the YMCA tin-shaking at Asda in Minworth on Tues 9<sup>th</sup> Nov.
- We have had two huge successes by our young people in Stockland Green – the first was coming second in a city-wide football tournament run by Goals at Star City, and the second was one team coming first in their age category (second overall) in the BAYC Night Op in Sutton Park. Both trophies are now sat proudly in the Streetwise office!
- We have secured over £3000 to run workshop sessions in Four Oaks during the winter months. We are also in talks with Four Oaks Boys Club, Police and Councillors following a request that Streetwise run some youth group sessions from the club after its refurbishment (to be completed early next year). This will be a great opportunity to extend our work in Four Oaks, not just for Streetwise but for the YMCA in general.
- October half-term saw us run 8 PAYP sessions including trips to West Midlands Safari Park, Go-karting, Big Wok, Drayton Manor, Star City and others. We had just under 100 contacts in this project, and had some great times building relationships with young people on these sessions.
- On Saturday November 6<sup>th</sup>, Streetwise joined many other youth organisations in the area for an end of Youth Work Week exhibition in Sutton Coldfield Town Centre.
- Our fundraising Curry Night, organised by Emma and Ariane, saw 42 people come for a meal at Lime in Wylde Green, raising over £250. A great time was had by all and another is planned for the New Year. Sean's inter-ward football tournament saw over 50 young people come to play football on Withy Hill, raising over £100. Another is planned for February.
- On Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> November, staff from SC YMCA went along to support myself at Redeeming Our Communities at Birmingham NIA, an event that celebrated the good community work that is going on in our city and showcased partnership working between churches, charities, Police and Local Authorities. Approximately 2000 people enjoyed a show of music, dance and drama as well as interviews with many community representatives, and a lot of fun was had.
- Plans for the YMCA Sleep Easy are going well. We have already have 5 Police Officers, 2 Councillors and some Constituency employees say they will be participating, as well as many young people. If you would like to join us or know anyone who would like to sleep in a cardboard box on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> January, please let me know (there is a sleep-inside option if you raise a certain amount of money in sponsorship...) [heidibentley@live.co.uk](mailto:heidibentley@live.co.uk)

Case study:

Minworth, Newhall

We have been engaging in the Minworth area of Newhall since the Streetwise project began, and it has always been a hotspot area due to a real lack of anything for young people to do in the area. Through tasking meetings, we were made aware that many of the young people we engaged with were on ABC orders by the Police, following complaints by residents in the area, and some were threatened with ASBO's. We made it a priority to work with these young people, to try and prevent them getting involved with any further criminal behaviour. A last minute PAYP contract in October allowed us to work intensively with 10 of these young lads over 3 days, with great success. Our relationships with them grew to the point that their behaviour improved significantly, they were more careful about their use of language, they were brilliant in public, showing great manners and gratitude, and we were able to celebrate one boys birthday with him and take him out when nothing else had been organised for him. The lads are now completely receptive to us, and although will still occasionally get up to mischief when bored, we have been able to talk to them about the consequences of this, and the options available to stop them getting bored.

One of the activities with this group was to Teamworks Karting in Digbeth. At the end of the session, we were approached by a Teamworks member of staff who said that most groups who came to the track were rude and ungrateful. I feared that one of our lads had been rude, but he went on to say how "fantastic" they had been, how polite and grateful they were, "all thank-you's and please's", and how the group were welcome back whenever they wanted as it had been his pleasure to work with them. We are so proud of them!

Teamworks sent us the following email:



TEAMWORKS KARTING LTD

Head Office: 202 Fazeley Street, Birmingham B5 5SE

[info@teamworkskarting.com](mailto:info@teamworkskarting.com) [www.teamworkskarting.com](http://www.teamworkskarting.com)

Tel: 0845 180 3020 Fax: 0845 180 3021

Dear Arianne,

I am just writing to congratulate yourself and the team at Sutton Coldfield YMCA for another successful event at Teamworks Karting earlier this month. I hope the group all had a fantastic time!

As always, it is a pleasure to deal with the groups you bring down to the track. The young lads are always very courteous, well behaved and respectful – testament to the work that you guys are all doing in working together.

We look forward to hosting more events for you in the near future.

Kind Regards

**Nicola Osei**  
**TEAMWORKS KARTING**

**Stockland Green**

- Youth Club- Up to 50 contacts a week. Constantly getting new young people attend.
- Currently running two nights a week at Sutton Coldfield YMCA on a Monday and at various locations on a Thursday.
- 15 young people have taken part in a residential to the BAYC studio barn which was self funded by the young people.
- We have just been given a room to use at Stockland Green Leisure centre twice a week starting soon.
- A team from Stockland Green won the 'Night Operation' which is an event run by the council where teams from all over Birmingham have to navigate around Sutton park late at night finding various checkpoints and performing tasks at each checkpoint.
- Young people have taken part in fund raising for the YMCA by tin shaking at Asda minworth; the young people have also taken part in a litter pick in the Stockland Green ward.
- 4 young people are attending trampolining classes at Stockland Green leisure centre before youth club on a Thursday; they are currently working towards a recognised accreditation and are hoping to perform in competitions.
- 2 young people from the Youth Club are continuing to do volunteer work with k-kats and have been doing so for about a year now.
- We now have an excellent relationship with the parents of the young people; they are now trying to raise money themselves by doing raffles etc.
- We will soon be having the youth bus in Stockland Green. We have been given access to the youth bus for free and one of the parents will be driving this for us.

**Case Study**

J has been coming to the YMCA for around 2 years now. When J first started coming he was a shy individual with hardly any friends as he goes to a school outside of the area. Since joining 2 years ago J has really come out of his shell and is a completely different young person to that I met 2 years go. He is an active member of the Youth Group attending almost every session. J has had the opportunity to do lots of things with the YMCA; he has been on lots of trips and taken part in many projects and been on an overseas residential to Portugal. I believe taking part in activities with the YMCA has enabled J to make new friends and grow as a person. J now volunteers on the k-kats project and gives up his Saturday afternoons to help young people with disabilities. J was presented with a record of achievement award off the deputy lord mayor; this made him very proud of himself. J often talks of a career helping young people with disabilities as he really enjoys it.

**Erdington/Fosseway**

- Consistent regular attendances on projects - attendances over this period well over 1000 for all projects.
- Visiting workshops from BPCN to be delivered to a number of young people focused on principles of play
- 1 person joined Fosseway for work placement Social work degree
- Positive activities with over 18 young people over this period with them engaging in various activities including Mountain biking Cannock Chase. Trip to Fair Stour-port on Seven and a favourite for the majority football competition at goals playing other youth clubs
- 5 young people representing Fosseway youth club at question time event held at Sutton Town Hall asking questions relating to crime to a panel
- Ask to submit a proposal to SAFE cluster to work in Edmund Campion with up to 80 young people
- In the process of applying for £3000 crime factor funding looking for good ideas for new and innovative ways to help tackle youth related violent crime, the idea is to deliver locally.
- Trip funded through Youth opportunity fund we visited Drayton manor 32 young people
- Elsa ,(TRAINING)continue to deliver Basic Maths and English twice a week from Fosseway base. now working with 6 young people referred by Ymca NVQopportunities available 16 +

**Stockland Green Technical College / Queensbury special School**

- Young leaders 3 young people working on various projects (play )(k-Kats)(Fosseway)
- Continuation of project in Stockland green until mid January
- Queensbury after school youth club each Thursday over 10 attending each session with regular contact with another six who don't stay for the whole session
- Funding for activities for teacher training days at both locations in October
- Trips Drayton MANOR and Hatton country world.

**Other News**

1. Planning sleep over Fosseway February half term fund raising event.
2. Successful litter pick Erdington Councillors and police in attendance along with many young people and local residents.
3. Light Switch on number young people from Erdington projects joined in celebrations along with Police Councillors and members of public
4. Community art event funding passed this week by local government meeting to be arranged
5. Yong people from fosseway joined forces with K-kats and residents from the SCYMCA for bag packing at Tesco.
6. Been contacted by various organisations for partnership work Aquarius, Home start, Connexions,
7. Recently submitted tender for work in Safe (Erdington) cluster delivering 4 workshops on a weekly basis. awaiting response
8. End of PAYS Funding which ended 31<sup>st</sup> October last programme delivered October half term
9. Partnership with BYMCA ended October 31<sup>st</sup> negotiations ongoing for work to continue

**Case Study**

Wesley a young male of dual heritage aged 13 had engaged on our **PAYP** programme he also attends youth provision twice a week I feel the programme and opportunities offered has benefited him significantly enabling him to build and increase his confidence moving many steps forward with his social interaction and development with staff, volunteers and his peers.

When this young person arrived i observed a reluctance to interact he was very quiet sitting by himself keeping himself occupied for a number of sessions, it was observed that he didn't particularly fit in with the group at that early stage. In my opinion the activities and programme content he engaged in has certainly given him direction and inspiration over the months these opportunities would not have been available to him before hand, a result of his participation on these projects has seen him mature and develop socially which is essential for him to move forward previously he was becoming involved in anti social behaviour and petty crime and was known to local police.

On occasions particularly early on he appeared reluctant to partake and showed little interest in anything, using youth work interventions relationships were developed and built along with support and advice being offered. It was pleasing to see that once he had overcome initial fears and certain barriers he has now become a very powerful person within the youth group not only by participating but also by encouraging others he has achieved this by interacting and communicating with other young people and staff raising his own persona self confidence. Over the months the most beneficial and pleasing activities participated in overall I believe is our football sessions and tournaments, an increase in his confidence and ability has been fantastic initially he would not play and just watch but over time with perseverance from staff and the support from other young people and his own enthusiasm and commitment his hard work and determination is definitely paying off. I can truly envisage this young man being a volunteer in the future he is not quite ready yet i feel and will continue to support him.

**Holiday programme**

- We provided 5 days of inclusive play provision during the October half term holidays.
- 45 children attended/ daily averaging 20 children
- Theme was Leaves, trees and all that Jazz
- Children engaged in risky play building fires, toasting marsh mellow, and den building
- 9 volunteers gave up the time during the half term break to engage with children aged 4-11 on a holiday programme provision.
- NVQ - 3 Students are continuing to work toward completing a qualification and 4 students have just signed up.

**Housing**

- At present we have 36 residents. We now have 5 care leavers living with us. Three of these young people no longer need extra support from social services.
- One of these young people is funded by the 16+ Team and I am waiting conformation regarding funding for the other.
- 8 Language assistants that are working in the local schools /19in either full time or part time employment/ 4 in education /5 not in education or employment.
- 2 of our young people are continuing to work towards gaining an NVQ in play work.
- 1 young person has enrolled on to an NVQ in play work @the YMCA with cracker jack
- We have 8 duty staff.
- 3 of our Y/P volunteer on the holiday programme over the October Half term.

**Fund raising**

- Bag packing @ Tesco New Oscot raised £763.00
- Tin shaking @ Asda Minworth raised £282.20
- Sponsored leaf pick raised £14.00

**Love productions**

ITV have been filming one of our residents ( Bridget) looking at why young people become homeless and the difficulties that young people come across. They are trying to break down the stereotypes that people have around homelessness. Many people when u talk about someone that is homeless thinks about the grubby old man with a bottle of wine or a person on drugs. This is not the case. For two weeks Bridget has been staying at Anica Rices house. ITV will be following Bridget on her road to finding a job and permanent housing. She is getting support to find a job. They have been looking at her past and identifying reasons why she became homeless. It will be shown on ITV in February in prime time TV 9pm.

**Case Study Housing**

I have recently worked with a care leaver who moved in to the YMCA 20.09.10. She was referred to the YMCA by the 16+ team after being taken into care because she was having problems with her mother. Their relationship had broken down and was running away from home, she kept putting herself at risk engaging in risky behaviour through peer pressures. She was placed in a children's home and also with a foster career. However she is struggling in both of these placements for a variety of reasons.

When she came for interview she said that she wanted a new start but couldn't see a way forward. She wanted to draw a line under the past and leave all her old friend behind. I decided to give her a chance and took her on; on a trial basis but gave her conditions that either found employment or went back to education. I am very proud of her as she is now doing an apprentice in admin @ the council house in Solihull and has been holding this job down. She has not been at trouble at the YMCA since she came and after a meeting with her 16 + worker we have decided that she no longer needs extra support as she coping with independent living. She has also built relationships back up with her Mother and in her own words "is feeling happier than she has for years "