

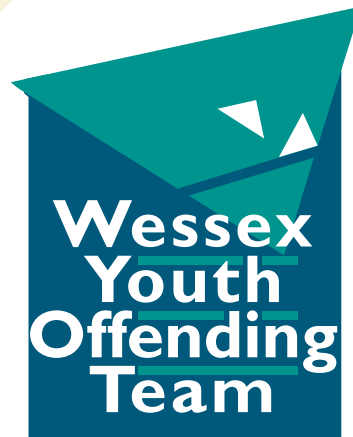
Facts and Figures

The Award Project is an innovative and successful early intervention scheme, set up six years ago in partnership with Wessex Youth Offending Team, Hampshire County Youth Service and The Duke of Edinburgh's Award South East Region. The project currently operates in the districts of East Hampshire, Eastleigh, Fareham, Gosport, Havant, New Forest and Test Valley. Since its inception six years ago, project staff have met with 800 young people, 350 of whom have participated in taster activity days. 212 of the participants have registered with the Duke of Edinburgh's Award and over 200 sectional certificates have been awarded. The Award Project has a very low re-offending rate of 5% against a national comparator of 54.5%. The targets and work of The Award Project are part of the Annual Youth Justice plan produced by the Wessex Youth Offending Team.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award is a voluntary, non-competitive and flexible programme of cultural and adventurous activities for all young people, whatever their background or ability. The Award is committed to providing an enjoyable, challenging and rewarding programme of personal development. The Award is a four section programme with three levels - Bronze, Silver and Gold. The sections involve: Service - helping people in the community; Skills - covering almost any hobby, skill or interest; Physical Recreation - sport, dance and fitness; Expeditions - training for, planning and completing a journey on foot or horseback, by boat or cycle. At Gold level only, participants are required to take part in a Residential Project. The delivery of The Award is entrusted to over 400 organisations (Operating Authorities) in the UK licensed to run the programme through award groups.

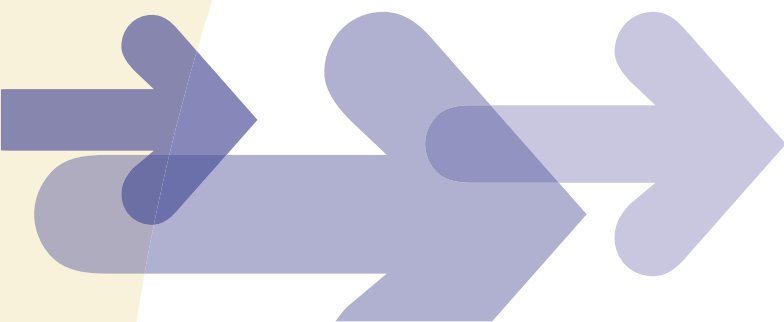


The Hampshire County Youth Service works with young people between the ages of 10 and 25 years, with the priority age range being 13 to 19. The priorities for the service are to: enable young people to develop personal skills, social skills and high aspirations; involve young people in democracy and decision making; promote the social inclusion of young people; engage young people in new opportunities and challenging experiences; encourage young people to lead healthy lifestyles.



The Wessex Youth Offending Team works to prevent youth offending across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight including the south coast cities of Portsmouth and Southampton. It is a partnership between the County and City Councils, the National Probation Service, Hampshire Constabulary, the Strategic Health Authority and the Primary Care Trusts, the South Central Connexions Partnership and the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales.

For further information contact: Andy Kennedy
Development Worker Youth Offending Team/Duke of Edinburgh's Award. The Award Project, Wessex Youth Offending Team, Darby House, Skye Close, Cosham PO63LU. Telephone: 02392 370013. Email: youth.info@hants.gov.uk. Websites: www.youth.hants.gov.uk; www.theaward.org.uk; www.wessex-yot.gov.uk



Every young person matters

The Award Project Annual Report 2005-06

Foreword



Andy Kennedy, Development Youth Worker Youth Offending Team/Duke of Edinburgh's Award

Welcome to the annual report of The Award Project. The Award Project is an early intervention scheme linking young people referred by the Wessex Youth Offending Team (YOT) to opportunities that can be accredited within the Duke of Edinburgh's Award. The last 12 months have been extremely busy as the project continues to develop its innovative and successful approach to working with young people.

A range of new initiatives has broadened the work of the project this year, including conservation work in partnership with Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust, a unique Make Poverty History experience and developing the project's outdoor education curriculum. These new initiatives have been developed alongside the high quality support that continues to be given to young people on a one to one basis across the south of Hampshire.

The Award Project was set up six years ago with the aims of: preventing re-offending; raising self confidence and self esteem; developing communication skills; supporting the development and maintenance of relationships with family, friends and other helpful networks; integrating young people into mainstream youth projects and provision.

The young people we work with often have complex and chaotic lifestyles. Project workers, YOT colleagues and staff from other agencies support young people to improve their own lives. Everyone associated with the project is extremely proud of the progress made by the vast majority of the young people we work with and the correspondingly low re-offending rate of 5%.

On behalf of the project team I would like to thank all the agencies and organisations that commit their expertise and resources to support the work of The Award Project.

Introduction

Malcolm Rittman, County Youth Officer

I am delighted to introduce you to the The Award Project annual report for 2005-06. The project team is to be congratulated for the constructive and energetic way it has responded to the needs of the young people referred to the project by colleagues in the Wessex Youth Offending Team. Members of the project team have ably demonstrated the wide range of skills and qualities needed to enable young people to make a positive contribution to their communities and to their own future.

This report gives a range of interesting examples of how a well run partnership project can make a significant contribution to young people achieving the five outcomes of: staying safe; being healthy; enjoying and achieving; making a positive contribution and achieving economic well being.

There is much to do in the year ahead and The Award Project is well placed to play a full and active part in delivering on the challenges of the government Green Paper - Youth Matters. At a time when all services and key professionals are being encouraged to work more closely together for the well being of vulnerable young people, The Award Project is a successful working model of good practice and the Hampshire County Youth Service is pleased to be one of the partners associated with it.

There has never been such an interesting and exciting time to be involved in developing the high quality services young people require and deserve. I am looking forward to next year with optimism and to the birth of a new era in youth work in which every young person matters.



→ Enjoying and achieving

Simon's story



"I joined The Award Project in 2005 and enrolled in the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award. I've now completed three sections of my Bronze Award and I am currently doing conservation work towards my Gold.

From being involved in The Award Project, I've learned that everyone acts differently in different circumstances. I've been to

Outward Bound in Wales, learned how to Canadian Canoe and passed my motorcycle Compulsory Basic Training test.

My biggest challenge so far on the project has been climbing Pen-y-fan in the Brecon Beacons. I think that the project is fun and definitely worthwhile, and would recommend it to others."

→ Making a positive contribution

Young people conserving the environment

Working in partnership with Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust, staff from the Award Project organised conservation work for small teams of young people at local nature reserves. The young people discussed each task, planned their work and set their own targets. At the end of each day they reviewed their experience and recorded their working hours in individual project files.

The teams were flexible enough to include new people along the way and there was a choice of dates and tasks. Some young people worked consistently over a three month period and the commitment they showed counted towards their Duke of Edinburgh's Award at Bronze level. Others plan to continue for a year and will record their involvement as part of the service section of their Gold Award.

Over a seven month period last year, young people from The Award Project contributed 275 hours of conservation work and gained practical and transferable skills in the process. They learned to use a range of tools for fencing, clearing scrub and removing tree guards, and their planning, teamwork and problem solving all improved.

→ Being healthy and achieving economic well being

Targeted summer activities

During the school summer holiday period, The Award Project staff ran a programme of activities for young people leaving school and unsure of their future. The programme focussed on health issues and lifestyle choices, and included:

1. An induction day, featuring team building activities.
2. A health and fitness day, with a variety of practical workshops.
3. A residential outdoor education experience at Hampshire's mountain centre in Wales.
4. A day focussed on aspirations, education and employment.
5. An outward bound residential.

Ten young men signed up for the programme from across the south of Hampshire and by the end of the course they had carefully reviewed their individual lifestyles, health and diet. As a direct result of the programme, six members of the group returned to education or began vocational training, and the whole group had their learning and achievements accredited through the Duke of Edinburgh's Award. Three of the young men are pursuing their Silver and Bronze Awards and others have continued to participate in outdoor education activities. These positive outcomes are significant steps towards the young men being healthy and going on to achieve economic well being.



Every young person matters

→ Staying safe

Motorcycle Compulsory Basic Training

Like most other teenagers, young people associated with The Award Project often show an interest in learning to ride motorcycles. With this in mind, The Award Project staff organised a motorcycle training course with the emphasis on young people staying safe. The training course included some useful theoretical knowledge and practical skills. The qualified instructors and guest speakers gave guidance on the law, basic maintenance, first aid, safety equipment and what to look for when buying a motorcycle. The importance of adopting the right attitude to road safety and to other road users was stressed consistently throughout the course.

At the end of the training the young people had the opportunity to undertake the Compulsory Basic Training (CBT) Test and they reported feeling more confident about their riding skills. The instructors were pleased with the young people's improved awareness of the dangers of the road.

In addition to the planned learning outcomes there was at least one other important outcome from the course. The young people had their negative assumptions and stereotyped image of the Police strongly challenged by the rapport they established with one of their instructors, a serving Police Officer who shared their passion for motorcycles.

→ Making another positive contribution

Make poverty history

The Make Poverty History campaign, and the associated rally in Edinburgh on 2 July 2005, caught the imagination of a group of young women associated with The Award Project, and they began to prepare early for taking part in the big day.

With the support of project staff, the young women did some research about the rally on the internet, emailed the leaders of the G8 countries, organised their journey and made "Send my Friend to School Buddies" to highlight the number of young people in the world who are unable to attend school. As part of their preparation, the young women learned how to use video and photography equipment, so they could

reflect on their experiences and share the events of the day with their peers. When evaluating how things had gone one of the young women said:

"In Edinburgh we were amazed so many people had come to support the campaign. Loads of the people at the rally were wearing white, the colour of the campaign. We joined in some of the march and found places along the route to film the amazing sight of a human white band encircling the city. We also filmed short interviews asking people where they were from and why they had felt compelled to come. We were really proud to have been part of an event that will be remembered for many years and may help to change the future for millions of people around the world."



→ Celebrating 50 years of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award

The Award Project represents the South East

On 25 March 2006, young people from The Award Project represented 100,000 Duke of Edinburgh's Award participants from the South East of England, at a national tree-planting marathon in celebration of the 50th Anniversary of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

The young people planted 50 trees on a site near Alton in Hampshire, owned and managed by The Woodland Trust. Councillor David Kirk, Hampshire County Council's Executive Member for Education, said:

"The Award Project is a hugely successful early intervention initiative that works with young people who have received a final warning, are on a referral order or are at risk of offending. By supporting these youngsters as they participate in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, youth workers are aiming not only to prevent re-offending but also to raise each individual's confidence and self esteem. Wessex Youth Offending Team has provided invaluable support to those who have registered with the Duke of Edinburgh's Award and the County Council is pleased to support such a worthwhile project."