

Facts and Figures 2005/06

Priorities

The 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
- To involve young people in democracy and decision making
- To promote the social inclusion of young people
- To engage young people in new opportunities and challenging experiences
- To encourage young people to lead healthy lifestyles.

Targets

County youth service staff in East Hampshire district worked with 3,477 young people, 2,793 of whom were aged 13 to 19 years, equating to 27% of the target population. Of the 1,622 active participants in the service, 1,361 were 13 to 19 year-olds, which equates to 13% of the 13 to 19 population.

There were 11,836 recorded attendances at youth service units in East Hampshire district, of whom 10,017 were 13 to 19 year-olds. There were 169 recorded outcomes resulting from young people being involved with the service, equating to 10% of active participants. In total, 85 young people gained an accredited outcome, equating to 5% of the active participants.

The county youth service as a whole has exceeded the national benchmarks for reach and active participation, and recorded and accredited outcomes have significantly improved. This positive direction of travel is under-pinned by a robust system for the collection of the required data.

Management and range of youth work

The youth service is located in Hampshire County Council's Children's Services Department and strategic management of the service is the responsibility of the management team. Eleven district teams cover areas coterminous with district council boundaries and each team is led by a Senior Youth Worker. The service in East Hampshire district managed 17 different units and the range of work included youth centres, targeted group-work, detached work, mobile projects, inclusion projects, Duke of Edinburgh's Award groups and a whole host more.

Supporting youth work

The service in East Hampshire has six full-time posts, 22 part-time posts and seven volunteers. All youth service units in East Hampshire work with at least one other partner agency. The service provides a wide range of staff development opportunities for youth workers in the statutory and voluntary sectors.

Promoting youth work

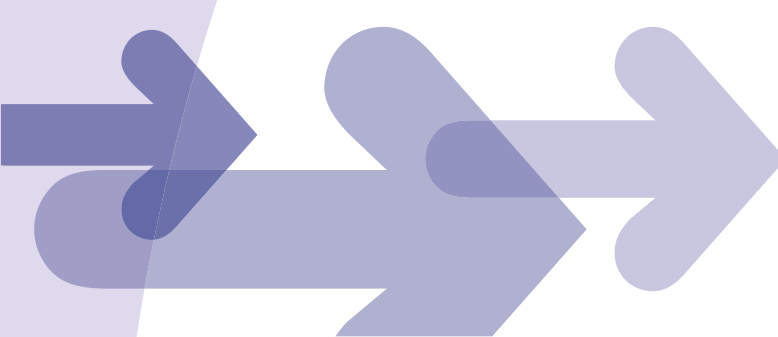
The service in East Hampshire district works in partnership with the Voluntary and Community Sector and has close working arrangements with the District, Town and Parish Councils.

Financing youth work 2005/06

The Hampshire County Council delegated budget for the county youth service as a whole is £5.1 million; this equates to approximately £46 per 13 to 19 year-old living in Hampshire and £163 per 13 to 19 year-old involved in the service. The County Youth Service generated a total of £1.1 million of external funding.

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Foreword



East Hampshire has a wide range of high quality youth work - Dave Ashton, Senior Youth Worker

Welcome to the annual report of Hampshire County Youth Service work in the East Hampshire district. I hope you find the report useful and I welcome feedback on the format and content.

Successful developments during the year include our work in support of the targets of the local Community Safety Partnership. A youth survey helped us to clarify matters of concern to young people and involvement in Crime Reduction Environment Week enabled young people to engage positively with various agencies and services. Young people have responded well to the mentoring service offered by The Station Project.

One young woman, commenting on her experience of the project, said:
"Mentoring provides me with the support and advice that I couldn't get before, and thanks to The Station Project I have discovered who I am."

Through co-operation between the youth service, East Hampshire District Council and the local staff of South Central Connexions, the active participation of young people in decision making has been carefully reviewed this year. As a result, a comprehensive action plan is in place for 2006-07.

The youth service team in the district has a good range of experience and all members of staff are highly dedicated to their work. The extremely high user satisfaction rate of 95% is testament to their skills and abilities, and I offer sincere thanks to the team for their efforts in 2005-06. My thanks also go to voluntary and other partner organisations.

The coming year offers many positive opportunities as the Change for Children programme develops. I am certain that youth service staff will be integral to the changes and will continue to play an important role alongside colleagues from other services and young people.

Introduction

Malcolm Rittman,
County Youth Officer

I am delighted to introduce you to the Hampshire County Youth Service East Hampshire district report for 2005-06. Our youth workers in East Hampshire are to be congratulated for the constructive and energetic way they have responded to the changing needs of young people. The East Hampshire team has 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 county youth service staff in East Hampshire work in partnership with other agencies and make a significant contribution to young people achieving the five outcomes - 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 service in East Hampshire district is well placed to play a full and active part in delivering on the four challenges of the government Green Paper - Youth Matters:

1. Empowering young people - things to do and places to go.
2. Young people as citizens - making a contribution.
3. Supporting choices - information, advice and guidance.
4. All young people achieving - reforming targeted support.

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

A great result for Peter – a job, further education and a Good Neighbour Award

Peter Goodall has regularly attended the evening Café sessions at the Alton Youth Project and has made good use of The Station advice and information service. When Peter first attended these projects, he was not in education, training or employment and had low self esteem. Peter, pictured above, recently said:

“The experiences I’ve had as a result of attending these projects have helped me to become more confident. I used to be so nervous, especially in interviews.”

Peter recently secured paid employment having been through a successful job application and interview process. Peter’s ambition is to become a firefighter and he is studying to obtain qualifications helpful in his quest to join the Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service.

Peter has shown commitment and dedication by regularly helping a local senior citizen, and as a result he was nominated for a local Good Neighbour Award. The presentation of the award was featured on the front page of a local newspaper.

“I feel very proud of myself,” said Peter, “I feel good inside. Being in contact with Alton Youth Project and The Station project really helped me.”

→ The Station project.

A creative way of achieving economic well being – Kelly’s story

The Station project offers advice, information and support to young people after a careful assessment of their needs. The assessment process identified Kelly’s interest and experience in dance, and Kelly was keen to explore a dance related career. One of the Station’s youth workers made the link between Kelly’s interest in dance and the Dance Leadership Awards of Sports Leaders UK. As a result of further discussions with Kelly, the idea emerged of setting up local dance leadership courses for young people with Kelly acting as the tutor. The next step was to enrol Kelly on a dance leadership tutor training course.

Kelly now has an accredited qualification to teach dance as a fitness related activity. At the end of the course, Kelly said:

“The tutor training was enjoyable, I learned a lot and I can’t wait to get started.”

Kelly has remained in touch with staff at The Station and they supported her successful application for a place on a performing arts course at Guildford College. Kelly is due to start the course in September

→ Young play-workers

Moving towards economic well-being

A play-workers project has been started in Buriton by a group of young women keen to move into paid employment with children. Following discussions with youth workers, members of the group identified a relevant training programme and agreed to follow it. The course included basic childcare, health and safety, safeguarding children and play activities.

At the end of the course, the group were asked to give feedback on their learning and their comments included:

“I have learned how to engage lively children in fun activities.”

“I now know different ways of engaging with children who are being naughty.”

“I have gained experience of working with a wide range of children and I have learned more about health and safety.”

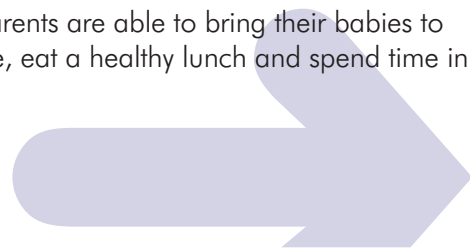
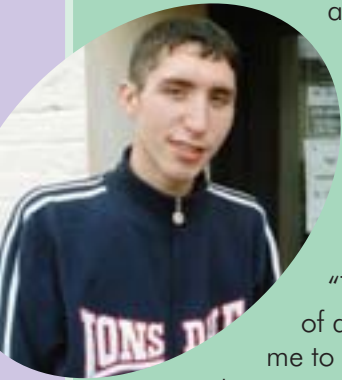
The young women have committed themselves to developing the project. Access credits for the service section of the Duke of Edinburgh’s Award have been offered to all members of the group. Several of them are interested in enrolling in the Award and completing all four sections.

→ Bumps and babes

Supporting young parents to be healthy

At lunchtime on Mondays, young mothers, pregnant young women and the occasional young father, meet in the pleasant surroundings of Chase Children’s Centre. The group is supported by the youth service, the Hampshire Teenage Pregnancy Strategy Local Implementation Group and the local Primary Care Trust.

Young parents are able to bring their babies to the venue, eat a healthy lunch and spend time in





discussion with youth workers and health professionals. Health visitors and midwives pass on useful advice and information, and respond to queries raised by members of the group. This year's programme of workshops and guest speakers has proved to be very popular. The range of topics covered included music for children, how to make the most of the local library and advice on muscle re-toning.



By meeting other young parents facing similar issues, members of the group feel less isolated and their self-esteem improves. When asked what she had gained from coming to the group, one young mother replied:

"I now look forward to Monday mornings and meeting other young mums. Coming to the group has reduced my depression and I feel much better about myself."

→ Crime Reduction Environment Week (CREW)

Chips and Chat evening helps young people to stay safe

What do you get if you put 70 bags of chips, 30 young people, six Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs), three youth workers and a Police Inspector into a youth centre and let them mix? If a successful evening held at Bordon Youth Centre in CREW week is anything to go by, you get:

- young people's ideas for diversionary activities and the use of resources
- a commitment from the Police to work with young people and youth workers to develop new opportunities in the area
- improved understanding and relationships between PCSOs and young people.

The Chips and Chat evening also gave young people the opportunity to explore their fears about personal safety and the level of violent crime in Bordon. The PCSOs were able to reassure young people about the real level of crime in the town by comparing it with public perception and the fear of crime. The PCSOs also passed on some useful advice on personal safety.

During the evaluation of Chips and Chat young people said: "It was great to talk to the Police openly like that and to know they were listening to us."

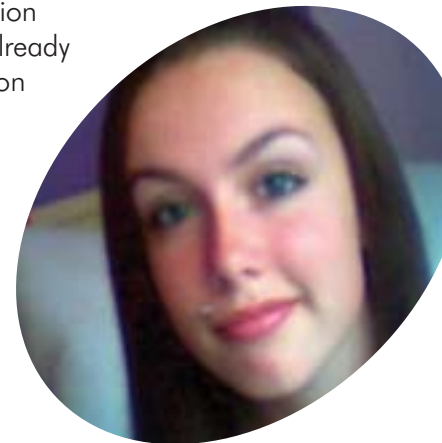
"I thought the Police were against us but I now know that the Police are not anti-youth but anti-crime." "Great chips, and it was good to get to know the PCSOs better."

→ Making a positive contribution

Young people as active citizens

Following a thorough review of young people's participation in decision making and democratic processes in the district, local young people are more fully involved than ever in a range of consultation meetings, youth forums and youth councils. For example, members of the youth forum based at the Rkadia youth project have been discussing ideas for the re-development of Rkadia, and they have recorded a video to illustrate their proposals to managers and funders of the project.

The year 2005-06 saw the election of two district representatives to join the Hampshire County Youth Council and the election campaign for 2006-07 is already underway. This year's election for the United Kingdom Youth Parliament resulted in Maria Greensmith, pictured above, becoming the district's Member of the Youth Parliament (MYP). Maria, one of six Hampshire MYPs, recently said:



"Being part of my local youth council, Hampshire County Youth Council and the UK Youth Parliament has been a really positive experience, I am really passionate about young people having their voices heard."

Young people, with the full support of local agencies and services, are in the process of forming a district youth council. This exciting new development will be building on the work of the district's Youth Focus Group and the recommendations of this year's review.