

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 New Forest district worked with 3,223 young people, 2,811 of whom were aged 13 to 19 years, equating to 21% of the target population. Of the 2,406 active participants in the service, 1,950 were 13 to 19 year-olds, which equates to 14% of the 13 to 19 population.

There were 14,279 recorded attendances at youth service units in New Forest district, 12,826 of whom were 13 to 19 year-olds. There were 131 recorded outcomes resulting from young people being involved with the service, equating to 5% of active participants. In total, 140 young people gained an accredited outcome, equating to 6% 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 New Forest district managed 28 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 New Forest district has 9 full-time, 14 part-time youth work posts and 11 volunteers. All youth service units in New Forest district 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 New Forest district works in partnership with the Voluntary and Community Sector and has close working arrangements with the District, Town and Parish Councils.

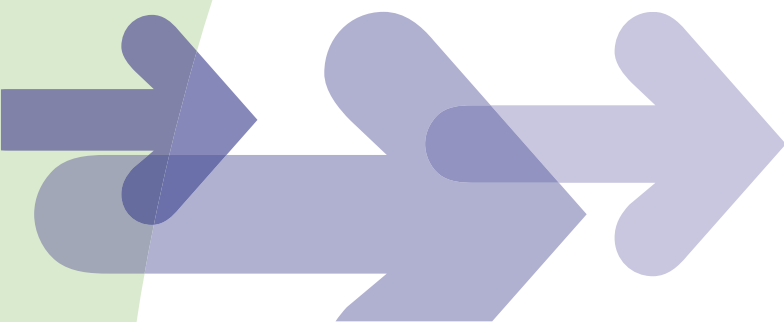
Financing youth work 2005/06

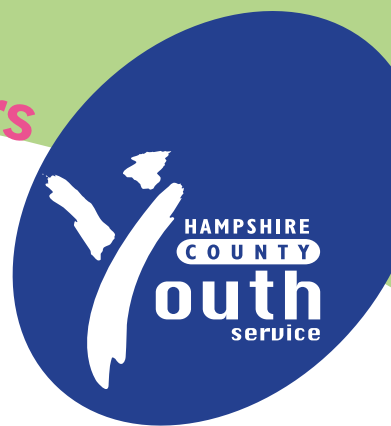
The Hampshire County Council delegated budget for the county youth service as a whole is £5.1 million; this equates to approximately £46 per 13 to 19 year-old living in Hampshire and £163 per 13 to 19 year-old involved in the service. The County Youth Service generated a total of £1.1 million of external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

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Foreword

This year has been an exciting and successful one for youth work in the New Forest – Sharon Davies, Senior Youth Worker.



There has been significant progress in developing the scope of youth work in the New Forest district this year. Two new full time members of the team have brought additional skills and energy to the district, and established members of the team have continued to provide high quality services.

The year has seen an increase in detached work in rural communities, creative arts projects, school inclusion groups and in the participation of young people in local, county, regional and national forums. There has also been significant growth in the number of young people reached by our staff, the level of active participation and the accreditation of young people's learning.

Building works have been completed at two of our youth centres in the district. As a result, young people have greater access to computers and comfortable spaces for creative activities, group work and relaxation. Young people from New Milton and Holbury were fully involved in the planning and design stages of the centre refurbishments.

Young people elsewhere in the district have been increasingly active in improving their local communities by making cases to the District, Town and Parish councils for improved recreational facilities, skate parks and youth shelters.

My thanks go to all the team for their high degree of commitment to young people and for making time for their own learning and development during the year. I also appreciate the commitment shown by an increasing number of agencies towards working in partnership in support of young people reaching their full potential.

The trend towards inter-agency working is sure to continue in the year ahead and the youth service team in the New Forest is ready, willing and able to play its full part in providing the joined up services young people need.

Introduction

Malcolm Rittman, County Youth Officer

I am delighted to introduce you to the Hampshire County Youth Service New Forest district report for 2005-06. Our youth workers in the New Forest are to be congratulated for the constructive and energetic way they have responded to the changing needs of young people. The New Forest 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 county youth service staff in the New Forest 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 New Forest 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.



→ Amber's story –



"My name is Amber and I am 17, I have been a member of my local youth club since I was 14. With support and encouragement from the youth workers, I have been involved in a wide range of different projects and activities during that time.

I have been a deputy member of the UK Youth Parliament representing the New Forest district and I have participated in Shout About, an event where young people from all over the Forest had their say about local issues. I have worked with my local Town Council and recently participated in a youth exchange with young people from Latvia.

I took part in lots of different activities and workshops during Anti Bullying Week and I now feel able to talk to other young people about being bullied, the affect it had on me, and how I managed to overcome it.

Through being involved in these new and at times challenging experiences, my confidence and self esteem have grown."

→ Latvia/New Forest youth exchange

Understanding different lifestyles

Young people associated with youth service projects in the New Forest district, had the opportunity to experience Latvian culture at first hand and to

increase their understanding of the lifestyles of young people living in a fellow member country of the European Union. Latvia and the UK have very different histories but they share many common values and aspirations as part of modern Europe.

During their stay in Latvia the group from the New Forest enjoyed an interesting and diverse programme. There was also time enough for members of the group to get to know the individual interests and everyday life experiences of their Latvian partners.



The success of this first leg of the exchange was partly due to good preparation and planning. A short reconnaissance visit helped the respective group leaders to form good working relationships and undertake the required risk assessments. Young people fully participated in making decisions about the programme and spent time after the event to evaluate their experiences. Photographs and video images helped with the evaluation process and a DVD, prepared by the group, was shown at a celebration event where young people were presented with Hampshire Certificates of Achievement.

Involvement in the exchange has developed the self confidence and communication skills of the participants and they are all looking forward to the UK leg of the exchange next year. One young person summed things up by saying:

"Overall I thought this was a great experience and I hope to do something like this again in the future. I raised money to get us there, participated in all the activities, and gave support and guidance to my friends when they needed it. I believe that the experiences we had and the skills I developed, will be there to draw from when I need to work my way through difficult situations in the future."

→ Targeted partnership work leads to positive outcomes

Youth workers from the district team have been working in partnership with the staff of the Forest Education Centre to create an innovative programme aimed at building the self esteem of the centre's students and developing their life skills. The longer term aim of the work is to support the student's return to mainstream education or their transfer to further education, vocational training or employment.

Young people played their part in devising the details of the programme and enjoyed taking part in the sessions. The programme included health education workshops, team building activities, outdoor pursuits and communication exercises. The achievements of young people were tracked session by session and regular reports have been fed into student reviews.





Close monitoring and evaluation of the programme have identified the positive impact on student attendance, their attainment and, for some, reintegration into mainstream provision. Given the positive outcomes for the students to date, staff from the Forest Centre and the district youth work team, are planning to continue with their partnership work in the year ahead.

→ Young people in Bransgore

make a contribution to their local community

With the support of the local youth work team, young people from Bransgore have become involved in redesigning their village skate park and have presented their plans for a new BMX track to the Parish Council. The young people carefully explained the details of their designs to the Councillors and demonstrated how the different jumps accommodated different levels of competence.

The Parish Council welcomed the group's input and enthusiasm, and explained how officers of the Council would encourage professional contractors to work directly with the young people to try and make their plans a reality. The group were delighted to accept the suggestion of cooperating with the contractors and were keen to stay fully involved.

The work on the skate park is well underway and plans for the BMX track are being considered. The contribution made by the young people to their community has been recognised locally and their planning, design and communication skills have all improved as a direct result of becoming involved.

→ Anger management

Young people's behaviour improves after participating in an anger management programme

Youth workers and Connexions personal advisers are working in partnership with some secondary schools in the New Forest to help small groups of pupils manage their feelings of anger. The youth workers and personal advisers introduce young people to useful ways of trying to stay calm in difficult

situations. The techniques and strategies young people learn on the programme help them to deal constructively with the challenges they face.

Participants in the programme identify different ways of dealing with anger and conflict, and develop their communication, relationship and coping skills. The programme includes sessions specifically aimed at improving self awareness and self esteem. A variety of learning activities, including role play, are used to ensure the young people find the experience enjoyable, stimulating and supportive.

Feedback indicates young people enjoyed taking part in the programme and found it helpful to think through how they deal with problems at school and at home. School staff have reported that members of the group have rebuilt their relationships with teachers and peers, and their general attitude towards school has improved.

→ Anti-bullying week one centre leads the way

Below is one young person's powerful reflections on being bullied:

The posters see her crying.
The scissors feel her pain.
People all around her ignore her cries.
She stumbles along in life pretending nothing's wrong.
She fakes a smile, she fakes her life.
No one to save her from others.
No one to save her from herself.
She lies down and closes her eyes.
Forever battling with her inner torment.

New Milton Youth Centre was the base for a variety of creative activities and workshops offered to young people during Anti-bullying Week 2005. In safe and structured ways, young people explored their own experiences and feelings about being bullied. Some of the stories they told illustrated just how stressful it can be to be on the receiving end of bullying.

During the workshops young people developed strategies and skills to help them deal with any bullying they may face in the future. Feedback from young people has been good and similarly focussed weeks will continue to be a feature of the programme on offer at New Milton.