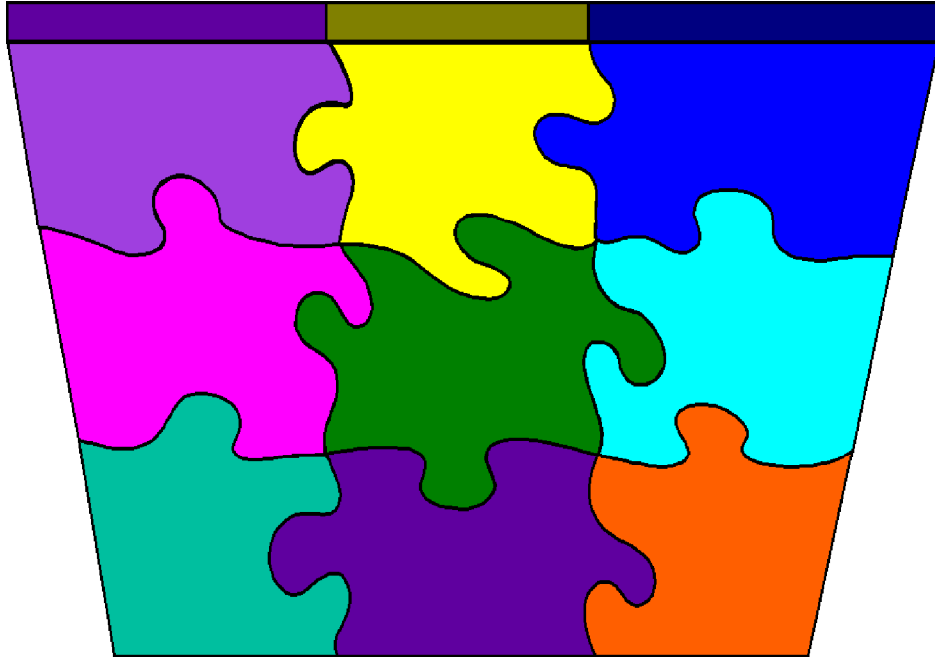


Talk About Youth Project Report Overall Annual Evaluations & Plans



Evaluation for September 2008 to August 2009

&

Plans from September 2009 to August 2010

Susan Menton

Youth Service Manager

Introduction

St. Andrew's Talk About Youth Project was established in December 1994 and has flourished and developed many initiatives since it was established. The project now employs five full time and 2 part time staff under funding from the Special Project for Youth Fund, Local Drugs Task Force and the Young People's Facility and Services Fund. The project has a very experienced team of 20 local adult volunteers and a great team of junior leaders who are between 15 and 18 years.

The project has and continues striving to provide a caring professional service for the young people of the Pearse Street area. The project believes that 'young people learn what they live'

The project team evaluate and plan on an annual basis. The project can be divided up into five main areas as follows: (a) The Mainstream project providing support for clubs, groups and training etc. (b) Drug Education, Awareness and Prevention, (c) Outreach. (d) Alternative Sports & Music and finally (e) The Overall project bumper annual events. Also covered in this last area are funding, premises, networking and national issues that affect young people and so on.

About us:

We pride ourselves on being a very dynamic project team of very fun loving individuals who bring years of experience, variety of working styles and good craic to whatever programmes we develop. We care about young people and love what we do. Commitment comes naturally to all team members and young people feel very relaxed and comfortable with us. We strive to provide a professional service but we also strive to keep the fun alive. Some staff members grew up in the local area and others have worked here for a number of years so the level of local knowledge and long term relationships greatly enhance the work of the project.

Methodology:

Each worker evaluated and reviewed their work areas. Issues that affect work plans and highlights were identified. Following these evaluations and observing changing trends and needs, a draft plan was drawn up for each work area which was discussed with all staff at a full staff day. We also had the benefit of a consultation process that was carried out in early 2008. The draft plans were put together to create the overall project plan for 2009-2010. These plans were then presented and ratified at a Board of Management Meeting by St. Andrew's Board of Management.

Comment:

Similar to last year the trend seems to be increasing programmes and initiatives while also sustaining existing programmes. The year was exciting and tiring and created all sorts of opportunities and reshaping of programmes and events. New programmes were established such as the new Bully Busters Programme that was piloted in City Quay National School on request from the school, the Re-establishment of Community Games, the new Life Choice teenage pregnancy programme, a Young Mothers programme, a Drama group and a Boxing programme. Also an older teenage group took on an enormous task to visit a children's project in the Philippines.

Some Highlights for Sep 08 – Aug 09

The year was busy and good all programmes planned were implemented and some will continue next year following the pilots.

We held our second O2 Youth Awards in the O2 buildings this year and it was a fantastic venue. All nominated young people, their families and friends were invited. Again working with O2 on the event was a pleasure and we look forward to the next awards with them. The awards have been a very positive recognition of young people.

The re-establishment of the Community Games was very successful this year and a large number of young people took part in various events. Our young people won their heats and were due to take part in the finals but communions and confirmations clashed with dates so we informed Community Games of the problem so hopefully next year the dates will not clash.

The Taster programmes ran a road safety programme this year and it was very well received by the young people. We hope to revisit this with an older group of young men this year.

The Bully Buster Programme was a particular success and has had a big impact on the young people who took part and their peers. We have presented the programme at the Local Education Committee and hope to be in a position to role out a training programme for schools to be facilitated in implementing the Bully Buster Programme. We are presently evaluating the Pilot and writing the programme up. We are also looking at the possibility of publishing the programme.

Youth Service Background

The St. Andrew's Youth Programme, 'Talk About Youth' Project, was established in December 1994 when funding was received on a three year basis from the Department of Social Welfare under the Community & Family Resource Centre budget. The success of the programme is reflected in the fact that an independent evaluation commissioned by the dept. reported that the project was highly successful in meeting its objectives. As a result, funding was secured from the City of Dublin Youth Service Board, commencing in 1998.

A Youth Team was developed, drawing on workers employed under Fas funded Job Initiative and Community Employment schemes. The project held a series of community meetings in 1995, which both directed and prioritised their work programme for the following years. A range of programmes were established and developed for local young people. The programmes included clubs and groups, special interest projects such as drug awareness and education, young women's young men's groups, social activities to mention a few.

It also provided training and development of volunteer leaders and networked with various agencies to develop a comprehensive service. Consultation is continued on an annual basis to stay updated and aware of needs and how to address them.

In February 1997, the drugs issues raised its nasty head. As with other communities emotions were very high and various anti drugs groups evolved. On a successful application, from a local representative Ad-Hoc committee, to the Local Drugs Task Force, funding was received to employ a full time Youth Worker with emphasis on Drugs Education and Awareness. This meant that from February 1998 another full time worker was in place to develop drug prevention and awareness programmes.

In 1999, an application was sent to the Young People's Facilities and Services Fund (YPFSF) to sustain an existing post that was being developed by a worker on Community Employment Scheme. This worker was a local person who had been trained and developed to a very high standard and who was also very committed to the development of youth services in the area. At this time a local Network, Pearse Area Network Group (PANG) had evolved through the Dublin Inner City Partnership. This group also sent an application into the YPFSF.

The area was allocated funding over three years. Both of the above groups had to come together to negotiate and compromise on spending the funding. After a long period of negotiations it was agreed to employ two full time workers over two years and to set up an Advisory Group for the entire area to develop a comprehensive youth service rather than pockets of services. These two positions were as follows: To sustain the existing youth work post already in the youth service and to advertise for an outreach worker. These positions were filled and in action by September 2000.

The Outreach programme was supported by a position on community employment as it developed. So following a long process of chasing old funding from the Local Drugs Task Force, in February 2004 we secured enough to develop a permanent part time position so we now have 1 full time and one part time position developing the Outreach programmes. Also under this funding, in March this year we have been able to employ another part time support worker for a small number of hours a week.

We were notified at the end of 2005 that we had been allocated further funding under the Youth Work Plan to employ a full time worker on the Special Project for Youth programme. In June 2006 we were delighted to employ a full time Youth Worker specifically addressing Alternative Sports & Music.

The project now has a staff team of five fulltime and 2 part time staff and a strong base of approximately 20 volunteers. The project works with many clubs and groups of various ages and many special interest projects and can be divided into 5 sections: Although the project can be divided up into sections for clarification, teamwork is nurtured and encouraged in all aspects of the projects work. Each area has a worker responsible for that area.

- | | |
|---|----------------------------------|
| ➤ Overall Project Management
& Development | Susan Menton |
| ➤ Core/Mainstream Ongoing Activity | Nina Buckley/Louisa Murray |
| ➤ Drug Education, Awareness and
Prevention & RSE | Orla Grimes |
| ➤ Outreach Projects | Eddie Fitzpatrick / Eileen Nalty |
| ➤ Alternative Sports & Music | Lisa Downes |

Talk About Youth Project

Mission Statement

We aim to provide a safe, non-threatening environment where young people can meet and socialise, build on their self esteem, develop their social skills and begin to take responsibility for shaping their own lives. We believe in young people and their ability and that every young person has something to offer. We recognise the importance of listening to the voice of young people and their community in a non-judgemental way.

Our Aim

The aim of the youth project is to inform, set up and develop projects and programmes in the community on a needs basis, thus providing a social, recreational and educational outlet aimed at meeting the needs of young people

Our Objectives

To develop relationships based on equality, fair play, participation and openness.

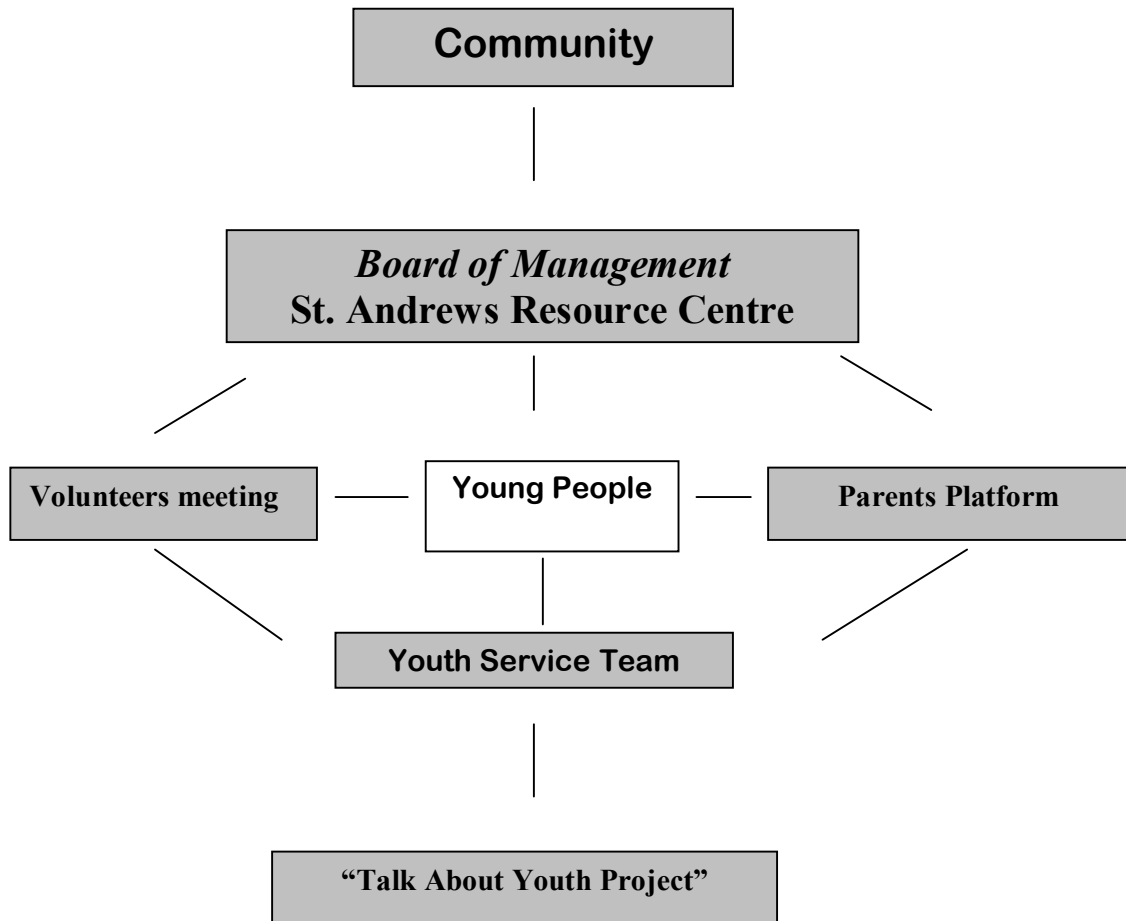
To give young people a sense of ownership of their project through full participation and providing programmes based on their needs.

To build on our relationships with young people through positive interaction, team building, and to promote and support the development of positive relationships between adults and young people.

To encourage participation and ensure the giving of information so young people have the choice to take part in decision making and involvement in all aspects of both group and project plans and in their own lives.

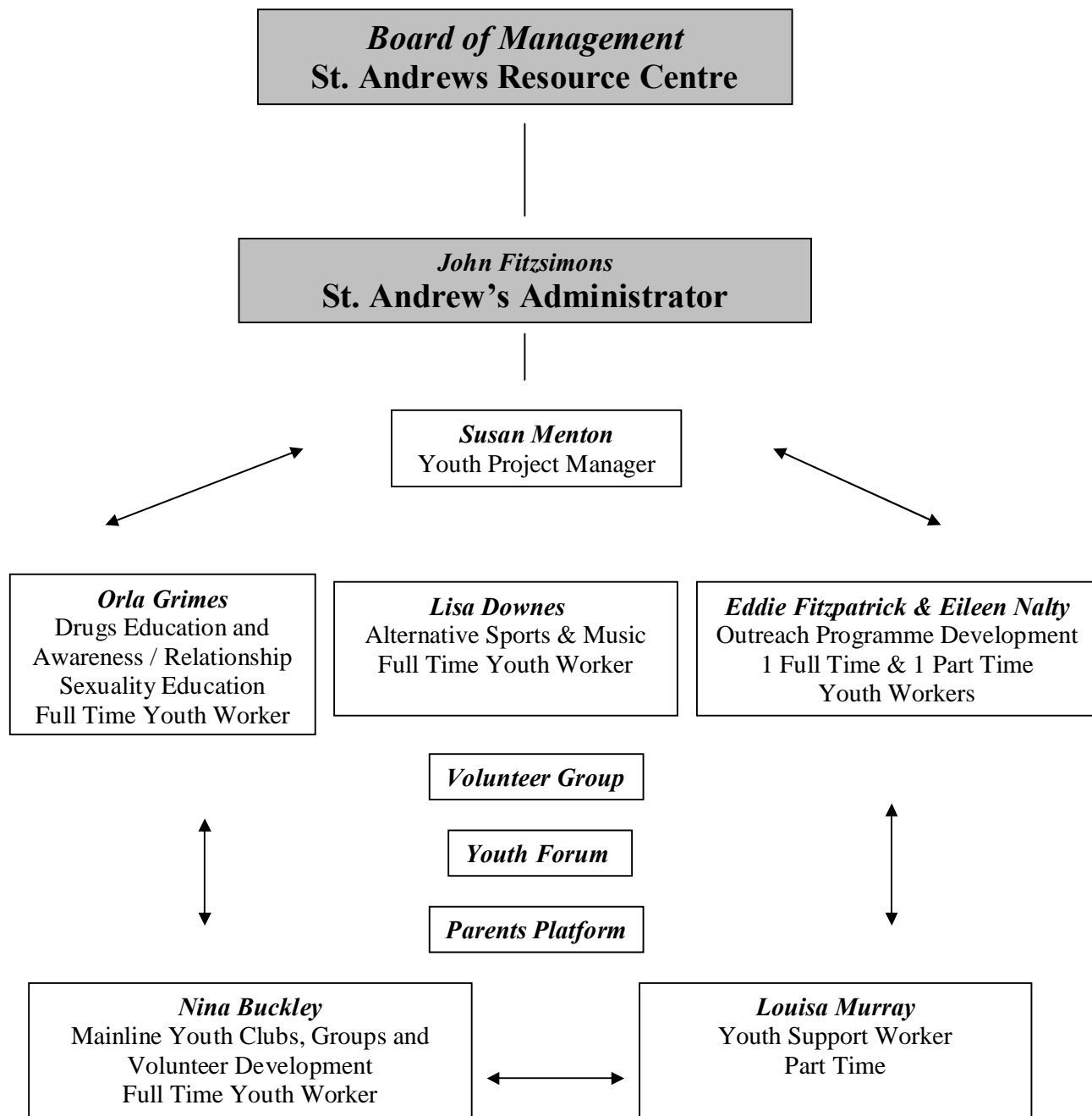
To use arts and crafts, sports, joint programmes with other agencies, discussion, outdoor education as a medium to address in a creative way the issues affecting their lives in society today.

MANAGEMENT STRUCTURES



The Youth Service strives to incorporate all areas of representation into their structures. This is achieved through formal structured groupings, continuous consultation, questionnaires/surveys and general word and mouth through networking.

YOUTH PROJECT STRUCTURES



The services work plan is informed by continuous consultation with young people,
Parents Platform and the volunteers of the project.

Overall Project Evaluation Sep 08 - Aug 09:

This section of the project involves all staff, volunteers and various joint programmes with organisations such as schools, Garda, PARC etc. They are generally annual events that have been established over the years.

Highlights:

- > Splash Week was again a successful programme. The Dublin Docklands Development Authority sponsored this event again this year although the sponsorship did not cover all the costs involved.
- > Christmas Silly season week with Santas Grotto in Larch Hill was a fantastic success for all participants. It engaged older young people in the preparations for the event which was for a younger age group.
- > We still have a volunteer base of around 20 senior volunteers and about 10 junior volunteers between the ages of 15-17 years.

Issues arising

- > Fitting everything from the growing general programme into already very busy schedules on going with the staff.
- > We will need to consider Splash Week next year as the projects ongoing programme funding is stretched and cannot sustain the shortfall of the DDDA's sponsorship.

Annual Overall Project Events Implemented in 08/09 included:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------|
| > Representation | Ongoing |
| > Community Support & Training | Ongoing |
| > Education / Students Programme | Ongoing |
| > Project Promotion | Ongoing |
| > Halloween Buzz Week | October 08 |
| > Youth Awards | February 09 |
| > Christmas Silly Season Week | December 08 |
| > Splash Week | March 09 |
| > Summer Programme Residentials | July 09 |

Overall Project Planning Sep 09– Aug 10:

Annual Events

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------|
| > Halloween Buzz Week | October 09 |
| > Youth Awards | February 10 |
| > Christmas Silly Season Week | December 09 |
| > Splash Week | March 10 |
| > Summer Programme | July 10 |

Young People Awards

- > In conjunction with 02 we will be implementing the 02 Young People Awards called "See what YOUth can do with 02". These will be held in February 10

Representation

- > We will continue to be advocates for young people through the project and St. Andrew's in general at various meetings and events
- > The project is represented on various bodies i.e. PARC Board of Management, Local Education Committee, School Completion Programme, Garda Customer

Services Panel, Parents Platform, Parents Education Group, South Docks Festival etc.

- > We are also represented on the National Volunteers Task Group

Community Support

- > Supporting and working with various agencies and organisations i.e. DCC Sports co-ordinators, School Completion Co-ordinator, PARC, Special Education Units etc.
- > Providing Community Development & Youth Work Training
- > Supporting various groups to make various funding applications
- > General Advice on Community Youth issues to individuals when necessary

Education / Students Programme

- > We take on a number of students throughout the year from Maynooth College who are long term and substantial placements.
- > We take students from Liberties College also on a long term basis.
- > We take students from the CDYSB Youth Work Course accredited from the Dundalk IT.

Training

Staff training is ongoing and relevant to various areas of work. Areas for training will be identified as the year progresses and where possible, relevant identified training will be undertaken.

Team

- > Work on our internal three way planning when we cross over and work together on programmes. Each piece of work will have a lead worker.
- > We will work on our Professional Supervision together to ensure quality service being provided to our young people and for both the project programmes and the staff members.
- > We will put aside time for our own team building and social events to encourage staff motivation and morale.

Administration Planning Sep 09 – Aug 10:

This role is one part time staff member. The staff member is responsible for the general administration and up keep of the office, equipment and our Space in Trinity College. This position also supports the full time staff in mainstream programmes implemented.

Day to day office duties

- > Filing
- > Office stationery & materials are kept up to date
- > Stationery list ordering
- > Petty Cash
- > Typing reports & minutes & distribution of same
- > Contacting project members and leaders for events etc.
- > Photocopying/Laminating
- > Time sheets distribution and collection
- > Updating of Volunteer & members packs
- > Collection, recording and lodgement of clubs & groups subs
- > Accounts support to clubs & groups
- > Sorting equipment and materials recently used

Library/Information Hub

- > Developing a library system for resources, books, information etc.
- > Completing the logging of all existing books leaflets etc.

Data Base

- > Maintaining Data Base
- > Keeping accurate records ongoing and up to date

Project activity

- > Working on special project events i.e. splash week, buzz week etc.
- > Filling in when necessary for leaders and staff who can't be at a club or group and being an extra leader for supervision when needed.
- > Working with Junior Leaders Programme

Volunteers Junior

- > Planning further training with existing junior volunteers that will be blocks, prioritised and coded and implemented over a two year period. This will be planned and agreed with Junior & senior volunteers.

General

- > Shopping for general materials
- > Admin support to staff when available & needed
- > Five star support with accounts update
- > Costumes i.e. material etc., design and maintenance of costumes

Mainstream Planning Sep 09 – Aug 10:

One worker is responsible for this area although programmes are implemented by two people either staff or volunteers, teamwork plays an important role throughout all project work. The workers role is to support existing programmes and volunteers both directly and indirectly and to identify gaps that need to be addressed and develop programmes where possible.

Clubs & Group

- > All Club & Group support takes place between Sep & June.
- > Directly supporting local clubs and groups on a needs basis which includes re-opening, establishing guidelines, planning programmes with both senior and junior volunteers and young people.
- > Making visits to all clubs & groups on a regular basis to support both senior and junior volunteers, assess needs, help with planning & evaluating processes.
- > Ensure that each club & group is issued with a recording booklet of weekly recording sheets and volunteers know how to fill them in.
- > Ensure that administration team have weekly club & group recording sheets up to date with relevant information.
- > Ensure that all Club & Group plans are displayed and changes are notified to administration.
- > Ensuring that all members are registered and recorded.
- > Keep Parents packs up to date.
- > Update all Overview sheets for past and future programmes

Programmes

- > The 'Zone' Programme is developed with 15-16 year olds. This year we will be working on a community project between Sep-June 10.
- > Bridging the GAP will continue to target individuals for key work and concentrated group work Sep-June 10.

New Programmes

- > We intend to establish some new clubs and groups to try and cater for the existing demand. We hope to try and restructure some group programmes to facilitate this process in limited available space available.

Volunteers Senior

- > Setting up training calendar/schedule that includes: An annual basic leadership training & child protection programme. These will be in March & May.
- > Organising the volunteers' annual training weekend in February. Plan full training programme for March 10.
- > Set up quarterly meeting dates with agendas and topics of interest if desired
- > Inform volunteers of other training opportunities with outside agencies & orgs
- > Designing volunteer application form and meeting with all new volunteers
- > Quality contact and support of new volunteers for at least the first six months of their commitment
- > To advertise for more volunteers with a specific purpose
- > To advertise for more junior volunteers to get involved.

Accounts

- > Providing admin staff with account record sheets for club & group subs
- > Maintenance of monthly accounts and annual grant applications

- > Supporting other groups in the area with their club accounts
- > Producing Quarterly account updates to all clubs and groups.

Equipment

- > Contacting all local clubs and groups to define what resources and equipment is needed. This will then be stored between trinity and the hall for use of all clubs & groups. Between Sep & June 10.

Training & Support

- > Working with and supporting other staff members who will be implementing Relationship Sexuality Education Programmes (RSE). This will take place throughout the year.
- > Working with the Project Manager in learning how to Supervise Students Professional Development while on placement.

Representation

- > Representing the project on the National Volunteers Task Force.

Link Magazine

- > Exploring ways to develop our contribution to the link. The Junior leaders / Youth Forum may play a significant role in this and the Whizz Kids computer group.

General

- > Working on all the general project activities.
- > Complete Programme Record sheets for every area of work.

Drug Education & Awareness Planning Sep 09 – Aug 10:

One worker is responsible for this area although most of the programmes are now implemented by two people. Teamwork plays an important role throughout all project work. The workers role is to implement drug education and awareness initiatives and programmes.

Schools

- > This takes up most time. All the schools programmes will be assessed and continue as per their need. Programmes will be implemented over full days in the CBS rather than block programmes as this seems to suit all involved. The block terms will stay the same in the Primary Schools but hopefully get longer times with the groups. The work load will be shared with other members of staff too. All programmes involve identifying needs with young people and developing programmes to address those needs. This is then agreed and a contract between the Youth Project and the relevant School is drawn up and signed to ensure clarity and fairness.
- > City Quay NS 5th Class Needs Analysis Oct 09, programme in Nov ó Dec 09.
- > City Quay NS 6th Class Needs Analysis Oct 09, programme in Nov ó Dec 09.
- > CBS Special Unit Mar 10.
- > CBS 2nd yr Oct 09 and Jan 10.
- > CBS 5th yr Oct 09 and Jan 10.
- > CBS Special Unit Feb 09 and Mar 10.
- > CBS 3rd & 6th yr workshops in early Dec 09
- > Baggot Street Dec 09.

Other Programmes

- > Bully Busters is a programme which evolved last year and will continue to develop this year with another member of staff. This will run throughout the school year.

Drug Awareness Week

- > This week will happen in October 09 and will continue to develop ideas for the week. This year will be establishing a focus group of young people to work with staff on designing and implementing the programme.

Night Time Tours

- > To implement the Night Time Tours Activity Based Drug Prevention Programme for 13+ year olds in Mar/May 10

Healthwise Programme

- > In conjunction with another staff member we hope to implement two programmes again this year 13 + year olds and for 10-13 year olds beginning in Feb 10. We also hope to work with our male co-workers in developing the young men's group further to work in parallel with the young women's healthwise.

Life Choice Programme

- > The Baby Think it Over programme is targeting young teenagers 15+ age group to explore the possibility of teenage pregnancy and the responsibility involved and making informed decisions. Full parental/family support is also involved and required for this programme. It will run Sep 09 ó Aug 10.

Parent Support

- > I will be exploring ways of linking with parents and developing systems of consultation and involvement of feedback.

Clubs and Group

- > I will continue to work with clubs and groups like the DJ programme. Hopefully this year we will design programmes that can be implemented in clubs and groups as relevant healthwise workshops.

Marching Band/Majorettes

- > It is hoped to develop a fun programme that will link with other programmes and entail training in majorettes as a healthy alternative programme.

Key Work

- > This will be developed this as the need arises. I will build up a resource list of contacts and referrals that have proved positive and helpful.

Training

- > Attending relevant seminars & workshops.

General

- > Working on all the general project activities.
- > Complete Programme Record sheets for every area of work.

Outreach Planning Sep 08 – Aug 09:

One full time and one part time worker implement most of the programmes although teamwork plays an important role throughout all project work. The workers identify and design programmes of interest to encourage young people to either link into existing programmes or to develop new programmes were possible.

Tasters

- > We intend to do the Tasters in May 09. It will facilitate 40 young people over a two week period. We will break the group into two age groups 10-12 & 13+ and we hope this year to establish a focus group of young people to work with staff in designing and implementing the programme.

Young Men's Group

- > Two workers will be developing the young men's group to explore issues related to young men. This will be run in parallel with the Young women's Healthwise programme.

CBS

- > One of us along with the Drug Education Worker will continue with this group and we will again be putting in place a contract/guidelines explaining how we will be working with the group. Once the contract and programme is in place we will implement same with young people and adapt and address issues with the group if and when they arise.

Variety Programmes

- > This programme will hopefully encompass many areas of development and opportunity for young people to become involved. The involvement can be very minimal or maximum depending on the interest of the young person. A team of staff and volunteers will be working on this new initiative.

Sporadic Programmes

- > We will look at opportunities to develop sporadic programmes throughout the year that will facilitate casual contact with young people.

Exchanges

- > We hope to continue this programme and this year we hope to develop a new three year programme linking with Russia, Finland and Portugal and will be bringing another group to the Philippines to work in the Preda foundation. We also hope to develop a booklet of memories and experiences. Different members of staff will be involved in the exchanges to have the opportunity of the experience and to give others a break.

Discos

- > A few discos will be organised to coincide with seasonal events with the DJ group playing but again we need to work on contacts with other projects to engage in an inter project disco programme to develop the discos.

Travellers

- > One staff member will continue to specifically aim information for Travellers involvement and participation in the project activities.

Representation

- > We will continue to represent were necessary.

Training

- > Our full time worker will be taking part in the RSE training.

General

- > All programmes and pieces of work will involve completing a programme record sheet and evaluation at the end. We will be putting in place a filing system for these records and programmes etc.
- > We will be working on all the general project special events.

Alternative Sports & Music Planning Sep 09 – Aug 10

One full time worker will be responsible for the implementation of most of the programmes although teamwork plays an important role throughout all project work. The Worker will design and implement some new programmes to ascertain levels of interest for planning future programmes.

Graffiti Programme

- > We intend to implement a graffiti programme as a new pilot.

Academy Programme

- > We hope to develop programmes that will fall under the umbrella of an academy. These programmes will include, fashion shows, art programmes, festivals, shows, DJ programme, Drama etc.
- > Continue to develop the Drama element into a programme called Cindy 2010 for the 12+ years. Working with existing young people.

Community Band

- > We hope to develop a band for 14+ age group where young people can learn skills and develop their talents. To visit other groups and explore ideas and options.
- > Drumming Group to develop music and rhythm skills for 10+ years.

Community Games

- > To continue to develop this programme on from last year for the 8+ years age group. This programme will be developed further to involve more different sports etc.

Boxing Programme

- > Following the success of last year boxing programme we hope to build on this and develop another boxing programme for 10+ years

What Next! Careers/Future Options Programme

- > This programme is a careers and future options programme being jointly implemented with the employment services for young people who are leaving school and unsure of their options. This will be aimed at 5th & 6th years.

ECDL Teenage Programme

- > This programme is aimed at 17+ year olds and being run jointly with the Digital Community Programme. Options are being explored to see if this programme can be further developed.

Our Hope is to provide a professional quality service to the young people of the community.

Children learn what
they live!