Talk About Youth Project Report
Overall Annual Evaluations & Plans

Evaluation for September 2006 to August 2007
&
Plans from September 2007 to August 2008

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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 1 part time staff under funding from the Special Project Fund, Local Drugs Task Force and the Young People’s Facility and Services Fund. It also has two part time staff on community employment scheme. The project has a great team of 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 clubs, groups, training etc. (b) Drug Education, Awareness and prevention, (c) Outreach. (d) Alternative Sports & Music and finally (e) The Overall project bumper events that mostly take place on an annual basis. Also covered in this last area is funding, premises, networking and national issues that affect young people to name but a few.

About us:

We are a very dynamic project team of very fun loving individuals who bring experience, variety of working styles and good craic to whatever programmes we develop. 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.

Methodology:

Each worker evaluated and reviewed their work areas. Issues that affect work plans and highlights are 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. The draft plans were put together to create the overall project plan for 2007-2008. These plans were then ratified by St. Andrew’s Board of Management.

Comment:

We had a very productive and quality service throughout the year. We are constantly learning and changing our practices to address identified needs and trends. Child protection guidelines and good work practices means that staff members are working in pairs for the majority of our programmes. We have found this good for staff morale but it also restricts the amount of programmes we do also. Once again we must comment on our volunteer leader’s team who ground the project and sustain the development of the project too.

We must also mention our junior leaders team who play a vital role in supporting the younger groups with many tasks and above all good role modelling. We have had a good year and are prepared for the many challenges of the year ahead.
Some Highlights for Sep 06 – Aug 07

Our Exchange programmes are a very positive initiative and have brought some new life to the project. A lot of young people have linked with the project through the exchanges so we will develop these further. We had a male and female worker implementing the Relationship Sexuality Education Programme this year and this was a great success. We are establishing a young men’s group from the RSE Programme.

Our ongoing School support has been very successful with opportunities to develop one to one relationships with Young People who we may not have otherwise encountered. Also the Drug Education in the Schools was very successful and we have identified changes we need to make for next year.

We established a Garda Youth Forum in conjunction with the JLO sergeant from Pearse Street Station. It is a great opportunity for young people to have a voice on issues they encounter on an ongoing basis.

We have been very successful in developing and bringing our data base up to date. It was a huge task with a lot of backlog to go through, that was a great achievement. And finally, some members of staff are involved in many other community programmes throughout the year. We played a major role in implementing a very successful “Door Step” Programme in the community with the Supervising Manager.

Issues affecting our work for Sep 06 - Sep 07

A huge amount of paperwork is now required by CDYSB for Programme Planning, recording etc. It is difficult to stay up to date with this.

Our Outdoor Pursuits programme did not work. This programme was not in our original plan. Most of the programme style, timing, activities were dictated by an outside agency. We learnt that we must be better prepared and in control of programmes being run in conjunction with other organisation/agencies.

We had planned to establish a young mothers group but without success. Many factors played a role but our own work loads and lack of good planning on our part inhibited its establishment. We hope to work on this for next year.
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 young men 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 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 great back up service of 1 community employment position and a strong base of 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 / Not in position yet
- CE Support Position / Ron Freeman
Talk About Youth Project

Mission Statement
We aim to provide a safe, non-threatening environment were 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.
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.
The services work plan is informed by continuous consultation with young people and the volunteers of the project.
Overall Project Evaluation Sep 06 - Aug 07:

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:

> The Summer Programme was once again exceptionally good. Again there was great co-operation with other organisations and the residential programme in July proved very positive again although the weather was bit of a challenge. The venue of Glendalough was a bit restrictive also.

> Splash Week went well. Again the DDDA sponsorship on this event is invaluable to the success of the programme.

> We still have a volunteer base of around 20 and the majority of these are still our "home grown" volunteers who are giving something back.

Issues arising

> Fitting everything from the general programme into already very busy schedules on going with the staff.

> The reduction in the amount of funding we received from the DDDA for Splash Week. We will have to look at another partner for this next year. To balance out the cost involved.

> Changes in Garda personal who work on joint initiatives. Difficulties in building up relationships over and over again.

> Although we have Trinity, there are still issues about its suitability because of its location in Trinity itself, i.e. through a network corridor system.

> Recruitment of new suitable staff and the effect this has on team work.

> It was difficult to keep on top of all our linking across and planning etc. Some programmes got lost because of this.

Annual Overall Project Events Implemented in 06/07 included:

> Representation Ongoing

> Community Support Doorstep Programme Ongoing

> Education / Students Programme Ongoing

> Project Promotion Ongoing

> Halloween Buzz Week October 06

> Christmas Silly Season Week December 06

> Splash Week April 07

> Summer Programme July & August 07

Overall Project Planning Sep 07 – Aug 08:

Annual Events

> Halloween Buzz Week October 07

> Christmas Silly Season Week December 07

> One World Week February 08

> Splash Week March 08

> Summer Programme July & August 08

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 November
and evaluated to see if we should include them in our annual or by annual plans.

Consultation Process
> We hope to implement a comprehensive consultation process during the last two weeks of November to inform our plans for the coming five year.

Representation
> We will continue to be advocates for 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, Docklands Youth Workers Forum, Garda Customer Services Panel, Advisory Group, South Docks Festival etc.
> We are also represented on the National Volunteers Task Group

Community Support
> Supporting the Rapid reps and the Rapid process
> Supporting and working with the Sports Co-ordinator from DCC
> 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.
> We take Garda Students on shorter 2 week placements for their social placement. This is generally in the summer months.

Training
> Staff training is ongoing and relevant to various areas of work. The following are some of the more substantial courses that will be undertaking in 07/08.
  -Dundalk IT Youth Work Course with CDYSB
  -Relationship Sexuality Education (RSE)
  -IT Training in Digital Camera Work, Update on programmes
  -Training Trainers Course with CDYSB.
  -Professional Supervision
  -Relevant Seminars and workshops.

Team
> Work hard 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 hard on our Professional Supervision together to ensure quality for both the project programmes and the staff members.
> Put aside time for our own team building and social events to encourage staff motivation and morale.
Administration Planning Sep 07 – Aug 08:

This role is one part time staff member. The staff member is responsible for the general administration and upkeep of the office, equipment and our Space in Trinity College. Member also support the full time staff in 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**
- Getting Data base fully up to date with the last of our old records
- Keeping accurate records ongoing and up to date
- Include Drug Education participation numbers into data base

**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 PFF, Dance Mania and the establishment of a Young Mothers Group.

**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

**Training**
- Training Trainers Course CDYSB
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 were 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.
- Some of groups need to be revamped.
- Visit 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 are 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 refurbishing a room with them in order to develop relationships with them Sep-June 07.
- Bridging the GAP will continue. I will be linking with Outreach to develop this further. This takes place Sep-June 07.
- The Garda Youth Forum will continue as soon as we establish who the new personnel is and agree how to continue.

**New Programmes**

- We will be establishing a junior young women's group with 10-12 year olds this will be Sep 07 – June 08.
- We will be establishing a junior young men's group with 10-12 year olds. This will begin with an 8 week pilot programme in Oct-Dec 06
- We will be establishing a young mothers group. Some research has been done and we will link with the Child Care Service on this.
- I will be working with the ARC in Temple Bar to develop a programme with one of the clubs. This will be a pilot to see how we might work together in the future.
- I will be establishing a basic junior leaders programme for a new group of Pre-Junior leaders for 13-15 year olds who want to become junior leaders when they are 15 years.

**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 volunteer’s annual training residential in the first weekend of February. Plan full training programme for weekend 2nd-4th of February 07.
> 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

**Volunteers Junior**
> Planning further training with existing junior volunteers that will be blocks, prioritised and coded. This will be planned and agreed with Junior & senior volunteers. This system will be completed by December 06 and the full training schedule will be completed by March 07.
> To advertise for more junior volunteers to get involved.
> Explore ways of this group also acting as a “youth forum” for the area.

**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 & Dec 06.

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

**Representation**
> I am representing the project on the Docklands Youth Workers Forum and the National Volunteers Task Force.

**Link Magazine**
> I will again be 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**
> I will be working on all the general project activities.
> Complete Programme Record sheets for every area of work.
Drug Education & Awareness Planning Sep 07 – Aug 08:

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 I hope to get longer times with the groups. I will share the work load 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 07, programme in Nov - Dec 07.
- City Quay NS 6th Class Needs Analysis Oct 07, programme in Nov - Dec 07.
- CBS 1st yr Night Time Tours takes place Jan 08.
- CBS 2nd yr Oct 07 and Jan 08.
- CBS 5th yr Oct 07 and Jan 08.
- CBS Special Unit Feb 08 and Mar 08.
- CBS 3rd & 6th yr workshops in (to be agreed).
- Baggot Street in new year in agreement with the School Principal.

**Fun & Sporadic Programmes**

- Where possible I will develop fun and different ways to explore awareness of Drugs and prevention.

**Other Programmes**

- Along with the Mainstream Worker we will again try to establishing a young mothers group. I will continue to be involved the Exchange Programmes.

**Drug Awareness Poster Competition**

- This competition will take place between Sep & Oct 08 as a build up to Drug Awareness Week in Nov 08. I will be developing this further with workshops and themed sessions to create the overall theme for Drug Awareness Week.

**Drug Awareness Week**

- This will place in Nov 08 and will include new and exciting events.
- Building on what we learned last year, we will be again creating a very public and positive look at drug education & awareness. We will decentralise some other events to bring it out into the community more.

**Healthwise Programme**

- In conjunction with the Mainstream Worker we will be exploring what we learned from last year’s Healthwise programme and implementing more. We also hope to work with our male co-workers in developing a young men’s group to work in parallel with the young women’s healthwise.

**Parent Support**

- I will be available to parents for questions or queries they have.

**Clubs and Group**

- I will continue to work with clubs and groups like the DJ programme, Whizz...
> Kids etc. to develop relationships with young people and to be available to them.

**Key Work**
> I will develop this as the need arises. I will build up a resource list of contacts and referrals that have proved positive and helpful.

**Training**
> I will be attending Merchants Quay to complete a Certificate in Drugs Counselling and Intervention
> I will attend relevant seminars & workshops.

**General**
> I will be working on all the general project activities.
> Complete Programme Record sheets for every area of work.
Outreach Planning Sep 07 – Aug 08:

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 April 08 as Splash Week falls in Late March this year so we have to push the Tasters back a bit. It will facilitate 40 young over a three week period and we hope this year to explore alternative sports.

**Young Men’s Group**
- One of the Workers and a volunteer will be establishing a 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. The programme will be from Sep 07-Jun 08.

**Sporadic Programmes**
- 3 cross groups meeting up for an intercity challenge. We hope this will facilitate some of the work in addressing territorial issues experienced between north & south side groups on the bridge. Although exploratory meetings took place last year it was difficult to get other groups to commit to the programme but we will strive to secure more contacts this year.
- Rumble in the Jungle is a full day event that will happen Feb 08.

**Exchanges**
- We hope to continue this programme. We are in the process of putting together a programme to host several countries in July next year.

**Discos**
- One disco for February is planned 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.

**“Zone”**
- One of us works with the Mainstream Worker on this programme from Sep 07-Jun 08. We will design and implement a programme with the young people that will involve refurbishing a space for them within the school premises as a means to building up relationships and positive team work.

**Travellers**
- One staff member will do training specifically aimed at Travellers involvement and participation in the project activities.

**Bridging the GAP**
- This programme will take place from Sep 07 ñ June 08 with the Mainstream Youth Worker and we will continue developing this group.

**Representation**
- We will continue to represent were necessary.

**Training**
- Our Outreach support worker is completing a course with CDYSB through
Dundalk Institute.
A staff member will be undertaking training specifically at Traveller participation in the project.
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.
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.

These programmes are on hold until the post is filled with a suitable candidate. In the meantime the Drug Education Worker is continuing with the DJ Programme and the Whizz Kids group.
Our Hope is to provide a professional quality service to the young people of the community.

Children learn what they live!