

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 Winchester district worked with 2,833 young people, 2,352 of whom were aged 13 to 19 years, equating to 24% of the target population. Of the 1,114 active participants in the service, 932 were 13 to 19 year-olds, which equates to 9% of the 13 to 19 population.

There were 16,359 recorded attendances at youth service units in Winchester district, of whom 12,247 were 13 to 19 year-olds. There were 277 recorded outcomes resulting from young people being involved with the service, equating to 25% of active participants. In total, 224 young people gained an accredited outcome, equating to 20% 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 Winchester district managed 14 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 Winchester district has seven full-time posts, 13 part-time posts and eight volunteers. The vast majority of youth service units in the 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 Winchester district works in partnership with the Voluntary and Community Sector and has close working arrangements with the City, Town and Parish Councils.

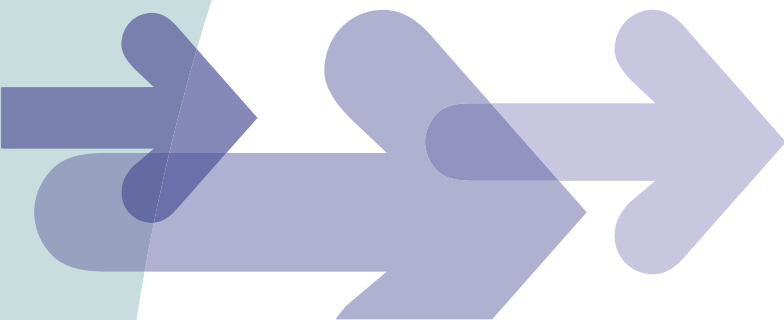
Financing youth work 2005/06

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



There is a range of exciting youth work in Winchester district – Fern Calver, Senior Youth Worker

Welcome to the Hampshire County Youth Service Winchester district annual report. I am pleased to have this opportunity to report on the range and quality of youth work in the district in a year that saw a substantial increase in the level of provision.

This year's survey of young people who engage with county youth service provision showed a user satisfaction rate for the Winchester district of 84%. Our outdoor education programme was especially popular this year with young people from across the district taking the opportunity to learn how to climb, canoe, surf, sail, mountain bike and ski. Young people said they felt safe at our projects and they were aware that youth workers were a good source of information, advice and guidance. This very positive feedback reflects well on the commitment and skill of the district youth work team, and I would like to take this opportunity of thanking all youth workers in Winchester for their dedication, creativity and effort.

Two thirds of our units work in partnership with other agencies and organisations, and we gratefully acknowledge the contribution other services make to the provision on offer to young people. Increased youth service resources and the growth in partnership work have enabled a growing number of young people from across the whole district to access the youth provision they need. The enthusiasm and commitment of our partners, and the qualities of our own staff team, place the district in a strong position to develop dynamic responses to the needs of young people. I am looking forward to the fresh challenges and opportunities 2006-07 will bring.

Introduction

Malcolm Rittman, County Youth Officer

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



→ Strangers become friends

Sam Verrall's story



Young people from across the Winchester district planned and took part in a Youth Exchange with young people from Germany, Poland and Hungary. One of the participants, Sam Verrall, tells the story of the first leg of the exchange:

"A group of 17 young people from Winchester flew to Germany for an exchange trip based mainly on sport and cultural activities. Each day we all achieved a new challenge in groups with young people from the other countries. On our first day we met the Mayor of Giessen who welcomed the young people from Germany, Poland, Hungary and the United Kingdom. After the speech we were split into groups to go around Giessen on a paper chase to see the sites of Giessen and learn more about the town.

Each evening we took part in different sporting and creative activities, and a couple of these activities were used for a performance at a party at the end of the week. We had multicultural tournaments on-site and we visited local museums. We did some water sports and environmental water analysis at a nearby lake. Members of the European Parliament set up an evening for us to go and ask questions and put our own views across. We all learned a lot from the evening and our group came up with some detailed questions.

Overall this trip was very successful and all the young people enjoyed themselves and learned new skills. The theme of the week was - Frende warden freunde, Giessen 2005 (Strangers become friends, Giessen 2005) - which is exactly what happened!"

→ Denmead partnership work

purpose built youth room attracts young people

The Denmead Youth Partnership, which includes representatives of the Parish Council and youth workers from the district team, had a terrific response from young people when they relocated their work with 10 to 13 year olds to a specially designed youth room in the new Ashling Pavilion. In addition to use of the youth room the young people also have access to the

pavilion's sports hall and kitchen. Attendance has been so high that project evenings have been divided into two equal sessions.

The project provides a safe and welcoming place for young people to meet and aims to help young people make a successful transition from primary to secondary education. The programme of activities operates throughout the year and includes parents evenings, dance, photography and film workshops. Mixed in with the wide range of activities on offer are opportunities for students from local secondary schools to share their experiences of moving successfully to year seven. A peer mentoring scheme also operates from the project.

When young people reach the age of 14 they have the opportunity to train as a Young Leader and to receive an accredited award. One of the young leaders who trained this year said:

"I can still come to club and have fun, and this also helps keep things running. I feel like I'm giving something back."

→ Learning together

on a narrowboat

a voyage of discovery

Spending time on a narrow boat and enjoying Britain's network of waterways is often viewed as a relaxing way of spending a few days holiday. Like most newcomers to sharing the limited space provided on these compact vessels, a few surprises were in store for a group of ten young people from Winchester district when they ventured onto the canals for the first time in October 2005.

Before embarking on their voyage of discovery the young people were involved in planning the venture, including devising menus and budgeting. Youth workers briefed the young people about the conditions on board and the need to work as a team when negotiating locks and completing everyday chores. Nevertheless young people were still surprised when faced with the real thing! They took on the challenges they faced with enthusiasm and energy, and pulled together to do what was necessary to ensure their own progress and safety. To the pleasant surprise of the skippers of passing narrow boats, the young people volunteered to help operate locks for other canal users.





One member of the group was very proud of managing to steer a vessel through a mile long tunnel in complete darkness. The whole group reported how much they had enjoyed being in an environment different from anything they had experienced before. They also recognised the importance of individuals taking their full share of responsibility.

→ Detached youth work youth workers meet young people on their own territory

The additional resources made available for detached youth work by the County Council for 2005-06, enabled the Winchester district to appoint an experienced full-time detached youth worker. As a result the number of detached and mobile youth work projects in the district has more than doubled in the last year.

The detached youth work team have been able to make good use of a specially designed vehicle to take information, sports equipment and creative materials into rural parishes where the need for youth provision had been previously identified. In addition to these new initiatives the team works in partnership with an established voluntary sector project in Colden Common and has maintained the existing detached work in the city centre and elsewhere in the district.

The increase in detached work has resulted in young people playing a more constructive part in local communities and making cases for more things to do and places to go. Consultative meetings have been arranged between young people, local authorities, the Police and other services to discuss sites for youth shelters and other facilities.

→ Creative lounge for young people enjoying and achieving at Twenty5

This year saw the development of a creative lounge for young people in City Road Winchester. The premises has been re-furnished and designed to be user friendly. This innovative project was named "Twenty5" by young people who attend the high-tech and creative workshops based there. In workshops facilitated by enthusiastic and experienced staff, young people learn how to use computers to make music, how to animate models and how to film and edit their own movies.

Once young people have acquired the necessary basic skills they can book a time to work on their own projects, staff are always available for technical support and guidance. The facilities include free internet access (with appropriate safe-guards) and are open to young people every afternoon after school. Youth groups from around the district use the facilities in the evenings.

A number of fascinating pieces of work have been produced at the workshops to date and two enterprising young people are producing a short animated film for the skill section of their Duke of Edinburgh's Award. It's early days for Twenty5 but it seems certain that it will go from strength to strength in the year ahead.

→ Youth Action Winchester Making a positive contribution

Two members of Youth Action Winchester (YAW), Emily Pannell and Hannah Poole, report on the progress made since the project started in the spring of 2005 when just three young people were involved:

"Youth Action Winchester now has 12 regular members. YAW gives us the opportunity to campaign on issues we believe to be important in our local communities. YAW meets fortnightly and the officers meet weekly.

YAW has worked with the local MP and Councillors to try and improve areas of Winchester for young people. The particular issues we are dealing with are poor street lighting, poor bus services along with high bus fares and getting more youth shelters. We are currently planning a presentation in Denmead to encourage young people in that area to get involved with local issues.

YAW gives us the opportunity to develop our communication, publicity and campaigning skills. We have learned a lot from being involved in YAW, we now have the confidence to speak out about things that we think need to be changed for us and other people. Youth Action Winchester makes a real difference!"

