



Youth Almighty Project

Detached Youth Workers

Consultation

August 2011



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Project Managers Comments

Youth Almighty (YAP) is a youth project to be proud of. During our first two years the project has been extremely busy securing funding, consulting with young people and developing partnerships in order to effectively run a program to meet the needs of the young people from the Silksworth and surrounding areas.

The project has been able to offer an existing, innovative programme, and challenging experiences for young people. Despite the ever changing economic climate, limited resources and uncertainty we have a dedicated staff team who are committed to delivering a full class service for young people in our area.

The success factor has been the young people-led approach. We recognise without a shadow of a doubt, that without the full involvement and steer of young people, the provision would not be what it is today.

The aim of this consultation was for the organisation to explore ways of attracting young people who don't currently use our service. Using our team of detached youth workers we were able to target 36 young people who weren't previously known to the project. The results of this snapshot consultation together with the consultations carried out during the summer of 2011 will determine our work plan for the next 12 months.

We will continue to work with young people to provide a service that meets their needs whilst enhancing their personal and social development

Joanne Laverick
Project Manager (YAP)



Introduction

Detached youth workers collated responses from young people who they encountered during various detached sessions across the summer, who weren't previously known to access any YAP sessions. They concentrated on gathering responses from the Silksworth area only. During June and July 2011 the workers collected 36 responses.

30 (83%) young people had heard of Youth Almighty Project, out of the 6 who hadn't, 2 said they would come if they knew what was on when.

Findings

Excellent intelligence has been gathered from young people in the Silksworth area of Sunderland who don't normally access Youth Almighty Project provision.

Publicity and promotion of the project and activities offered seems clear, 27(83%) of young people knew what YAP was.

There is a clear need for some support in the Silksworth area for NEET young people.

Children want to be able to access the services of YAP and would like more than one junior session per week.

Young people said they would go to YAP if they offered music lessons (has been offered in the past but not well attended), trampolines (project are considering – undertaking a risk assessment), sport in the park (already offered – needs to be publicised more widely).

Recommendations

- Consider the findings of this consultation in conjunction with the Young Peoples Evaluation – July 2010 consultation carried out of the summer of 2011.
- Some of the requests i.e. more junior sessions, junior football, and trampolines are repeated by young people already accessing provision.
- There are a number of ideas for the project to explore if funding was available.

Sports courses -

Support for young people who are NEET

Daytime sessions.

- Develop better links with organisations that offer services for young people who are NEET.

Youth Almighty Project already have some staff members that are qualified football coaches and could deliver coaching sessions and JSLA / CSLA sessions if the funding was available to do this.

Young people in other sessions have asked the Project Manager to provide referee coaching; the project are looking at opportunities to explore partnership work with other organisations who could deliver sports courses and finding funding to support this.

Supporting young people who are NEET or at risk of NEET is something the Project Manger has been considering. The project has strong links with Connexions and have successfully carried out work in partnership for NEET Blitz. In the past YAP successfully completed a Preparation to Work course with funding from Connexions; this is something they would like to repeat if funding was available. We recommend YAP visit the following projects to discuss partnership opportunities and possible joint funding bids, Pallion Action Group (PAG), The Jubilee Centre, Springboard and built into their funding plan bids to support this work.

Alternatively YAP could provide a base for other organisations to work from; i.e. the model used at PAG would work well here – Job Linkage use PAG as a base at a set time and day every week, the service offers CV writing, interview techniques, job searches etc and is extremely well used. The development worker from PAG has said she is more than willing to share how this project was set up and any contacts she has, we would recommend following this up asap.

31% of young people told us they were 'too old to go to YAP'. These young people were aged 16 and 17 years old. The Project Manager is concerned that the perception from these young people is that the youth project only caters for young people below this age, which is not the case. This needs to be discussed with the Management Committee. Developing opportunities for young people who are of school leaving age, specifically to meet the needs of those young people who are NEET may help alleviate this perception.

Youth Almighty Project caters for both children and young people. With funding from BBC Children in Need YAP have recently implemented a junior session on a Friday evening that regularly attracts upwards of 40 young people aged 8 – 11 years old, including young people with disabilities. This session is popular and there is a definite need for at least another junior session per week, however the project needs to look at its current curriculum, opening times, days open, staff availability, staff skills and re-evaluate realistically how many session it can offer to children and young people in the area.

It's important to remember that when undertaking a consultation people it's extremely important to listen to the views of responders, but YAP can only act on the recommendations / findings if it has the capacity and funding to do so.

YAP is a relatively new project that offers a varied programme of activities catering for a large number of children and young people, stretching the programme even more may dilute some of the good work without proper planning, funding and staff.

The questions we asked young people.

The following questions were asked;

Where young people are spending their time outside of school

Young people are spending their spare time participating in sports (52%), dance / drama (22%) and gaming at home (15%). 20 young people told the detached workers they were doing 'other things', we are unsure what these are but know from conversations that took place that some young people are working, attending other groups, hanging out with mates and volunteering.

Please tell us why you don't attend sessions at YAP?

Reasons for not attending were varied including; too many big ones (8%), (need more things for 10 year olds to do (8%) my mates don't go (8%)

What would make you come on a regular basis?

Young people told us that they would come along to Youth Almighty Project if;

There were more sports training opportunities

- Referee coaching
- Football coaching
- Sports courses

Support for young people who are NEET

- Daytime sessions
- Volunteering opportunities
- Sessions for over 16 yr olds that would support with training / jobs
- Job clubs

Junior Activities

- More things for 10 year olds to do
- Junior football session

If Youth Almighty Project offered the following; (Activities not already on offer at YAP)

- Music lessons
- Skate park
- Trampolines
- Daytime sessions
- Sport in the park

11 (31%) young people told us they were too old to go, (16 and 17 yrs old)

If you'd like to contact the project for more information

please don't hesitate to get in touch with us

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