

Sunderland East Area Committee: 21 July 2010

Report of Children Services

Item 2: Annex 4: Feedback evaluation on XL Youth Villages

Background

- We began delivery of the Summer Youth Villages (block 1) in May 2010.
- The first week delivery at Galley's Gill proved to be an unsuitable location because of unforeseen issues relating to adults in the area.
- The XL Youth Village Events have since continued at Ryhope Football Fields up until 23 July and another site in Millfield has been identified for the next block beginning in August adjacent to St Joseph's school.
- Of the 158 different young people who have attended to date, 75 are first time attendees/young people who have not accessed positive activities before. 36.7% Female and 63.3% Male attendees.
- A full evaluation and data analysis will be undertaken at the end of Block 1.

Things that have worked well

- The youth village is situated in a good location which is highly visible to the local community as we have had comments that it great to have events like this for the young people on a Friday night.
- A lot of the young people who were refused entry for drinking alcohol the first week, have returned not under the influence.
- Detached youth workers from Blue Watch attended the events and are very supportive.
- Behaviour from the young people has improved dramatically, they were very unruly in the first week but they adhered to our rules and conditions and now there is an excellent atmosphere in the village.
- We are easing the existing tension between some residents and young people.
- We have stopped street fights between groups of girls and worked with parents and helped them to engage with local police team to stop the bullying.
- Young people from Hendon are attending these events.
- Feed back from Connexions workers who work in Venerable Bede, stated how some young people who are known to take part in risky behaviours have turned up to the youth village sober, and it is a really good intervention method.
- A mother brought her son down to the youth village who is being bullied at school as he needed to make new friends; the young person has since attended each week and has made new friends.
- A young person was intoxicated and was not allowed entry; he was devastated because he wanted to MC.(DJ'ing) He returned the next week with his peers, they were all refused entry, he was allowed in as he had not been drinking. The following week all of his peers were allowed entry as they all refused to drink so they could enter the youth village.
- Young people who access our services are seeking information on sexual health, smoking cessation, information on youth provision in the area.
- At the request of young people live bands are now a feature.

Issues that need attention

- Motorbikes Mopeds were a problem when setting up the village as they have free roam across the field. However they are cooperating with requests to avoid the site area.
- At first we attracted the interest of young adults over the age of 19 who may have been under the influence of drugs and alcohol. Although they were not allowed entry into the village they were hanging round outside. The Police Community Support Officers have dealt with these groups.
- Parents who visit the site have requested something similar for younger children.
- Access to this site is limited so we are unable to use the climbing wall.
- Promotion of the events needs to improve and we are working with the Safer City Partnership to help develop better marketing.
- Better ways to capture and evidence the difference/impact they make to community cohesion. To help with this we have consulted with local residents before the event to gain their support and to address any concerns they may have had. Another consultation will happen after the block is completed.

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