

Summer Positive Activities for Young People Pilot 2008

Developing a Youth Village model for Sunderland

AIM

1. Deliver an innovative and unique approach to engaging young people in areas with high levels of reported anti social behaviour
2. Engage the most hard to reach and disengaged young people
3. Deliver provision on Friday and Saturday evenings for 12 weeks
4. Monitor and evaluate impact on young people's behaviour
5. Reach set targets on engaging young people and getting young people into positive activities
6. Reduce incidences of anti social behaviour in the designated areas
7. Work in partnership with Voluntary Sector, Police, Gentoo and YOS

XL Event

- **Football Cage**
- **Youth Information Trailer**
- **Play station/Dance Mat activity tent staffed by a dance instructor**
- **Sexual Health Caravan with screening, SHOWT registration and information**
- **Marquee with stage with decs**
- **Marquee with Street Dance**

Programme

- **Outback Adventure**
Saturday and Sunday young people access outdoor activities including canoeing, kayaking, raft-building, rock climbing and abseiling. Young people worked towards accredited outcomes
- **Community Cohesion Activity**
young people from each of the four housing estates were encouraged to get involved in planning an activity to benefit the community where they live
- **Street dancing**
dance instructors introduced young people (and particularly young women who are considerably less likely to participate in physical activities than their male peers) to movement and dance

The Youth Village Approach XL Event



XL Event



Registration



- All young people registered and issued with id cards
- Young people requested breathalyser tests
- And metal detector used to ensure safe environment

Comments from QA visit



- staff built good relationships with Young people
- Changing behaviour - Young people stopped drinking so they could attend
- Police noted that drinking had reduced during week days

Outcomes

- Reduction in crime 34%
- Some evenings incidents reduced to zero
- 856 young people attended the events
- 117 young people achieved a recorded outcome
- 50 young people achieved an accredited outcome
- 23 of 25 targeted young people attended the events
- 8 young people contributed 200 volunteer hours
- 10 volunteers on XL Events

XL Events

Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
No. of attendances Friday	158	163	150	164	172	169	126	152	EC	135	159	221
No. of attendances Saturday	107	EC	62	95	EC	74	EC	119	EC	77	128	121

EC = Event closed

Young People Said

- Young people stated they have found the XL Events excellent and by taking part it has acted as a diversion from alcohol and drugs, as they know they will not be allowed to enter if they are intoxicated or under the influence.
- They also stated they feel safe within the Event and avoid being moved on by Police.
- The Event has also helped to tackle the rivalry between groups of young people from different estates, by helping to breakdown barriers and encourage them to make new friends.
- One group of girls said “Since the XL Events have been on, we have stopped drinking completely. We don’t have time to drink. The Event finishes around 9pm, but we cannot start drinking then as we haven’t time to sober up before we have to go home. It stops us hanging around the streets and it’s got our kind of music. I’ve used the SHOWT caravan and tonight we are going to do dancing. We see people that we would normally see at school, but have now made some new mates.”
- A group of young people have led on a funding bid to continue this provision through the Youth Opportunity Fund

Positive images Sunderland Echo



Tent village cuts teenage aggro

From Page 1

Jackie Clark, Northumbria Police's neighbourhood inspector for Sunderland West, said: "The events are attracting 300 young people, and you have to ask yourself what would those young people be doing if it was not for this?"

"We've had no Acceptable Behaviour Agreements and no Antisocial Behaviour Orders, it's been a big success." The idea of the youth village is to bring activities to young people to prevent them hanging around street corners and being tempted into antisocial behaviour.

The events, which are being delivered by the A690 Youth Initiative on behalf of Sunderland City Council's youth development group, are held on

Grindon Park extension on a Friday night and North Moor, in Farringdon, on a Saturday night and are only open to young people from the surrounding estates.

Activities on offer range from a street dance tent and music area for teenagers to try their hand on the decks, to a truck equipped with a Nintendo Wii games console and a football cage. There is also a caravan on site where young people can get advice, support and information on stopping smoking, alcohol and drug misuse and be screened for the common sexually transmitted infection chlamydia.

The programme also aims to get young people involved in positive activities on other days of the week, and many have gone on to take part

in activities with the A690 such as football, street dancing, canoeing and kayaking.

When young people sign up to the events they also agree not to get involved in antisocial behaviour during the week – or risk not being allowed into the weekend events – which police say has further decreased youth disorder rates.

Lee Ferry, A690 project co-ordinator, said the idea for the youth village came from consulting teenagers and its success is down to giving them what they wanted.

He said: "From our side of things we are engaging with 175 to 200 young people per night, which is an overwhelming success."

Comment: Page 8

A place of safety and better than hanging around street corners

TEENAGERS say the mobile youth village gives them a safe place to go on a Friday and Saturday nights.

Sandhill View School pupil Adele Jones, 15, from Grindon, said: "I heard about it through school, there were lots of people talking about it."

"It's so much better than just hanging about the streets. I love the music tent and the street dancing."

Darren Ferry, 15, of Hastings Hill, said: "If it wasn't for this we would just be hanging about on the street because there's not much for young people to do around here."

Teenagers have welcomed the event's

stringent safety measures, including a photo ID system, which ensures young people register for the events beforehand and get parental consent.

Young people are also screened when they come through the doors with alcohol breath tests and metal detectors.

And at the end of the events A690 staff chaperone teenagers back to their estates to ensure groups of teenagers to do not hang around afterwards.

Chloe Laing, 15, of Thorne Close, said: "You feel protected in here and you know if there was ever any trouble it would be sorted out quickly."

ON THE MIC: MC Adam Penman in action in the music tent. Picture Angela Burn/No. 395095

Sunderland leading the way

SUNDERLAND is leading the way for other youth projects across the country.

Officials from the Government's Department for Children, Schools and Families believe the mobile youth village could form a blueprint for other parts of the country and are due to pay the city a visit soon.

Keith Moor, deputy director of children's services at Sunderland City Council, said: "We believe this is a ground-breaking initiative which

has caught the imagination of young people and has been positively received by members of the public."

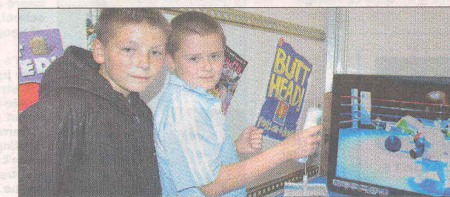
The pilot ends this Saturday, but organisers say they would like it to continue and be extended to other parts of the city.

Mr Moor added: "We are absolutely committed not only to repeating it but also looking at additional funding to see if we can roll it out in a broader sense in the community."

MOBILE YOUTH VILLAGE CUTS TEENAGE AGGRO

PLENTY TO DO: Among activities at the youth village are music decks and Wii computer games.

Pictures by Angela Burn



ISOCIAL behaviour rates in erland are plummeting thanks e UK's first "mobile youth vil-

unprecedented success of the travel-ub for teenagers is now set to become print for other parts of the country. e the pioneering 13-week pilot programme troduced in July, there have been no Anti-Behaviour Orders (Asbos) given out on the

EXCLUSIVE
By DANIELLE BEETON
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estates around Grindon and Farringdon, where the events take place.

Disorder rates on Thursdays to Sundays are down by 34 per cent on the same period last year, with 184 incidents this year compared with 280. The project, which runs from 5.30pm to 8.30pm on Fridays and Saturdays and operates a strict



UNDER CANVAS: The tent village.

no-alcohol and drugs policy, has proved extremely popular with 13 to 19-year-olds and been welcomed by the community.

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**Sunderland
City Council**

Echo Feedback
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
Should we have more of these travelling youth villages?
Write to Letters Page, The Echo, Pennywell Industrial Estate, Sunderland SR4 9ER.
email: echo.letters@northeast-press.co.uk
Text us your views
Start your text message with the code **SEVIEWS**. Send your text to 81800 (don't forget to add your name and where you are from at the end of the message).



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