

## **Appendix 10: Detached and Outreach Youth Work Strategy 2002 - 2004**

The Service has expanded at a considerable rate over the past year leading to more and more diverse and exciting work. Some of this work involves contacting young people who are not using the existing young people's services, or reaching out to them at times which are more appropriate to the young people and meeting them on their own territory. This means youth work teams operating out of the security of buildings and with the familiarity that they bring.

It should be recognised that working outside of a building is very different therefore needs different considerations. To work outside of a building will mean that the use of space will be less predictable than a youth club, there will be other people about besides the young people, and workers may be on or in other people's property, for example McDonalds or the pier. As a consequence the way the work is delivered is affected.

Delivering a curriculum based programme on the street means that youth workers have a lot less control or influence on the environment or the way the session being worked may run, and therefore it is important that those workers engaged in this work have a good understanding of youth work. They need to be able to identify how learning opportunities can be taken when planned interventions with young people take unexpected turns. The phrase 'you are the resource' is very true and the team working will need to be able to think clearly and quickly through the immediate impact of their choice, the medium term, and long term for the young people and their relationship with them. This impact is not only for the workers and the young people, but also for the other colleagues in the team who may work with the young people, the project as a whole, the community that they work in and the Service they may be part of.

The Youth, Support Service has 5 youth centres and multiple projects. These all use a range of methods to deliver to young people, group work, 1 to 1 work, detached and outreach work. Along with these 5 centres, there are a number of voluntary organisations, which will deliver the above including advice and information and counselling, plus a large number of specialist services like housing and work with minority groups. Outside of these, there are the statutory services such as Social Care and Health, Health Services, Education, Youth Offending Team and Careers. All the above are being challenged to make their services more accessible, more relevant to young people and their aspirations.

This strategy is to support this aim. The Youth Service traditionally has strength in this area along with some of the voluntary organisations. Systems and expertise have been developed at all the levels from direct delivery through to management and training. What is this strategy given the context outlined?

Considering the different services, their targets, and their staff profiles the method of outreach and detached needs to be as easy to engage with as possible. It needs to be accessible to young people and visible to meet the needs of young people who are not using existing youth provision, or, to access young people who have moved through services but need continued support. The Youth Support Service identifies 2 distinct areas of delivery that shape the delivery of detached and outreach work.

### **City Centre**

The city centre is an attractive place for young people to meet, particularly around the sea front. But these are not young people that live round the corner, they may be from any part of the City or further. To work in this environment the service has developed detached youth work in the city centre through 'Streetwise'. This project delivers street based youth work sessions in the City centre.

### **Estates**

The work on the cities estates and surrounding areas is covered in some cases by outreach work from the Youth centres or projects and also by some of our voluntary sector partners, for example Hangleton and Knoll Project. To support this work and to further the aims outlined earlier, the service is developing a mobile provision. The vehicle is purpose built as a youth information bus, equipped with seating, table, a small area for making tea/coffee and resources; it will also have computer and video equipment.

This provision will work across the City to a plan of contact work which will involve collaborative work with youth workers, services and communities. Voluntary organisations who are delivering youth work on the estates will be able to draw on the bus for support. It will also enable workers from services with little knowledge of the method of outreach to meet with young people in a safe and supportive context and to work alongside experienced youth workers. This will mean that services can work together to deliver what young people want.

**This strategy will extend the supportive net of provision which young people can engage, disengage and re-engage with as and when they feel they need to.**

**The mobile units will be highly visible, therefore offering the community contact points for services and information for young people that currently they may be unaware of.**

**The 2 strands to the strategy along with the project and centre based provision will create a comprehensive platform of delivery across the City to young people, on to which services can build and link with.**