



National Youth Work Headlines

Attempts to tackle underage drinking are being given fresh impetus with 10 areas taking a slice of £1m government funding.

Involving young people in decision-making can be beneficial and should lead to better outcomes for individuals.

Youth clubs will remain open and the jobs of youth workers will be saved after a U-turn by Derbyshire County Council on planned cuts.

Expansion Possible

Following negotiations with Cambridgeshire County Council the charity has been successful in securing a new contract to commence four new weekly sessions in the East Cambridgeshire and Fenland area. The new sessions in Littleport, Soham, Ely and Chatteris started in April and have already attracted over 150 young people.

The locations were based on consultation with the County Council Locality Teams and reports of research that has been carried out into deprivation and existing services.

Soham has been the busiest of sessions so far with over 40 young people on one night. The bus parks on the new build area at the north of the town where there are no facilities for young people.

Littleport is known as a very deprived area with many young people not achieving any grade D or above GCSE results. The bus is parking by the Leisure Centre giving great access to a large green area where cricket and football have been very popular. There is also a large group of young people who use the nearby skate park.

A skate park is also a feature at Ely (St John's Rd) where we have a wide range of ages using our facilities. This includes borrowing

Allen keys to tighten scooter wheels and fittings!

It's a Friday night when the bus visits Chatteris (parking in a public car park behind the Library). Here we are working in partnership with the Locality Team who provide a youth worker. Attendance started well but has been a bit erratic since, partly due to a couple of disruptive young people. Youth workers are beginning to build good relationships with these young people and it is hoped that we can encourage others to return.

The charity has taken on an additional 9 staff and volunteers to help work in these new venues and fill gaps in some of our existing venues.

The County Council contract only covers part of the cost of running these sessions but the charity has also been successful in gaining Big Lottery funding for a year to help cover the shortfall. The rest is being sort from existing and other funders, and it is planned that in the second year local town and district councils will be in a position to financially support the work.



Scratch Art

Over the last few months we have seen young people enjoying a wide variety of craft activities. The picture above is of the scratch art done by young people in Elsworth one Thursday evening.

Other crafts have included:

- Origami
- Sequins
- Nail Art
- Fantasy Film (see below)
- Balloon modelling
- Shrinkies Key Rings
- Mother's Day and Easter cards
- Face paints



Over the page:

- Another new venue
- Spend and Raise Website
- Summer Holiday Programme
- How you can support us





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Papworth is back

After a break of over a year, the charity will be back working in Papworth. Efforts by the Parish Council to start a building based club in conjunction with the County Council only lasted a short time (due to building issues). However plans are to have a youth venue available from sometime in 2013.

In the meantime the Bus Project has been called in to provide youth work on one of our buses.

We will be behind the library on Thursdays every fortnight 7-9pm starting on 21 June 2012.

Then during the summer holidays, every week.

See you there!

Summer Holiday Programme 2012 and Beyond..

This summer we will be continuing our regular term time sessions in the following venues: Oakington, Comberton, Willingham, Caldecote and Bar Hill.

The bus will also continue to visit Papworth but increase the frequency to weekly for the holiday period.

Three additional villages have booked sessions for the holidays. Little Paxton on Thursday evenings, Coton on three Tuesday afternoons and Grafham on three Thursday afternoons.

Full details of all our sessions both term time and summer holidays are available on our website along with a link to a map to show where we will be parking the buses.

and Beyond..

All of our current venues have confirmed sessions right

through to April 2013 so from September we will be continuing as currently with:

Eversdens, Oakington, Littleport, Comberton, Soham, Haslingfield, Willingham, Caldecote, Elsworth, Fen Drayton, Papworth, Ely, Bar Hill and Chatteris.

Grateful Parent

Finally, it is unusual for us to hear from parents so when we do we love to share how things are going. As a result we received a thank you card which included the following:

"You're already doing a fabulous job for her over in the Youth Bus—thank you all for all your time and effort and kindness."

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Winner of contract for Rural Youth Work Support, South Cambridgeshire (2009-2012)

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