

## Risk Day Events - Ely

The Ely locality has a very busy club based at the garage in Ely on Thursday evenings, all the young people that attend are aged over 13+. This youth club is run by the Ely, Littleport and Witchford youth team plus supporting volunteers.

It was observed by staff and volunteers that a lot of the young people that engage with this provision were at risk or involved in crime, anti-social behaviour, substance misuse and sexual health issues.

The team worked with young people to put a bid in to the youth bank to do some work around risky behaviour.

There were four main aims of the project:

1. To provide alternative positive activities in areas frequented by young people throughout the summer holidays
2. To provide informal education around the theme of risky activities through a workshop approach provided by various agencies and organisations
3. To provide open access activities that were suitable to all ages
4. To create community awareness of the agencies that support young people and insist in community cohesion by involving those agencies and encouraging them to demonstrate how they all worked together.

The project received funding for a variety of engaging activities plus leaflets, materials and resources.



Invitations were sent to all agencies to have a presence at the risk days and following enthusiastic replies a programme was developed along with a volunteer rota. The variety of activities required some lengthy risk assessments to be developed before the plans were finally submitted to the local council for approval. The days were then advertised to young people in the town and surrounding area.

The days were well attended by young people across the whole youth work age range and very positive comments were received from young people, the agencies involved and people in the community. Evaluation was carried out as an integral part of the activities so that young people were able to give their feedback in an intuitive way.

The feedback received was extremely positive from everyone that attended, it raised the profile of the locality team and youth team with in Ely, as well as providing an opportunity for other agencies to promote themselves.



There were lots of recorded and accreditation linked with the project with regards to planning and delivery by the volunteers. The volunteers that attended that day have also now completed their level one qualification and are keen to plan another event.

The project also raised awareness of youth projects and a number of people contacted the team after the event with regards to youth provision and volunteering community cohesion and multi agency working.

The days involved:

- East cambs providing access to the venues plus chairs and tables
- Cambridgeshire Police provided police cars and officers to engage with young people
- Gazebos were set up with different assorted outside games supplied by the County's youth store
- The University of Cambridge offering archaeology workshops were young people could get some hands on experience and craft activities
- Adec (Arts Development in East Cambridgeshire) provided entertainment by young people and workshops
- The CASUS (Cambridgeshire Child and Adolescent Substance Use Service) team were on hand to provide advice and leaflets
- Drinksense had a table of assorted goodies and smoking cessation materials
- Childrens centres provided activities for under 5 and parents
- Youth work staff supplied additional resources and also gave out Frank water bottles and leaflets
- Dj workshops enabled young people to develop some skills which also improved their self confidence