

**CORSHAM AREA YOUTH WORK – MANSION HOUSE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT CENTRE**

Last September Wiltshire Councillors voted to keep front line youth services thereby retaining youth centres and the vast majority of full time and part time youth workers. As campus facilities are built the youth centres will become redundant.

Over the past 12 months the Corsham area youth work team have been extremely active working with young people in the 13-19 year age group.

Primarily based at the Mansion House and running the youth club, the team regularly work on the streets, in Corsham town and Springfield Park, where the youth shelter and flood lit skate park provide all year facilities.

The Corsham Area Young People Issues Group (CAYPIG) are currently involved with the Corsham Campus and have been influential in the design of the proposed youth facility, providing layout plans and equipment requirements. The CAYPIG group consist of approximately 15 young people of mixed ability and gender.

Youth workers are also supporting the voluntary staff at the Box Youth Club on Wednesday evenings. Young people at the Mansion House Youth Club have been recognised for their contribution to the community, by fundraising and their own personal development during the Wiltshire Councils Integrated Youth Service Awards Ceremony last November.

The main issues that are young people's concerns from our work experiences are – in no particular order:

- Employment – lack of work opportunities
- Further Education – withdrawal of Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA)
- NEET Young People – Not in Education, Employment or Training – and the perceived stigma attached to the term NEET
- Substance abuse and misuse – both alcohol and cannabis are readily available and encourage experimentation.
- Domestic and peer group relationships – varied with sometimes difficult situations effecting young people's mental health

Youth work staff operating in the above national and local social environment have contributed supporting young people with their individual and varied situations, by face to face counselling, group work and if required and agreed, involving other agencies with particular and relevant expertise.

Activities have included – summer camping, water sports, ice skating, Center Parcs visit, and fashion photo shoots.

**Corsham area contacts with young people April –December 2011.**

13-19 population – 1,926 – target contacts 35%

35% target for year = 674

Current contacts for 9 months = 502

Female contacts = 316

Male contacts = 186

Total Young People = 502

The term 'contact' refers to a young person who is registered and personal details recorded on the youth service database – sessional recordings identify attendances eg signing in on drop-in sessions.

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