

Sunderland Youth Offending Service

Newsletter: Issue 6 / June 2005

Welcome to the 6th edition of the YOS newsletter...

... for staff, colleagues and service users, to keep you in touch with what is happening in the Service. Your contributions to future newsletters would be very welcome. Details of how to contact us are on the back page. We hope you enjoy this edition.

In this edition we report on:

- The Restorative Justice 100 Days Clean UP Campaign.
- Our Performance in 2004/5
- The Year of the Volunteer
- Tackle It Prevention Programme
- ISSP DJ Project
- The re-launch of our Website

100 Days Clean-Up Campaign

The 100 Days Clean Up campaign was launched in September 2004 to target environment crime in Hendon and the East End.



This picture shows young people and members of staff collecting litter at Hendon Beach.

The Hendon 100 day clean-up campaign was part of the Home Office's TOGETHER campaign, which was a response to local communities concerns by taking action against anti-social behaviour.

The 'Clean Up' included young people from Sunderland Youth Offending Service, along with members of staff litter, picking at Hendon Beach.

Simon Smart, Restorative Justice Co-ordinator from the Youth Offending Service commented on the litter pick at Hendon Beach and said *"This is an important project for the young people we are working with. All of our community payback schemes are about giving something back to the local area and this litter pick will show the young people involved what a difference just a few hours of effort can make"*

The Youth Offending Service delivered information leaflets to residents in the Hendon area about the 100 day campaign, which provided information on the campaign, and also dates for litter picking.

The 100 day clean up campaign also involved working with Southmoor School and undertaking a joint litter pick with pupils and young offenders at an identified litter blackspot around the school and estates nearby. Throughout the whole campaign more than 130 tonnes of rubbish was collected in total.

Our Performance in 2004/5

Sunderland Youth Offending Service has achieved joint first place in the Youth Justice Board (YJB) Key Performance Indicators league table released at the end of March 2005. Wallace Wilson, the YJB Regional Manager for the North East, commented on Sunderland success:

'For a big city YOS to top the YJB's KPI table is a great achievement. Sunderland YOS is now recognised nationally as one of the leaders in the field of youth justice. Their consistently high performance owes everything to the commitment and application of staff and their willingness to embrace new ideas and share these with colleagues inside and outside the service'.

The YJB performance framework includes key performance indicators across the full range of Youth Justice indicators. From April 2005 the framework has been revised to include a new performance indicator on ethnic monitoring and a revised Prevention indicator which measures levels of entry into the Youth Justice System.



Tackle it ... together

Wear Kids, Sunderland Youth Offending Service's Prevention Programme, named 'Tackle It', have linked up with SAFC Foundation, the charitable arm of Sunderland AFC, to fund a programme of intervention aimed at providing young people with education on Anti Social Behaviour, Bullying and Citizenship.

The football element of the 'Tackle It programme has quickly developed in recent months to an extent that the programme coach John Fothergill is now working to capacity for this half term period. Schools have already started booking in for the remainder of this school year with some making initial enquiries about September.

The programme lasts for 6 weeks and is targeted at Year groups 5 and 6, focusing on topics including friendships, self-esteem and behaviour. As part of the programme, schools are encouraged to redevelop their anti-bullying strategy and look at avenues of combating bullying in the long term.



Judith Hay Manager of the Youth Offending service said:

"We are very pleased to be working in partnership with the Football club and the schools to promote the anti bullying initiative. '**Tackle It**' is part of the Youth Offending services prevention strategy, aimed at helping young people steer away from crime and anti social behaviour."

The young people pictured are from Valley Road and Bexhill Primary Schools, who piloted the scheme. Since the pilot a further six schools have taken part in the scheme and a further four are booked in for this school term. During the scheme young people complete educational workbooks and take part in sport sessions. On completions they are presented with certificates

and Tackle it Red and White wristbands, worn by the Sunderland AFC Football players in their recent game with Cardiff.

Tackle it is also currently delivering an anti social behaviour drama workshop which has proved to be very popular with the young people who have taken part. Keep watching this column in future weeks where we will be able to give you regular updates on the prevention work currently delivered across Sunderland and ways you and your communities can get involved.

DJ Project...beat matching, mixing and scratching

In September 2004 Sunderland Youth Offending Service ISSP scheme successfully applied to the Arts Council for England to develop a DJ Project for young people in contact with the young people in contact with the Youth Offending Service



Andy Lamb (ISSP Advocate) who runs the project said "it is a constructive activity for any young person involved in the Youth Offending Service who expresses an interest in the project". The sessions involve Andy teaching techniques like beat-matching, mixing and scratching. They enable young people to gain access to top of the range DJ equipment funded by the Arts Council England and Sunderland Youth Offending Team.

Sessions are held weekly and are aimed at engaging young people in constructive activities of interest to them, as a diversion to youth crime.

2005 - The Year of the Volunteer



2005 is the Year of the Volunteer, a year-long celebration of the amazing work volunteers do and a call to action to get more of us volunteering.

The year aims to increase the number of volunteers, particularly individuals from marginalized groups and young people, open up more volunteering opportunities in the public and voluntary sector, raise the profile of the work volunteers are doing nationwide and thank volunteers everywhere for their time and commitment.

Sunderland Youth Offending Service has a range of schemes which employ volunteers, including the Volunteer Mentoring Service and Voluntary Referral Order Panel Members. We asked some of our volunteers what was most rewarding about what they do and they said:

"Hello, I am Chris and I am a volunteer mentor for Sunderland Youth Offending Service. I have been volunteering for 5 years now. The best part of being a volunteer with young people is seeing the young people smiling, and seeing them being themselves. Also it is good taking them away from the pressures in their lives and allow them to have fun.....it is a real reward."

Volunteer Mentor, Youth Offending Service Mentoring Scheme

Mentors from Leaving Care said "It's opened doors for me professionally that would otherwise have been shut"; "I get a lot of satisfaction - I prefer it to my regular job" and "My young persons was very withdrawn. He is coming out of himself and can now see a future for himself". Young people were equally positive about the project, saying it does not need any changes because it is "spot on as it is" and also "It was my choice to have a mentor. It was one of the best choices I have ever made. It has saved me from a life of crime and drug abuse".

Volunteer Mentors, Leaving Care

"I'm a volunteer Referral Order Panel Member. I work in the YOS as a Business Support Officer in the administration part of the service. I came to work for the service because I am interested in social work and becoming practitioner. Being a volunteer panel member gives me the opportunity to gain experience of working in this area and allows me to realize what might be involved if I did pursue this as a career. I fit my panel member duties around my job as they are held from 5pm onwards in the evening so I find it easy to manage the balance. I try to do approximately three panels per month. You can choose to do as many or as few as you like.

The support you get as a panel member is really encouraging, and since becoming a panel member I've had the opportunity to take part in ongoing training around different issues such as drugs, and domestic violence awareness. I'm really enjoying the experience and would definitely recommend this to anyone who has any interest in this area."

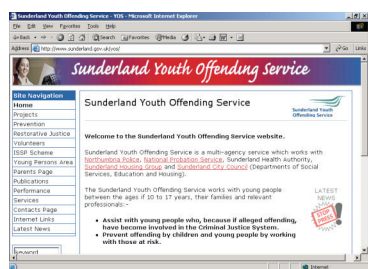
Volunteer Referral Order Panel Member

Sunderland Mentoring Service held a celebration evening at the Stadium of Light on 15th June 2005. To mark the year of the volunteer 2005, all the volunteers were given a pin badge as a thank you for their contribution and commitment to the service. During the evening newly trained volunteers were issued with a certificate, and special awards were given to mentors who have shown exceptional commitment to the service.



For more information on the Year of the Volunteer you can visit their website at www.yearofthevolunteer.org

New YOS Website



Sunderland Youth Offending Service has just launched its new website. This contains information for members of the public about the services that we provide. There are pages dedicated to a number of our projects including ISSP, Restorative Justice and also Prevention. The new website also has specific pages designed for young people, and also parents. Through these pages young people and parents can learn more about our services, gain information about self-referral and read about the experiences of other parents and young people.

To view it view the new website go to www.sunderland.gov.uk/YOS

Getting to Know....Dawn Walby



Name
Dawn Walby

Role/Official Title
Primary Mental Health
Specialist

Background

I spent 3 years at University becoming a "Registered Nurse (Mental Health)", then joined Roycroft Clinic. The unit is one of a small number of national units for young people (age 13-18) with a forensic history who have mental health needs (and is part of the Kolvin Unit). After a while I began to become frustrated when tracking a young persons history to see all the "missed opportunities" in their past. I began looking for a job within primary care.

In one paragraph, how would you describe your role?

As part of the Sunderland CAMHS Strategy, the Primary Mental Health Team aims to provide a service to support those working at Tier 1 (i.e. working with young people without mental health as their main role – so, teachers, GPs, youth workers, school nurses, YOS workers etc) and provide a link to Tier 3 (Child and Family, Barnes Unit). My role within the YOS is to provide that support to colleagues, through consultation,

advice, joint work, brief intervention or referral to other services.

What do you enjoy most about your job?

That everyday is different, the chance to work with (and learn from!) people from other disciplines, visiting young people in their own surroundings and learning what is important for them, being part of the development of the Sunderland CAMHS strategy.

What would you like to achieve in the future (either personally or within the job)?

Would like to play a significant role in the development of a wider CAMHS strategy for Sunderland. I feel it's important to place the emphasis on identifying MH concerns at an earlier stage, at prevention rather than treatment. Also in improving accessibility, to make appropriate mental health services available to meet the needs of young people at the earliest possible point (particularly important within YOS when some young people are not accessing services through schools or youth clubs for example), with the overall aim of reducing the number of young people going on to develop serious mental health problems. (Either that or marry a rich man so I can stay at home, eat biscuits and watch Phil and Fern!!)

Other News.....

We've been shortlisted: for the Howard League for Penal Reform Community Programmes Award 2005. We'll let you know how we get on in the next issue.

Congratulations: to Alan Scott, Prevention Manager who has been awarded by the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales for his contribution to the development of Youth Inclusion Programmes.

Congratulations: to the following staff for completing the Professional Certificate in Effective Practice (PCEP):

Diane Caesar, Joanne Galston, Lisa Kettlewell, Jill Marshall, Lucy Nowlin, Julie Simpson, Simon Smart, Rebecca Webb, Dale Wilkinson, and Andrea Wilson.

Contacting the Youth Offending Service:

For further information you can contact the Youth Offending Service at:

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For all newsletter enquiries, please contact the Planning and Information Team on 0191 566 3048. This publication can be made available in Braille, large print, on audiocassette and in other languages. Please contact the Youth Offending Service for further information if you require any of these