



November 2003

October 2004

I'm immature,
unorganized,
lazy and loud,
BUT I'M FUN!



OFF THE STREETS ANNUAL REPORT



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SPEAKERS CORNER



by Fergal Barr, Project Director with Off the Streets Community Youth Initiative

Trying to engage those on the margins

Putting the case for street work

Much has been said and written about young people and 'anti-social' behaviour. Most of it has centred on the thoughts, perceptions and opinions of adults, all too often through the media. Often it is difficult to argue with the frustrations of people who have suffered as a result of assault, theft and vandalism among many other things but much of it only serves to reinforce negative stereotypes of young people that rarely go challenged. One thing is for

support and guidance is offered freely and love and care is unconditional, that child is less vulnerable and susceptible to be drawn into and engaging in behaviour that will have a negative impact on them and the wider community. This of course is not true in all situations, but most young people in their early to mid-teenage years are at their most vulnerable and it's then that they are most susceptible to outside influences. Dabbling with a range of behaviours often deemed as inappropriate or at best minimally motivated is part of

Having explored and questioned how we work and engage with young people we have reached the conclusion that until we start to view young people in a positive light we will fail to make any real inroads to those who feel most excluded. Until we begin to believe that all young people can make a positive contribution to life, be it our case, the Greater Shantallow Area we will constantly fail in our efforts to reach the most marginalised. However, trying to shift a culture from looking upon young people as a problem to be dealt with to one as a resource to be utilised may not be as difficult as trying to achieve it against a backdrop of under-funded and under-

at least have the most basic of life skills so that they can make the transition from adolescence to adulthood, if not easily, at least relatively smoothly. It is our duty to try and help facilitate this transition. Young People no longer see youth provision as among their priorities but as one of the many alternatives available to them. Young People want the option of choosing from their desired list of priorities but without the obligation of having to be part of a service all of the time. As the eighth session of the UK Committee on the Rights of the Child in 1995 concluded: "Children and young people in our countries are the responsibility of a bewildering array of agencies: Social Services, Education, Housing, Health,

foreword

In my capacity as Chairperson of Off the Streets and on behalf of the all of the Management Committee I welcome the opportunity to put pen to paper for the second time and address you, the reader with regard to the continued development of Off the Streets.

In the last annual report I reported that this organisation was undergoing a period of transition yet during this time has continued to serve young people across the Greater Shantallow Area with commitment, dedication and enthusiasm at a time when the voluntary sector continues to undergo significant change and upheaval. Against these changes and greater than ever competition for resources, Off the Streets has managed to sustain and broaden it's range of services and provision.

On reflection the last year has been yet again one of growth and a further consolidation of previous achievements and with it the continued laying of foundation for the next few years. In April of this year, we launched our Strategic Plan. We now have a clear strategic direction and a realistic operational plan. Each member of staff has their own individual work plans which feeds directly into this and will help to assure delivery of services leading to the creation of new and exciting projects and programmes.

Over the next year the challenge for both Management and Staff will be to

ensure that all that has been achieved is used as a springboard to further develop and broaden services. This should include raising the profile of Off the Streets among the public, funders, policy makers and practitioners and developing our capacity to generate income on a greater and more consistent basis so as to reduce funder dependency. It will also enhance potential for mainstreaming our services in a bid to increase recognition and credibility of Street Work as an effective model of practice.

A new era has commenced and it is one marked by a determination to fulfil the potential of the project and ambitions of its staff and in doing so demonstrate Street Work as one of if not the most effective means of engaging those on the margins.

May I take this opportunity to thank all staff who once again have endeavoured to make Off the Streets the unique and dynamic organisation it is and have worked tirelessly to maintain and enhance services to young people in the Greater Shantallow Area.

Frank Rafferty, Chairperson

Off the Streets scheme a major success

By Roisin Cox

AN innovative project in Londonderry designed to stop teenagers hanging around street corners in the early hours was today hailed a major success.

The Dawn 'til Dusk project involves young people from the Gallagher area of the city being given the opportunity each Saturday morning, from midnight to 3am, to take part in a series of outdoor pursuits.

The six-week pilot project is believed to be the first of its kind in Northern Ireland.

It was set up by the Off The Streets Initiative in conjunction with the Gallagher Community Safety Project (GCSP).

For the last five weeks, young people who would have spent the early hours of the morning loitering in the Gallagher area, have been spending these hours productive-

At the end of the project, interviews will be carried out with local residents and the participants to gauge reaction to the scheme. GCSP spokesman Connor Heaney said he believed that it had been very successful.

"In effect the teenagers aren't able to cause a nuisance because they are not standing about the area," said Mr Heaney.

"The feedback from the teenagers has been amazing."

It is hoped that future similar projects will be carried out in other parts of the Gallagher and Shantallow areas of Derry.

Last month, it was revealed that the overall crime rate in the Gallagher area had dropped by almost 10% since the GCSP was established.

Figures released by the Northern Ireland Office for 2000/1 showed the number of robberies had dropped by 80% compared with previous



ens climbing the walls



Finding the time to put together an Annual Report is difficult. Trying to encompass all that has been accomplished in the past 12 months is challenging. We always have a fairly good idea as to what to include but to sit down and actually take stock leads to a realisation that it is usually much greater than has been anticipated. And so is the case in this instance.

introduction

Along with the rest of our staff I am always shocked at how much we have accomplished but equally, not surprised due to the combined talents of staff who like me not only share the dreams and aspirations of Off the Streets but possess the motivation, determination and attitude to achieve them.

Off the Streets is a special organisation and guards its independence feverishly for a number of reasons. It wants to ensure it retains its identity and maintain its ability to change direction without having to consider too heavily accountability to a larger body. It wants to take risks in the name of developing effective, creative and innovative practice with young people and prove street work as a legitimate means of engaging young people at the margins. Finally, it wants to gather recognition of its work so as to argue its place within mainstream services and provision.

I believe we have succeeded in creating something special for young people in the Greater Shantallow Area. I believe we have set the wheels in motion in employing practice that serves young people of the area well by engaging them at times and in locations where and when mainstream provision is inaccessible.

We have worked hard not only over the last 12 months but over a sustained period of time to create opportunities for young people to volunteer, develop employment skills and participate in projects and programmes on a local, national, and international scale. Additionally, we have completed (with the assistance of the Institute for Conflict Research) what we believe to be the most significant piece of research undertaken among young people in the Greater Shantallow Area.

Whilst we have achieved much in terms of our external output much has been accomplished internally to enhance the professionalism of the organisation in terms of efficiency and effectiveness. We have secured funding for most staff positions for up to 2 years. We have implemented tighter financial and administrative systems, developed more effective practice in our efforts with young people and established clear strategic and operational goals.

Whilst this report reflects on events of the last 12 months I look forward to the next 12 months as a period when Off the Streets finally emerges as a key player in the lives of young people in the Greater Shantallow Area.

Fergal Barr, Project Director



THEBRY CITY COUNCIL
WATERLOO & GERRARD TRAIL

Active Lifestyle Project

Michelle Brown
has

Successfully completed a Summer programme with the Active Lifestyle Project

Louise Allen
Active Development Officer

DSD
DIVERSITY DEVELOPMENT
SUPPORT



activities

The last 12 months has been a year of growth for Off the Streets. We launched our Strategic Plan in April, which outlines our Vision and Mission and describes how we will achieve our objectives for the period up to March 2007. We have identified a number routes to accomplish this. Street Work is the means by which we engage those who have for whatever reason elected not to access or participate in mainstream provision whilst volunteering and employment led programmes have offered young people opportunities to develop skills and make a lasting contribution to the community.

The Street Work Leadership Programme is now fully operational having led directly to the development of 15 Street Groups whilst the Millennium Volunteers Programme continues to provide volunteering opportunities for young people thanks to funding from the Volunteer Development Agency. Funding from LSP allowed us to introduce a new employment initiative in June, i.e., 'Introduction to Employment' for young men aged 16 and 17 across the Greater Shantallow Area and this followed completion of the very successful ACCORD Programme (also the same target group) in May.

Securing a further 3 years funding from Children In Need will allow us to continue to roll out a range of programmes and projects to engage young people inside and outside of school. Over the last 12 months we have continued to support the Galliagh Youth Forum in finding their voice within the community. We have continued to adopt an approach that attempts to placate young people through the provision of

programmes at local, national and international level both on a responsive and pro-active basis.

Overall Off the Streets has been exceedingly busy in the last 12 months clocking up almost 2,500 contact hours with over 1800 young people. Whilst many of these young people are first time or 'one-off' users we have been able to establish that in excess of 800 young people are repeat users. Most young people are drawn from the Shantallow East and Shantallow West Electoral Wards.

funding

A second grant from the Tudor Trust has enabled us to continue to employ the Project Director for another 2 years. A successful application to YESIP has allowed us to extend the range of programmes we can offer to young people whilst offering an increased commitment in terms of resources and time. Both Lloyds and the Children and Young People's Committee (WHSSB) awarded Off the Streets funding towards running costs, salaries and programmes. We also secured funding from the Department of Social Development through the North-West Development Office that enabled us to run a 'Dusk to Dawn' Programme for young people in the Shantallow East electoral ward.

Working alongside the Greater Shantallow Area Partnership and CRESCO with funding from EQUAL we delivered the second of two ACCORD Programmes for Status 'O' young men. The British Council also awarded grants to Off the Streets to run two training programmes and host a feasibility meeting between April and September.



practice

We have been working hard since the inception of the Street Work Programme to document it as a model of Best Practice. It has achieved much in a short time and we believe passionately in its potential to reach out to young people whom do not access mainstream provision and whereby they find themselves feeling isolated and marginalised. We have documented the processes and systems with a view to arguing its place in mainstream provision and to demonstrate its potential to be replicated in other areas.

We have adopted the same approach with other programmes such as 'Introduction to Employment' and Millennium Volunteers so as to demonstrate their effectiveness as a means of engaging young people.

We have also attempted to develop our training capacity in an effort to further advance our practice by hosting two training programmes on related themes, i.e., Working with Young Men and Experiential Learning. Under ACTION 5 of European Youth Programme and with funding from the British Council we hosted:

- Using Leadership Concepts as a Means of engaging those on the margins: Training Practitioners in the creation and implementation of effective intervention measures to promote social inclusion among young men.
- Web of Experience - Developing Methodologies as a medium for enhancing Experiential Learning and Networking Capacity among Informal Educators on an Inter-Cultural level

organisational

Off the Streets has continued to develop as an organisation in terms of its systems, approaches, procedures and practice. As already mentioned we launched our Strategic Plan and completed our participation on the Social Economy Agency's Advisory Service and IFI's Community Leadership Project. We completed a major piece of research into values, attitudes and opinion of young people from the Greater Shantallow Area in order to inform our work so as to deliver best practice, finalised Operational and Work Plans for both organisation and staff respectively.

We have continued to work in partnership with a wide range of organisations in the delivery of a number of programmes such as ACCORD and Introduction to Work and have developed our relationship with a number of individuals in key organisations through our Advisory Panel. We are represented on a number of local bodies such as the Outer North Community Safety Task Force and Galliagh Workers Forum and also continue to develop practice with young people by documenting our work and looking to share experiences with other organisations. For example, in July we hosted a week-long study visit by the Chairperson of Youth Forum of Israel. In his report to his National Agency, Shabi Micaeli wrote:

“Many new methods of working with young people has been adapted within the Israeli organisation as a result of the visit and are being developed in order to adjust the working methods and the type of work to the local culture and needs.”

Alison McDaid: Youth Outreach Worker

Rachel McFarland: Co-ordinator RITE Programme

Margaret Fegan: Millennium Volunteer Co-ordinator



Darren Mongan: Programmes Worker

Ross McGill: Cross Border Worker

Damian McSorley: Streetworker

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staffing

We now have a staff compliment of 7 staff, 3 full, 3 part-time and one sessional. Full-time posts include Project Director, Youth Outreach and Programmes Worker. Part-time positions include Street Work, Introduction to Employment and Millennium Volunteers whilst the position of Sessional Worker provides on-going support when other staff are not available.

Throughout the last 12 months we have been able to maintain a wide range of services to young people even though we have experienced some change in personnel. This has affected in particular our Street Work Team with changes to street work positions on no less than 3 occasions. Wherever disruption has occurred we have tried to minimise this by pulling together to support individual staff in the execution of their duties when necessary.

We have also been supportive of staff in accessing training. For example the Youth Outreach Worker has been working towards her Youth Work Diploma which included an 8 week placement at Long Tower Youth Club whilst the Project Director completed a Diploma in Management Practice. The Millennium Volunteer Co-ordinator and Sessional Worker both completed their Certificate in Youth & Community Studies whilst our Programmes Worker and Introduction to Employment Co-ordinator have both completed their Sport for All Training (albeit in their own time).

Two of our Street Workers also completed training, one in Facilitation Skills and Developing Conflict Management Intervention Strategies for young people whilst the other took part in an 8 day programme focusing

on work with young men, Using Leadership Concepts as a Means of engaging those on the margins. Both Programmes Worker and Youth Outreach Worker also took part in further training in September on the theme of Experiential Learning, i.e., Web of Experience - Developing Methodologies as a medium for enhancing Experiential Learning and Networking Capacity among Informal Educators on an Inter-Cultural level

In December 2003 Project Director, Fergal Barr attended training on the theme of Non Verbal Communication and followed this up in March 2004, by attending a seminar entitled "Anti Social Behaviours in Youth - Needs and Preventative Measures." Both programmes provided the opportunity to meet with a wide range of practitioners from different professions from across Europe, the Middle East and the United States including youth work, social work, the arts, child care and academia.

Both programmes included workshops, presentations, site visits, discussion groups and input from guest speakers. They were organised in an effort

"to promote contact with a view to developing project ideas between participants, increase awareness of existing projects in each country and to share practice...it was very beneficial in allowing participants to meet and share ideas around projects and practice within formal and informal settings."

profile

Such has been the focus on developing programmes and services that raising our profile is something that has often been neglected. Without a co-ordinated strategy our



a study of values, attitudes and opinions

people in the greater shantallow area

best efforts have been to respond to a particular issue at a given time as opposed to a deliberate or tireless campaign of awareness raising. However, that said, we have begun to develop a more pro-active approach to publicising our work and over the next 12 months this will figure as a key priority. We have continued to keep our website on-line and scored notable features in both the Belfast Telegraph and Derry Journal . The Tuesday Job Finder carried a full front page spread on Off the Streets whilst the Journal handed over it's 'Soap Box' for two weeks in succession for an article entitled 'Making the Case for Street Work'.

Staff also featured in a number of television and radio interviews including the launch of our Strategic Plan, -a focus on Millennium Volunteers, Introduction to Employment, Hip Hop and Summer Programmes and discussions on themes such as Alcohol and the introduction of Anti-Social Behaviour Orders. We also begun the process of highlighting our work among 'key strategic players' by circulating our Strategic Plan to members of Northern Ireland's Chief Executives Forum.

research project

In 2003, Off the Streets participated in the Social Economy Agency's Economy Advisory Programme. Involvement in this programme necessitated a piece of research primarily to determine in market terms, our competitors and target group. However, we looked upon the research as an opportunity to do more than that! We felt that if we were going to 'go to the bother' of compiling a piece of research why not make it more comprehensive and certainly much more in-depth.

Within the context of our strategic review, we looked upon the research as a means to an end, i.e., effectively helping to determine how we might deliver future services and to also test whether or not our current provision was 'hitting the target.'

Conducted by Off the Streets in partnership with the Institute for Conflict Research (ICR) and St. Brigid's College we examined a number of key issues and problems for young people in the Greater Shantallow Area. We surveyed over 400 young people and believe it offers a useful insight into the thinking and understanding that young people possess on a range of issues. It provides the 'Adult World', including agencies and organisations with responsibility for services to young people with the opportunity to reflect on the nature of provision, i.e., the how, what, where, when and why? It also provides the 'Adult World' in general with pause for thought with regard how they perceive and respond to young people.

We view the research as a marker or perhaps more so, an indicator of just some of the views and opinion of young people hold and whilst we acknowledge the limitations of this type of research we would argue that the environment it was delivered in combined with the manner with which it was administered leads us to conclude as offering a reflective, well-balanced and informed 'picture' of values, attitudes and opinion among a cross-section of young people from the Greater Shantallow Area.

We are also of the opinion, that St. Brigid's College is a microcosm of the Greater Shantallow Area at large and reflects the needs, issues and challenges facing young people on a



daily basis and therefore offers an ideal setting to maximise opinion on the range of subjects included in the survey.

Ultimately, the findings will at the very least determine some of how and what we do in the future, partly to meet our strategic objectives, but also to try and be seen to respond to issues raised by young people. We also want to develop a comprehensive programme with St. Brigid's College that not only is in tune with curriculum objectives but responding positively to the issues identified.

programmes & projects

Street Work. The Street Work Leadership Programme has been in operation since September 2003 with the appointment of two Street Workers and was set up to engage those young people who for whatever reason were not accessing mainstream provision and for whom the streets was their natural habitat. Engagement with young people began in earnest at the beginning of 2004 when after a period of familiarisation and orientation, areas and groups that we would work with were identified.

By the end of October Off the Streets had established 17 Street Groups numbering approximately 320 young people registered. In addition to Street Work sessions amounting to almost 150 in number (approximately 3 to 4 hours at a time) and bringing us into contact with over 800 young people we have completed some 69 organised activities including 42 Outdoor Activities, 13 Workshops, 7 Site Visits and 8 Feedback meetings.

Over 700 young people have taken part in these activities.

volunteering

Millennium Volunteers

Programme. The Millennium Volunteer Programme offers young people between the ages of 16 and 24 the opportunity to make a contribution to their community through voluntary hours and in the process gain a naturally recognised award. Off the Streets is the only existing MV partner in the Derry City Council area and in March of this year we secured the project up to and including March '07. Between November of last year and October of this year twenty-six young people got their MV Award whilst another 6 have reached their 200 hour-mark and will receive their award in November of this year. This means that a minimum of 6, 400 hours have been invested in the community and if equated to the average Northern Ireland wage means that young people have invested over ú48,000 in their local community. There are currently a further 12 volunteers registered and working towards their MV Award.

employment

ACCORD. In partnership with GSAP, CRESCO and NWIFHE, Off the Streets delivered two 30 week employment programmes to 'Status 0' young people. Twenty-two young people registered for Accord (30 weeks x 2) although 6 completed less than a month. From the remaining 16, 11 went on to find employment and other training. All of them were awarded Personal Development certificates, 9 completed Essential Skills, 6

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JUST BECAUSE IT ENDED

DARREN



MICHAELA

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END IT..**

LIVE FOR LOVE OR TO FIND LOVE

Samaritans

NSPCC

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completed IT and 5 got their Star 1 Canoeing Badge.

Introduction to Employment.

Introduction to Employment followed ACCORD and was set up to offer young males aged 16 and 17 the opportunity to enhance their employability prospects by developing essential skills in numeracy, literacy and ICT, vocational training in car mechanics, joinery and painting & decorating and a range personal development workshops. The programme was very much targeted at young men who were isolated from mainstream provision and whose prospects for employment were bleak.

Fourteen young males were recruited and registered onto the programme. Five have left the programme and progressed onto further education and another five have found employment. The Introduction to Employment programme acts as a stepping-stone for these young males as they received the support and encouragement needed to further develop and their future career prospects.

cross border peer education project

The Cross Border Project is being delivered through a partnership with Tullyally District and Development Group and Lifford and Clonleigh Resource Centre (lead partner) in Donegal. Since May of 2004 the cross-border group has been meeting, participating in workshops and residencials and have now started taking various courses from DJ-ing and Yoga to Peer Education and Conflict Resolution. Groups of potential young people

were identified from the three areas by the co-ordinator and the youth teams. Once identified each of the groups participated in two single identity activities before the group met as a whole. The first activity was an evening of outdoor pursuits and teambuilding games at the Creggan Country Park and the Roe Valley Park. Next, each group visited The Junction for a workshop that focused on prejudice and diversity.

Participants continued to meet over the course of the summer starting at the end of June when as part of a group of over 70 young people gathered at the Tin Centre in Omeath, for the 7th annual Right to Hope residential. The project has proven very popular with young people from Galliagh and offers extra options for the likes of our Street Work Leadership Programme when providing opportunities for young people to become involved in positive alternatives to anti-social behaviour.

outreach work

Video Project. Following the successful 'Angels & Devils' (premiered at last years Celebration Evening) a second video involving young people from the local area were involved in producing a 'video short' on the benefits of the Dusk to Dawn programmes. This involved young people in shooting, interviews and editing process. The video was designed to offer participants video production skills but to also promote 'Dusk to Dawn' as an effective means of reducing potential for anti-social behaviour.

Galliagh Youth Forum. Off the Streets continues to support the Galliagh Youth Forum. In total 25



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● SUICIDE



NEVERLY
WANTED FROM
THE AGE OF 7
WAS ASKED IF

SHOULD GET
FINGER RINGS
WAS IN

SHOULD GET
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BUT THAT WASN'T
HAPPEN AGAIN

NO ONE ASKED
IF I WOULD
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Samaritans 028 71 265011

The
Keshon
Project

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young people have taken part in a wide range of activities since it was established in February 2002. The group has been active this year undertaking training, site visits and working on a Suicide Awareness Project. Training this year has included, Public Speaking, Media and Equity and Diversity. The group also visited Stormont and attended the A.G.M of the Northern Ireland Youth Forum. Most recently the group designed suicide awareness posters which focused on issues identified as reasons why young people might think contemplate suicide, e.g., relationships, exams, abuse, bullying.

A.P.P.L.E - A Practical Physical Learning Experience. APPLE combined physical activity and health education workshops for young people between the ages of 12 and 16. This programme was funded by Derry City Council's Active Lifestyle project in January of this year. Physical activities included uni-hock, football and climbing wall. Workshops focused on drugs, alcohol, and sexual health. Due to the success of this programme the Active Lifestyle Project ran a follow-up six-week Star 1 Canoeing and Outdoor Pursuits programme with the Street Work Leadership Programme.

Education for Citizenship. Once again Off the Streets participated in the above project co-ordinated by St. Columb's Park House in Derry. The programme offered the opportunity to address an important issue in the lives of the groups young people. This year the group took responsibility for organising a drama on a number of issues affecting young people including peer pressure and also wanted to design a poster with helplines and useful contacts. Unfortunately, and for a number of

different reasons the project was unable to finish. The Education for Citizenship Project has now ended but over a two year period Off the Streets was able to use funding from the project to support the development of the Galliagh Youth Forum and produce an anti-Joyriding poster.

Photography Project. Following the success of our first Artist in Residence Project last year with the Playhouse a second photography programme was organised. Participants explored issues relevant to them including drugs, smoking, teenage pregnancy, school and bullying. Both black and white and colour photography was used and was exhibited in the Playhouse in October. The group is keen to continue the project and turn their displays into a calendar that they can distribute to their peers who have just started Secondary School. They will apply for funding in the future to accomplish this.

Community Photography. Community Photography is a joint project between Off the Streets and Derry Travellers Support Group. Funded by the Community Fund and the Community Relations Council 12 young people (6 from each respective organisation) to undertake a 20 week course. The aim of the programme was to break down barriers and raise awareness among participants and the wider community of issues important to participants whilst learning the skill of photography.

Celebration Event. In 2002, Off the Streets held a Celebration Event to acknowledge and celebrate the achievements of young people who took part in its projects and to mark its own contribution to youth work in



the Greater Shantallow Area. In October of 2003 we held a second event and over 100 young people attended. Along with many receiving certificates, we were entertained by Hip Hop dancers from both our Exchange Programme and participants from the 'Dusk to Dawn' programme aka 'The Gene Crew'. The event was a great success and along with an impromptu disco at the end of the evening it was a great advertisement for young people.

international programmes

Hip Hop Programmes. Following the success of our "Variations (Hip Hop) Exchange programme in 2003 with groups from Austria and France, we submitted an application to the British Council to host a feasibility meeting with two groups, MAIS from Portugal and Phoenix Caritas in Romania. These contacts were established by the Project Director in February of this year at a seminar in Israel, the theme of which was focused on Anti-Social Behaviour. Funding was granted and representatives of both organisations came to Derry in July to take part in a Feasibility Meeting to explore the potential for the Hip Hop Programme in more detail. In the New Year we will submit an application to the British Council to host an exchange programme next summer in Derry.

YPIC - Effective Youth Work Practice in an Evolving Europe: Volunteering as a means of engaging Young People in the Community. Along with eight other organisations from countries including Romania, Malta, Italy and Hungary Off the Streets was invited

to be a partner organisation in the above programme held in Germany at the end of September. We were able to offer places to 3 young people from the Millennium Volunteers Programme who along with the Project Director and Youth Outreach Worker, joined more than 30 other participants in activities geared towards exploring themes related to volunteering in the community. The seminar will be used by participants as a 'springboard' to engage other young people from across the Greater Shantallow Area in localised project work.

examples of good practice

At Off the Streets we document all of the practice we carry out with young people, primarily through evaluation of sessions completed. This is good practice from an organisational point of view but also enables us to demonstrate evidence of the impact of our work. Over the last 12 months we have been able to accumulate much anecdotal evidence from various programmes but significantly that of the Street Work Leadership Programme that highlights the value and impact of its work.

The evolving nature of the programme has enabled us to identify a diversification of roles for Street Work including, observation, intervention, prevention, support relationship building (with both young people and adults), 'listening ear', and the provision of information. Even having a presence on the street provides an outlet for young people in terms of having someone they can relate too, someone they can talk



with without fear of being judged. Young people know that they can approach staff when on the streets and engage in diverse conversation about our programmes or any multitude of issues.

For example, when the new school term started in September young people confided in us their uncertainty about what they would like to do in the future whilst young girls elected to speak to one of our female members of staff regarding menstruation, sex, relationships drugs etc.

Another example is how we have had to respond to interest shown by young people in the Street Work Programme, i.e., we have had to initiate 'Feedback' or planning meetings with a number of groups on activities that might be included in the programme.

Staff have also had to intervene to prevent young people from attacking police and an ambulance crew on two separate occasions whilst also providing a supportive role to young people at other times. Examples of this include, accompanying an 11-year-old boy to afraid to walk home on his own after dark or encouraging young people to complete particular activities during the 'Dusk to Dawn Programme'. One particular activity bouldering at Portrush, staff were able to support a number of young people complete a 30ft cliff jumping exercise but it was only possible because of the trust that had been established between staff and young people. Not only can the 'Dusk to Dawn' Programme increase confidence levels but help minimise potential for anti-social behaviour, as for example one 18-year-old stated "this will keep me off the drink tonight"

Our work in particular areas can also help stimulate interest from the 'adult world' in the lives of young people. This happened when we engaged with some young people from the Culmore area who 'hung around' the Centra Shop and Magnet Bar. Young people were not involved in their community but our intervention led to members of the local community group approaching us with a view to also engaging with the same group. Over time we were able to withdraw and the local community group took on the role of working with young people from the area.

Examples of Good Practice are just not confined to Street Work. For example, two young women from the photography course went on to enrol for the Millennium Volunteers Programme whilst six young people involved in A.P.P.L.E., followed this up by participating in the Cross-Border Project. One young female involved in the Video project also went on to take part in the Community Photography course.

'goin on a journey ... a case study in point'

One great example of a young person beginning a 'journey' with us stretches almost two years but illustrates quite clearly how when a young person engage with us we can help make a difference to their life. The young person's involvement with us resulted directly from an accusation regarding involvement in a 'Girl Gang' assault on a woman in the Moss Park area of Galliagh. The young person in question, along with some others, were rightly concerned

about being wrongly accused particularly after they had gone to the assistance of the woman who was attacked. After approaching the Galliagh Residents Association with their concerns they were referred to us. Whilst they themselves acknowledged that a number of young people from Moss Park were involved in anti-social behaviour we felt it appropriate to initiate a pilot but yet very successful 'Dusk to Dawn' Programme.

Many of the individuals concerned went on to take part in the Youth Action 'Kaleidoscope' Drama Project including the young person who initially along with others approached us. She herself became involved in a number of other projects and in the last 12 months has gone on to assume the position of Joint Chair of the Galliagh Youth Forum, spoke at and performed Hip-Hop dances at a number of events including our Strategic Launch and Annual Celebration Evening. She also performed most recently at 'Mixin at the Island', an event organised by the Youth Council for Northern Ireland. At the end of September she travelled to Germany for a seminar on the theme of young people volunteering in their community - nothing unusual in this but she had never flown or travelled on a train before!

Whilst all of this is anecdotal evidence it does demonstrate that the methods we use and the approach we apply has many benefits and if properly resourced and funded could have even greater impact with many more individuals.



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