PHOENIX DETACHED YOUTH PROJECT

MISSION STATEMENT
Working with young people to develop their ideas and supporting their life choices and education

Charity number 1106223

ANNUAL REPORT 2009
PHOENIX DETACHED YOUTH PROJECT

ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE YEAR

1. Contacted 455 young people (255 males and 200 females) via detached youth work and built long term trusting relationships with 206 young people.
2. The Phoenix Detached Youth Project (Phoenix DYP) has been successfully recognised as an Investors in Children Service in 2009.
3. Delivered an effective Pilot Project over the past 10 months to engage young people on a Thursday and Friday evening via detached youth work.
4. Risky Business Project successfully looked at young people, alcohol, risk and young person led creative solutions. This involved 31 young people who contributed 736 hours of volunteer time through four different projects; ‘Weighing it up’, ‘On the edge’, ‘Booze factor’ and ‘Pissed and unprotected’.
5. Due to an increase in demand we now have two young parents groups.
6. A successful partnership continued to be developed with Connexions North Tyneside via the Helping Hands Project supporting vulnerable young people.
7. In partnership with Longbenton Youth Project organised a European exchange to Portugal to use natural building materials from the local environment to build a donkey sanctuary.
8. Developed a ‘Who am I? Where am I going?’ project helping young people explore their life choices.
9. Continued to use music as a medium with challenging NEET (Not in Employment, Education or Training) young men to allow them to develop skills in music production. Five of the group gained the Bronze Arts Award from The Sage, Gateshead.
10. Helped a group of young people from the Meadowwell develop ‘Pimp my bike’ project, a bike repair project for the local community. The young men involved have spent 150 hours fixing bikes.
11. Intergenerational project has continued to break down barriers between young and old on the estate via activities and joint music events. They are now developing a hanging basket project for the community.

PHOENIX COMMUNITY AND YOUTH FORUM

The Phoenix Detached Youth Project youth and community forum has been running for 1 year 3 months and has been crucial to the raising of the profile of the project. The forum has seen some dramatic changes through the last year. We now meet every month instead of every week. We feel that it’s been so successful that once a month is sufficient. We have been involved in shaping and providing a service to the community’s young people that is truly what is needed.

The forum has also been helping identify the needs of young people in crisis and has shared this with the Phoenix DYP staff team.

The forum members have participated in two training days with the Phoenix Detached Youth Project’s Trustees; we found this interesting and learnt a lot about roles and responsibility within Phoenix Detached Youth Project. We would also like to thank Longbenton Youth Project for seconding a youth worker for six months in assisting us to cope with staff illness which was a fantastic thing to do in our time of need.

“I am a 20 year old mam from the Meadowell estate who has been involved with the youth forum. I’ve attended numerous Area Future Events. This has helped me deal with people in power and authority and has boosted my confidence and made me realise I can have a say”.

YOUTH EXCHANGE 2008
CASTELO DE VIDE
PORTUGAL

The cartoons through the report highlight the hidden qualities young people possess and tells the story of their youth exchange together.

The forum has been actively involved in submitting funding application forms on behalf of the Phoenix Detached Youth Project.

The forum has attended numerous Area Future events which we feel is important in raising the profile of the project.

Sadly this year we had to say goodbye to a valued member of staff from the Phoenix. Kerry Douglas helped Mike set up the Phoenix project 5 years ago. She was a true professional and will always be remembered by the young people, staff and trustees whose lives she touched, inspired and changed.
PHOENIX DETACHED YOUTH PROJECT

DETACHED YOUTH WORK

The success of the Phoenix DYP is the commitment of the staff team to continue to develop and deliver detached youth work. This time spent on the street corners over the last 5 years has allowed us to have effective dialogue with young people at their pace and in their own environment. This has led to a whole range of young person led ideas and activities to be created and delivered with support from the workers as well as one to one work.

In 2005 a long term aim was to look at the needs of East Howdon and look for more funding from the Local Authority. This has now been achieved with a three month period of funding to do detached youth work given by North Tyneside Integrated Youth Support Service (NT IYSS) to develop work with young people in East Howdon and Royal Quays taking place in July, August and September 2008. A bid to the Police Authority in partnership with NT IYSS and Neighbourhood Management to deliver detached youth work in the area was successful. This allows us to deliver the North Tyneside Detached Youth Initiative in our area with the NT IYSS working in Howdon and Wallsend over the next year. Funding from the Elected Mayor’s Well Being Fund to deliver detached youth work on a Friday evening has been productive with often up to seventy young people contacted on any one night alone. This has resulted in effective dialogue and listening to young people ideas and led to a range of activities. An example of this is the work with young people looking at creative solutions to young people and drinking and ways of raising awareness and education. This effective flexible response to working with young people via detached youth work we feel is positive for the future. We have contacted 455 young people in the last year, with a selection of their achievement included in this report.

HOPES AND FEARS PARENTS GROUP

There have been several new parents joining the group this year and as a result of this we have had to form two separate groups to ensure that everyone can benefit. We have delivered a range of activities to meet the needs of the parents and their children e.g. visits to farms, bowling, Metroland to see Father Christmas and arts and crafts sessions. The parents are enthusiastic about sharing new experiences with their children and have been linking their experiences in with the Phoenix Bookworms project. Some of the parents have been involved in cooking meals for their babies. This is something they are keen to develop and get other parents involved in, especially in the current economic climate where it would be of benefit and cheaper to cook your own nutritional meals than buy pre prepared meals. Another aim over the coming year is to organise activities for the mums to take part in without their children so they can celebrate the fact they are young women as well as mums. Many of the young mums have benefited from grants from the Elswick Lodge Trust and this has enabled them to buy essential items for their children.

DADS MATTER

Following the proactive approach of the young mums the dads have been inspired to get involved with activities with their children. Several of them have come along to the family activities but are also keen to develop ideas as a dad group. One of the aims over the coming year is to begin a dads and children’s fishing group.

YOUNG PERSON LED ACTIVITIES AND GROUP WORK

PHOENIX BOOK WORMS

The aim of this project is to encourage children to borrow books from the project so they can look at and share books at home. 20 children have been involved in this project from 4 month olds - 8 year olds. The project has a range of books children can borrow and when they have borrowed (and returned!) so many, are rewarded with a book for them to keep and building up their own library at home. We have linked this in with activities we are doing e.g. visits to the farm followed by lending children books about animals.

“The book worm project has been great for me and my family because it’s enabled me to access books that I couldn’t afford to buy. It’s great that we can borrow the books as we’ve always got something different to read.” (name, 22yrs old)

THE MEADOWELL CREW

This group of older lads planned and organised a camping trip to Kielder. They successfully cycled 23 miles around Kielder water in three hours! They valued the great outdoors and escaping from the estate for a break. The next day was spent in fantastic weather kayaking in the reservoir.

PHOENIX FISHING

They have continued to go fishing on a regular basis and are planning to go out on a sea boat fishing in the summer and purchase some more fishing rods.

“I think the Phoenix Detached Youth Project is an inspiration as it gives the parents the opportunity to go out with their children and not have to worry about money. The project isn’t just about helping mums and children it also provides a service for dads and parents in crisis” (young mum).

“Thank you to everyone at St. John’s Church, Percy Main for the Christmas presents and Easter eggs you donated, it really made a difference to the children” (Hopes and Fears Parent Group).
NORHAMMERS
This large group made up of young women from all of our areas organised and planned a weekend camping in the Lake District. They enjoyed camping, singing around the fire until late, canoeing and their favourite activities, the zip wire, high ropes and jetty jumping. Having built trusting relationships with them it made them a good choice to ask if they were interested in being involved in the Alcohol Project "Risky Business".

“We enjoy all the activities, the staff are fun and you have a right laugh, the residential are cool and get you doing all scary activities. It makes you confident and it’s amazing the people they pick up on the streets!” Norhammers

PIMP MY BIKE (BIKE REPAIR PROJECT)
This has taken two years to develop after having teething problems. The young men have successfully applied for funding from North Tyneside Council Y.A.F, receiving £900 for a training course and to purchase spare parts to fix bikes for the community. They have been trained by a local bike shop, Whiptail cycles over a six week period in all aspects of bike maintenance. They have now repaired a shed and bought more tools to allow them to improve their service. To date 150 hours have been spent fixing bikes for the community.

“Doing this has stopped us hanging around the streets and put us on a better track for getting a job” (Young male)

EMPLOYMENT
We have given information and advice to young people on employment and 8 young people have gained work over the last year.

EAST HOWDON DANCE GROUP
Due to an unsuccessful bid to the YAF fund, after ten sessions existing funding ran out. The Phoenix has worked with the group of young women to access alternative funding and the group is hoping to start learning new dance skills in the near future.

SEXUAL HEALTH
We continue to deliver the C card scheme and staff have recently undertaken training in regards to Chlamydia testing so that we can also offer this as a service at the project. Following on from the success of sex factor, delivered previously, we are looking at offering this to groups over the coming year.

“The staff at the Phoenix Detached Youth Project are doing a fantastic job working with local young people in raising awareness about health issues including sexual health. The recent DVD that the girls’ group made about teenage pregnancy was very hard hitting, but also honest and showed what some young people’s experience of first sex can be like”.

Jane Cook, Health Promotion Specialist for Sexual Health

THE SAGE GROUP
This was the second course where participation led to a Bronze Arts award in music making via Mc’ing and DJ mixing. This was funded by Learning and Skills Service, North Tyneside Council for NEET young people. Eight young people did the course with five young people passing. This was a very difficult group and using a microphone from one of the lad’s underpants which he had stolen, and the education that followed was interesting! Some of the lad’s work has been put on YouTube and one of these videos has already had over 81,500 hits.
HELPING HANDS
Helping hands is a joint initiative between ourselves and Connexions North Tyneside. It acts as a support and social group for young people who are in similar situations. It provides an opportunity for young people to work together in regards to their personal and social development. This has included taking part in new experience e.g. going to see the ‘Open Clasp’ theatre production ‘Stand n Tani’, meals out and enjoying the countryside. Following the success of this group, this year we have had enough referrals to set up a second group. The idea is that the original group will act as peer mentors for the new group and throughout the year the groups will be brought together for joint pieces of work. As well as the group work young people are supported on a one to one basis by ourselves, Connexions North Tyneside and CAMHS (Child Adolescence Mental Health Services)

“I have been involved in Helping Hands for a year I enjoy it as it allows me to get away from things and be with a bunch of people you can talk to and have fun with” (young woman)

“Working in partnership with the Phoenix Detached Youth Project has been inspirational as they continue to strive forward in supporting young people with many issues using a number of creative approaches” (Elia Hallpike, Personal Adviser)

“We have valued the contribution of Helping Hands to some of the young people that we work with. The Phoenix Detached Youth Project has a hands on approach to encourage and enable the young people to think of wider issues in society e.g. the film to raise awareness of risks in relation to alcohol consumption” (CAMHS)

YOUNG PERSON LED PROJECT WORK

INTER GENERATIONAL PROJECT
This continues to be a very successful project with outings together still taking place. The young and older residents are now working on the Meadow hanging basket project. This involves older residents showing young people how to plant and arrange the hanging baskets. Young people will then give away the hanging baskets to houses on the estate, any donations will go to more resources. This project will link up to Cedarwood Landscapes, who will hang baskets and offer to cut grass and tidy peoples gardens for a donation. The long term aim is to continue to develop positive relationships between young and old by sharing in experiences.

CEDARWOOD LANDSCAPES
This is a gardening maintenance project aimed at offering a service of grass cutting and basic garden maintenance to vulnerable members of the community. This project is supported by the Phoenix Detached Youth Project and the Cedarwood Trust who facilitated the young people to gain £1,500 from the Electred Mayor’s Well Being fund for more equipment and admin support. Both men involved in the project have successfully gained employment as relief gardeners for the Local Authority after a long period of no work, which is a great achievement.

“Phoenix DYP supported myself and a mate to continue developing our community gardening project and a big thank you to the team” (Young male)

MEADOWELL MOTORS
This is a joint project in partnership with NT YSS and without the hard work of Kath Leck and funding in kind for her time the project would not be possible. Our thanks to Kath for all her hard work in working with some very challenging and marginalized young people most are also NEET young people.

The young people continue to value the opportunity to legally get involved in motor sport. The project has worked with 18 young people this year. 5 have had to leave the group due to going to prison or not being able to behave. Whilst the young people gain new skills in basic maintenance of Go karts they also have to learn to behave responsibly in a public setting. The future of this project will be determined by young people’s success in applying for continuation funding. The project also enables workers to create dialogue and relationships with individuals. This has allowed us to encourage young people to access the Phoenix Detached Youth Projects “Who am I? Where am I going?” individual support programme on a voluntary basis which successfully helps them explore their choices in life.

GEORDIE LASSES
This group has once again been working with the intergenerational project. They have also raised £455 from the Y.A.F fund N.T Cosh to do horse riding. They have started this project by having one lesson to date at the Equestrian Centre. The Geordie Lasers also planned and organised a residential to Hawk Hirst Scout camp in the summer. They gained new skills in camping, raft building and canoeing.

“I have observed the Phoenix Go Kart project over the past two years and we are constantly amazed at how Mike and his team have the patience and capacity to deal with such difficult young people. They have real belief in young people and their potential. They appear to use Go karting as a tool to get to know young people, educate them and steer them in the right direction”
Ian Lavsson, Owner of Karting North East

“A lot of people like motorbikes and go karts and if they have them fly around the streets. Doing the Meadowell Motors project means we get to do something that is legal and safe” (Young male)

“I enjoy working in partnership on the Meadowell Motors project with the NEET young people. They aren’t always an easy group to work with but I get a lot of support from the staff at the Phoenix Detached Youth Project. I have seen a lot changes within the group dynamics and many of the young lads have matured in their attitudes and behaviour”
Kath Leck, Support Worker, North Tyneside Council
PHOENIX DETACHED YOUTH PROJECT

DEVELOPMENTAL AREAS OF WORK

Who am I?
Where am I going?
Star of success system

This year we have supported young people in regards to housing, finances, mental health, offending behaviour, substance use, relationships, parenting and employment.

The programme has been very challenging in terms of attendance and up take this was expected due to the client group and voluntary nature of the program. Currently we have 5 young men and 2 young women on the programme all have varied needs and all have set themselves goals and targets of achievement that are specifically related to themselves and their lifestyles. The young men are currently piloting our star system by monitoring where a young person and the worker both complete small reflections on their one to one session and then apply these to their individual stars of success. This is then used as a visual aid so young people can see what areas they need to work on to improve their chances of achieving their goals short term long term. We are looking to use this system within all of our one to one work. (This programme compliments the existing and additional general one to one work we carry out on a daily basis).

“The Phoenix DYP has certainly complimented much of the offence focused work which I have carried out with one of the offenders I supervise. The nature of the support offered by the Phoenix DYP appears to promote a ‘can do’ attitude amongst the young people who attend and give many the opportunity to take part in activities from which they would normally find themselves precluded from for a variety of socio economic reasons. In particular I have been impressed with the positive attitudes and sense of community demonstrated by all involved with this project. An overwhelming commitment to achievable positive change is reflected by the staff and young people who work with the Phoenix DYP.”

Martin Wade, Probation Officer

Trust relationships developed via this project, has enabled us to look in more depth at why men take risks, and this allowed young men to talk in depth and think about their life styles and risk within their own lives. (See ‘On the edge’ film)

“The Phoenix DYP welcomes a fantastic opportunity back to North Tyneside; we have two young men who, if successful at raising the funds will go on Raleigh internationals Costa Rica 09! This opportunity to explore developing countries will become a natural progression route that our young people can take after the Phoenix European Programme, taking the young people and the project on a cultural global journey.

“At Raleigh, we are very excited to be working with Phoenix DYP as it sees us once again enabling young people from this area of the country to access our expeditions and by working in partnership with Phoenix, we know that the young people involved will be well supported and will be able to make the very most from their experience once back in their own communities”

Duncan Purvis, Partnership Manager
Raleigh International

“Risk business

This project is about young people, alcohol, risks and young person led creative solutions. This major piece of work was made possible by the vision and creative partnership that developed between ourselves; Dr. Tomson, Felicity Shoesmith and her team. Risky Business has been funded by the Elected Mayor’s Well being fund.

Whilst doing detached youth work we identified the high level of alcohol use by young people and the risks they were taking. This coincided with North Tyneside Council’s concern about young people drinking and the wider issue nationally of young people and alcohol. As a project we wanted to develop a piece of work to look at this issue and involve young people in the process in order to create positive solutions and alternative opportunities.

There have been 31 young people involved in this project and they’ve volunteered 736 hours of their time to assist in the making of ‘On the edge’ a film about young people and risk. ‘Pissed and unprotected’ a You tube film and piloting the Booze Factor.

This is a positive example of young people doing something for other young people.

“It’s great that the project can help me with a range of things that other people might take for granted. One of the workers just helped me read my gas and electric meters and I’ve realised my actual bills are £100 less than I thought!” (Young woman)
WEIGHING IT UP

Through day to day project work and detached work 12 NEET young men were identified to participate in this part of the programme. In partnership with Mobex North East 3 risky business days were delivered which included cliff jumping, white water and gill scrambling. This led to work being carried out in regards to why young men take risks and the production of the video ‘On the edge’. As a result of the in depth group and one to one discussions that took place with the young men we have gained a greater understanding of young men’s perception of risks and the impact it has on themselves and others. This will enable us to develop effective strategies for delivering one to one work to explore some of the issues raised in more detail.

“The ‘weighing it up’ project was a good thing to do, keeping me out of trouble. I learnt a lot about taking risks and made me think about the dangers and risks I take when I’m drunk. This is the first thing I’ve done with the Phoenix and it was good that Mike and Sid joined in”
Young male

“I think risk taking is a way of life through taking drink, drugs and using weapons. It’s been good that we’ve done stuff that’s not illegal through the ‘weighing it up’ project looking at positive risk and doing cliff jumping”
(Young male)

BOOZE FACTOR

This has been developed by the Phoenix Detached Youth Project and Rozi Purdy.

The Booze factor is a programme that youth workers could deliver to young people in regards to alcohol and its impact on people’s lives.

The aim of Booze factor is to informally educate young people and raise awareness of alcohol use and misuse. Booze factor is split into four themes:

1. Raising Awareness
2. Exploration
3. Decision Making
4. How to create changes

Activities have been designed under these four headings to explore a range of things including: knowledge, attitudes and beliefs, health, making choices and short / long term consequences of actions.

We recognise that alcohol use is an issue impacting on many of the lives of young people, whether it be themselves, their family or friends. As a result, at the start of the Booze factor we acknowledge this and inform young people that if they are affected in anyway that we are able to meet them on a one to one basis to support them.

The Booze factor has been piloted by ‘The Pimpettes’ during their residential as well as a day of activities with Mobex North East where they participated in caving and abseiling to explore the idea of risk. Their views on risk are included in the ‘On the edge’ film.

’PISSED AND UNPROTECTED’

YOUTUBE FILM

The ideas, writing, producing and starring in this film has all been done by ‘The Norhammers’ a group of 13 young women aged 14-16 years old, a group met through detached work on a Friday night. The group took part in a residential split into two parts. Firstly they were involved in issue based discussions. It was through these discussions around alcohol and risk taking that the ideas for the YouTube film were generated. The second part was in partnership with Mobex North East and involved the group taking part in caving and abseiling in order for them to further explore the idea of risk. Their views on risk are included in the ‘On the edge’ film.

It was felt that a film that could be shown on YouTube would be an effective way of getting a message across to young people about alcohol, risks and consequences. It was also seen as a tool that workers from the project could use when on detached sessions to show other young people.

The theme for the film is based on the seven stages of getting drunk. The young women identified the seven stages of getting drunk as;

1. Tipsy
2. Dizzy
3. Queasy
4. Arsey
5. Sleazy
6. Edgy
7. Remorseful

After the residential the group met with Eva Savickaitė to write and film their street based drama.

This is now available to watch on YouTube …

www.youtube.com/watch?v=imga0YGJNHk
PHOENIX DETACHED YOUTH PROJECT

You are doing some very interesting work and I am impressed by the way you have developed specific projects to meet the needs of particular groups of young people e.g. the work with young people coming out of prison. Please pass on my congratulations to the rest of your team for an excellent years work.

Cullagh Warnock
Programme Manager
Northern Rock Foundation

The Trustees thought it was a hugely exciting project with a brilliant variety of activities to encourage young people.

The Tudor Trust

This year Phoenix Detached Youth Project received funding from the Elected Mayor’s Well-being fund to look at the risks young people might take. The outcome is very thought provoking and something that all of the young people involved you should feel very proud of.

Felicity Shoesmith
Community and Voluntary Sector
Lead Officer, North Tyneside Council

Partners in Community Action and the Church Urban Fund are two grant making bodies set up to specifically encourage faith groups to work alongside the community. Finding this project to be quite unique in its work with young people they have been happy to endorse the project by giving a small amount of grant funding for pieces of work carried out by Phoenix Detached Youth Project. PICA and CUF were especially keen to support work with women and girls on the health projects set up by Phoenix Detached Youth Project over last year.

Pamela Ingham
PICA/CUF Development Officer

North Tyneside Integrated Youth Support Service are looking forward to another challenging and exiting year of partnership work with the Phoenix DYP. A recent successful joint application to the Northumbria Police Grants Pool supported by our Safer Communities Unit and Neighbourhood Management Team to develop a Detached Youth Work Initiative saw an additional £93,000 come into the authority for work with disadvantaged young people. Our long established working relationship with the Phoenix DYP coupled with their working knowledge of the areas identified and young people living in those localities made them the ideal partner in this venture from the outset.

Targeting some of the most deprived wards in the borough the partnership will enable us to carry out a diverse and varied programme of activities and projects designed to reduce offending and anti social behaviour and help young people to obtain positive outcomes such as accredited outcomes and improved training and employment opportunities.

The work put into this initiative from all partners is a perfect illustration of integrated working and should serve as a blueprint for all future partnership arrangements. Good luck to the project in 2009 and we look forward to a long and lasting working relationship for many years to come.

Norman Maines, Commissioning and QA Manager, North Tyneside IYSS

The Phoenix Detached Youth Project has greatly assisted us in tackling and reducing incidents of motor vehicle disorder in the Meadowell area, through their diversionary work with young people. This has been achieved through the Meadowell motors project. The Phoenix Detached Youth Project have also assisted us in tackling anti social behaviour generally through detached youth work and educational activities. This work has improved the quality of life for local residents.

Inspector G. Cross
Neighbourhood Inspector for North Shields
Northumbria Police

Having been involved in a small way with some of the young people at Phoenix Detached Youth Project over the last year, I have been totally impressed with the high standard to which they have applied themselves to the alcohol projects. I thought the DVD they produced was absolutely excellent, a real accomplishment! I look forward to seeing what new and innovative ideas them come up with over the next year!

Rozi Purdy, Alcohol Health Education Coordinator

Phoenix Detached Youth Project has been successful in receiving funding from the Crime & Disorder Partnership which the Neighbourhood Management and North Tyneside Youth Services supported. The funding will be used to deliver additional detached youth work sessions in the deprived areas of North Shields. The Youth Project is a fantastic asset in this area. Both young people and other local partners value their work and their expertise.

Sue Regan, Neighbourhood Management
THANKS TO OUR FUNDERS

Northern Rock Foundation
Henry Smiths Charity
Greggs Trust
Christ's Hospital in Sherburn
Community Foundation
Elswick Lodge Charity
Neighbourhood Management North Tyneside Council
R.W Mann Trust
The Hospital of God at Greatham
Yuill Homes

The Tudor Trust
Northumbria Police Authority
North Tyneside Integrated Youth Support Service
Church Urban Fund
Diocese of Newcastle
Hadrian Trust
North Tyneside Council L.A. Dosse Posse (Y.A.F. & Elected Mayors Well Being fund)
The 1989 Willan Charitable Trust

PHOENIX DETACHED YOUTH PROJECT

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Rev. David Peel - Company Secretary
Angela Horncastle - Treasurer
Rev. Helen Gill
Lynda McCoivie MBE
Elaine Wright

I have never been involved in something as wonderful as this. Working with all of you has been an amazing experience. Thank you for being you and welcoming me into your lives. You are truly the most inspirational young people I have ever met. Keep chasing your hopes and dreams with the Phoenix Detached Youth Project. I will miss you all. A piece of my heart will always be here. Farewell.

Kerry Douglas