PHOENIX DETACHED YOUTH PROJECT

Initiated by young people and creatively delivered for young people

MISSION STATEMENT

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

10 years young and still going STRONG!

investing in children

Charity number 1106223

ANNUAL REPORT 2014

PHOENIX DETACHED YOUTH PROJECT

In February this year Phoenix Detached Youth Project celebrated its 10th anniversary which is a fantastic achievement for a small voluntary sector project, especially given the economic climate over the last couple of years. The quality and need for the work of Phoenix Detached Youth Project is the reason why funders continue to believe and support the work and why existing and new young people access the project.

Mike Burgess has been the project manager since PDYP began and committed to youth work for 25 years. It was a fitting tribute that as a result of being nominated by young people and colleagues he was shortlisted and invited to the finals of the National Youth Agency Youth Worker of the year award ceremony in London. He was delighted that Leanne and Mark, two young people he has worked with for many years attended with him and was touched by the speeches they gave about him, saying about the significant impact he has had on both of their lives.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all of the Trustees with a special mention to Rev. Helen Gill and Rev. David Peel who have been trustees since the project began.

Jim Robson, Chair of Phoenix Detached Youth Project

Annual Report - Ten years on!

Ten years on and still making a difference, the Phoenix Detached Youth Project (herein Phoenix DYP) celebrates its 10th anniversary this year. A special thanks goes to the Trustees for volunteering their time, which has been a valuable contribution. In our first year of operation we successfully helped 3 young people into work. In our tenth anniversary year we are proud to have helped 20 young people into employment!

We have identified issues affecting the community and involved young people accessing the project in creating solutions that have benefited all the community.

A selection of achievements over the last ten years have been:-

- Motorbikes flying round the estate were creating a danger to young people and the community. Young people created 'Meadowell Motors' (Go Karting Project, 2006) and this continues to reduce anti-social vehicle crime on the estate.
- Identifying the need to support vulnerable young people borough wide by providing a safe, supportive and consistent environment for vulnerable young people with mental health or emotional well-being issues by creating 'Helping Hands' in partnership with Connexions.
- Developed relationships with local companies e.g. Owen Pugh, creating effective links and support for young people, via jobs, food banks and community project staffing.
- Identified the issue of domestic abuse with under 25 year olds, we are currently in the process of involving young people in developing 'Respect Factor' a pack to educate young people (Preventative Education).
- Awarded 'Investing in children' since 2008- 2014
- Developed 'Cuts both ways' project in response to knife crime on the estate.
- A 70% increase in self-harm within society has raised concerns with the Public Health Department who funded us to develop a preventative educational pack on the issue called 'SOS'.
- Helped young people identify and develop two street spaces for urban arts project (urban arts, music and dance). This has reduced illegal tagging across the area and created two positive street spaces.

Whilst only a small team we continue to inspire young people to respect themselves and others and contribute to the community and indeed the economy. We have successfully raised 1.1 million pounds to fund the work we deliver for and with the local community, over the last 10 years!

"It is amazing what you can accomplish when you do not care who gets the credit" - Harry Truman

"Congratulations to Mike. Great youth workers are paramount to the success of youth work, without which many young people will not be given the opportunity to grow, develop and become full members of society. Youth Workers are so very often the unsung heroes, quietly delivering real change by creatively spanning divides to bring communities closer together". Fiona Blacke, National Youth Agency Chief Executive

DETACHED YOUTH WORK

It has been important to develop the Detached Youth Work, to be real, relevant and current for young people in 2014. The importance to continue to develop the key aspects of the work by working at young people's pace and terms in their environment is crucial.
This continues, but developing more effective ways to evaluate and then work with individuals in measuring soft outcomes for them and our funders as detached youth workers has also been achieved in the last 10 years. Creative approaches to issues such as knife crime have resulted in street discussion cards and involving young people to create solutions to issues affecting them and the community. Our street group work has increased and young people have identified and now use free street spaces. This is the future relevant approach to detached work for us as street sessions are relevant to young people's identity and culture and are taking place via urban art, music, dance and street jambs. Developing the local skate park is a priority for local BMX, scooter riders and skate culture. Detached work is alive, relevant and adapted by young people to work for them.

"In all the projects I have visited I have never seen so much quality and diversity in work, especially when considering the size of the team. Congratulations to all involved in this brilliant example of detached youth work at its very best. The Phoenix team sow the seeds of excellent youth work….and look what happens". Bill Cox, President of The Federation for Detached Youth Work

Total 350 individual young people

Male total	206
New contacts male (12-19yrs)	88
New contacts male (20-25yrs)	19
Existing contacts male (12-19yrs)	49
Existing contacts male (20-25yrs)	50
Female total	144
New contacts female (12-19yrs)	57
New contacts female (20-25yrs)	13
Existing contacts female (12-19yrs)	44
Existing contacts female (20-25yrs)	30

FIGURES

In the last 12 months we have worked with 350 young people, 206 males and 144 females and this has resulted in a total of 4877 interactions. These are significant increases from the previous year and is another benefit of having Luke Johnston employed full time and employing sessional staff to increase our detached work in the evenings.

Total interactions 4,877 (2905 males and 1972 females)

Detached males	1149*
Detached females	654*
Group work males	642
Group work females	564
One to one work males	1114
One to one females	754

* Detached figures includes street based interactions e.g. urban art and dance

PHOENIX DETACHED YOUTH PROJECT

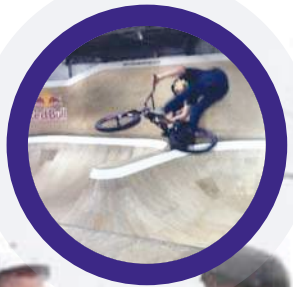
YOUNG PERSON LED ACTIVITIES AND GROUP WORK

THE ALLOTMENT

This has been successfully given to the Meadow Well Connected (themselves and local residents are now developing the site benefiting the community). Our thanks to the staff team from The Meadows for making this possible, using the expertise required to make this project a success.

BMX BANDITS

The BMX bandits came together through a mutual interest in BMXing who we met during detached sessions. They started off with a couple of trips to local skate parks and also RKade in Redcar. After a couple of trips they decided they wanted to go to Unit 23 on their residential. While there they really enjoyed riding one of the Bowls. Through working with them they mentioned that they would quite like to expand North Shields skate park as it was too small for them. This has led them to design a bowl feature to add on. They are currently in the process of getting permission from the council to get it built. (see 'Developmental areas of work')

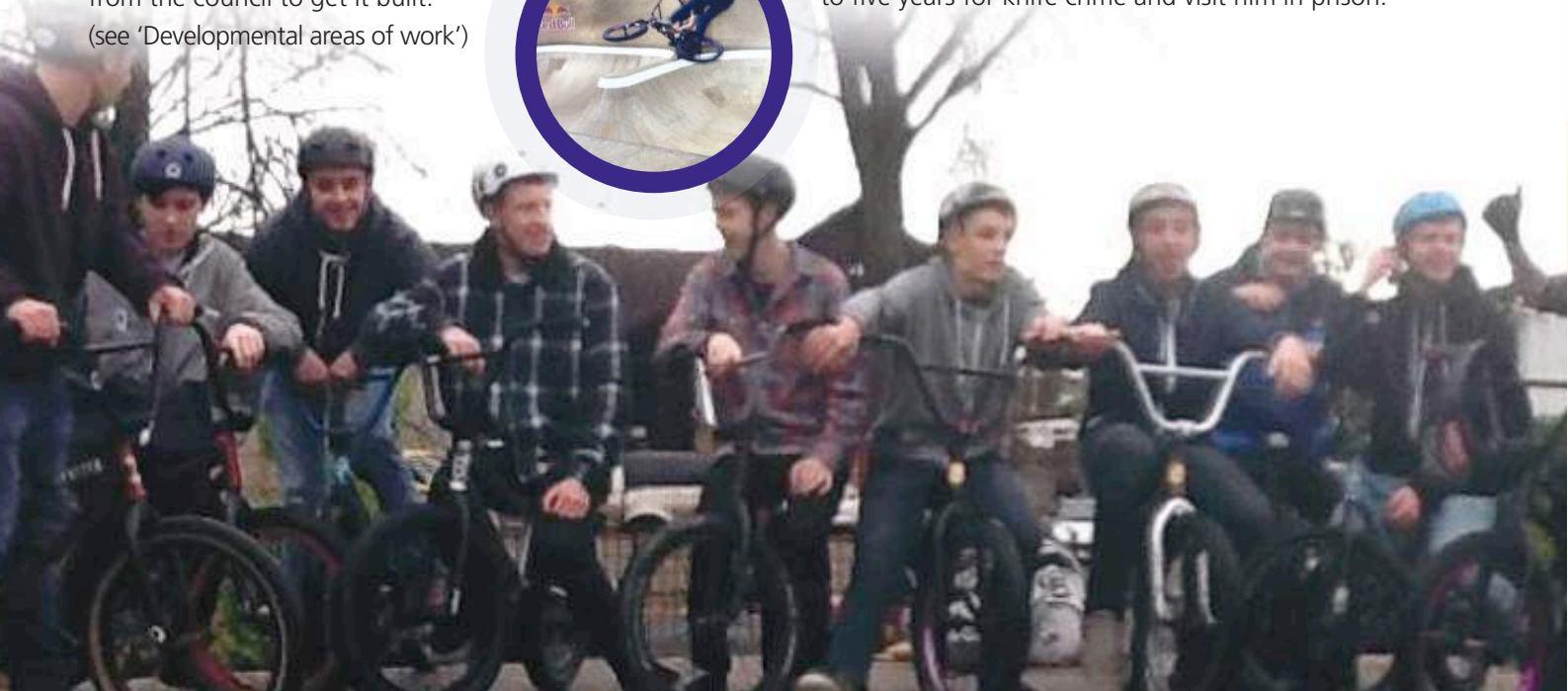


CHIRTON CREW

The Chirton Crew have continued to be involved in the project and this year has seen them take part in a wilderness survival day in which they got to learn some of the key aspects in outdoor survival such as how to cook on a fire and also how to build a shelter. They continue to come in to do activities and they have also taken part in some preventative work around drugs and alcohol.

CUTS BOTH WAYS

This project has been a great success taking discussion cards on to the streets via detached youth work to explore actions and consequences of carrying and using knifes.This preventative education has made local young people stop and think and we have seen a drop in knife crime locally. We continue to support a young man who was sentenced to five years for knife crime and visit him in prison.



This will allow us to work closely with him on his return to the estate. The 'cuts both ways' programme has been used whilst on residentials and includes first aid information around stabbings injuries and how to respond before help arrived. Young people have found this to be beneficial education.

GIRLS GROUP

This is a small group of young women who have been referred to us from The Meadows and are in the transition stage between organisations. They have been involved in a few activities and have a range of ideas they wish to develop. This is a good example of local organisations working together to provide the best service and continuity of provision to young people.

HOPES AND FEARS PARENTS GROUP

The last year has been a busy year for the parents group and their children and we are delighted that we have 5 new young mums and their children join the group.
They have participated in a range of visits and activities including: farms, parks, Christmas party, arts and crafts and swimming. This year the young parents and their children raised £41.20 for Marie Curie Cancer Care by planting daffodils. It is fantastic to see that they are keen and willing to support others in need.

Two mini buses full of mums and children were involved in a night camping in Northumberland in the summer. For many of them it was their first time away. We were fortunate that the weather was lovely and we were able to enjoy the sea, sand and a visit to Holy Island. Children continue to access our bookworm library which enables them to borrow books to take home. Some of the mums have recently secured a grant which enable them and their children to be involved in some exciting projects over the coming months.

During this time some of the young parents have now left PDYP having reached the upper age limit. Before they left we successfully supported two of them into work. We piloted an 'older mums' group at The Meadows for several months but with several of them gaining employment and the children of the others being in full time education it was felt the demand wasn't there. We wish them and their children well.

"I have been involved with the Phoenix DYP for 8 ½ years mainly through the Hopes and Fears parent's group where me and my children have been able to enjoy a range of activities, outings and residentials. I had reached the age where I had to move on from the Phoenix. They have supported me and thanks to this help I have found myself a job and they have supported me in practical ways such as interview clothes and my DBS check. I am now settled into a job and can't thank them enough for everything they've done for me and my children over the years. I will still pop in every now again for a cuppa and to say hello".

Hayley Bell

We continue to be fortunate to receive grants from Elswick Lodge Charity and Greggs Foundation which enables young parents to apply for essential items. As a result this year we have been able to award 40 grants for items e.g. fridge, cooker, gas, electric, baby equipment and school uniforms. We would like to thank both of these organisations for supporting young parents in practical ways. We would also like to thank St. Johns Church for their support which includes our Christmas party and being an Easter bunny!

LIMITED EDITION CREW (STREET DANCERS)

The group continues to enjoy dancing and performing, this year new members joined and the group is now an all-girls group. They have performed at various events and helped organise our first Phoenix Street Jamb at their street space at the Parks Leisure Centre. Without the invaluable support of the Parks Leisure Centre staff team, this group would have struggled to achieve what they have. We thank Tony and his team for continuing to support our street space. The group are currently raising funding to go to a break dancing convention and helping to organise and perform at this year's Street Jamb in August. In partnership with other organisations the group were also involved in the creation of another street space at The Meadows so other young people can benefit from an additional street space, so we thank them for all their hard work. The group would like to thank Caroline from 'Kids get fit' and Connor from 'The bad taste cru' for helping them choreograph routines.

PHOENIX DETACHED YOUTH PROJECT

LIVING IT LARGE AND MEADOWELL MOTORS

These programmes involving our Go Karts continue to be used to develop young people's personal and social skills. This year it has been more individually focused due to the changes in welfare benefit system and young people's commitments to training courses. This has allowed us to evaluate the programmes and explore different approaches in order to best meet the needs of young people.

"The North Shields Neighbourhood Policing Team have worked with Phoenix Detached Youth Project for a number of years and seen first-hand the way they engage and work with young people. They provide education, support and activities which inspires these young people to contribute positively to their local community and improve their own quality of life".

Geoff Cross, Neighbourhood Inspector for North Shields, Northumbria Police

MRS BROWNS BOYS

These are a group of younger lads from East Howdon. They meet with us on the streets of East Howdon on a regular basis. They like spending time as a group and getting the chance to do new activities. They have been involved for over a year and last summer went on a beach day with us and other detached work agencies. They also took part in coastal steering. They are aiming to do a residential over the coming summer.

NE29ERS

The NE29ers are a group brought together by their love of stunt scooters. In the past year they have been to a range of skate parks with the PDYP and this has shown a rise in their skill level. In September 2013 they went on their first residential to Dumbarton in Scotland where they got to ride at Unit 23, one of the top skate parks in the country. While there they got to meet some of the pro's as well as get inspiration on what they could achieve. Since then one of the group has been sponsored by a top scooter company.

OBAN 2013 SEA KAYAKING EXPERIENCE

Thanks again to The RW Mann Trust for funding this experience. Due to the confidence and life skills gained from this experience three of this group have successfully gained fulltime employment. One of the group had suffered due to a bad experience in the past which caused them to suffer from panic attacks which they couldn't control. The difficult environment of rough seas caused a panic attack which the individual had to control on an open sea crossing. Overcoming this situation allowed the individual to realise it was possible to overcome panic attacks and is now in work. This expedition is an example of an effective outdoor education process.

"You cannot discover new oceans unless you have courage to lose sight of the shore".

OUT OF THE BLUE

Out of the blue are a newer group to the project who we first met at Norham Park. They have done a few trips to soccer dome and have identified a passion for sports. They are currently planning on doing some more kayak sessions and also a residential in the summer.

"I met the Phoenix staff when they were doing detached sessions at the school and thought it would be good to get involved. We have done football, kayaking, laser quasar. If it wasn't for Phoenix DYP we would be bored and sitting around".

Shaun, 15 yrs

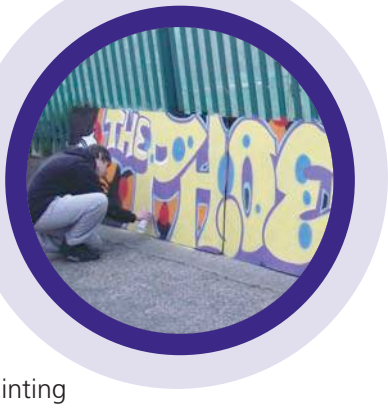
PHOENIX DYP YOUTH FORUM AND MEDIA YOUTH FORUM/ WEBSITE

The Youth Forum continue to help evaluate the project's and staff teams performance via the Investing in Children evaluation each year. The forum had a successful residential to Teesdale, taking part in team building and piloting the 'Respect factor' pack on domestic abuse. The website developed by young people continues to be used by young people to write Blogs about their involvement with PDYP. It is also used by young people and professionals to contact us with enquiries about our work. www.pdyp.org

Over the last year we have increased our use of Facebook to promote our work with young people, share photos and links to blogs on our website. You can 'like' us at https://www.facebook.com/PhoenixDetachedYouthProject This year we have had 5 articles in local papers promoting the work young people are involved in. This is positive for young people, PDYP and the wider community.

RESIDENTIALS

This year there were 8 residentials made up of the following; Limited Edition, 2 different Helping Hands groups, Hopes and Fears parents group, Scooter and BMX groups, Young women's group and Kayak group. Thanks to the generosity of Adventure holidays we were able to benefit from some of these residentials at Daleby House in Beadnell.



TAGS TO ART

This year has been a busy one for the Tags to art group. On top of their regular Friday painting sessions (street group work) the young people have managed to take part in a range of painting projects. This includes painting at the first annual Phoenix Jamb in which their art took centre stage amongst some of the most renowned artists in the country. They have also used their artistic skills to help out the community by both repainting the sign above our office and also creating a large art piece in the Meadow's internet café. Their skills have continued to progress and they are helping to change the once negative perceptions of graffiti to more positive ones, whilst helping to reduce the level of illegal tagging in the area to an almost non-existent level. Also the spaces continue to attract a large number of artists from as far away as Madrid. The group has also managed to secure a large number of wood boards kindly donated by Esh Construction Company to raise the height of the back wall of the basketball court, allowing artists to create larger pieces. Over the last year 150 artists have used the legal street art spaces, creating an amazing 1,000 art pieces.

WACKO POSSE

The Wacko Posse are a group that have established themselves this year and have done a range of things with us. They come in on a regular basis to chat with us and are now getting ready to do their first residential in the summer.

OTHER GROUPS

We have a large number of other groups both new and old who access the project to varying degrees, however they still come in to see us and are involved whether this is having a chat or accessing C-card.

PHOENIX DETACHED YOUTH PROJECT

YOUNG PERSON LED PROJECT WORK

HELPING HANDS

There are currently three Helping Hands groups in order to meet the demand. We continue to deliver this in partnership with Connexions, North Tyneside and we are delighted that the strength of this partnership resulted in us winning the 'Partnership working award' at the North East Youth Work Awards ceremony organised by Youth Focus North East.

Over the last year 41 young people have been involved in Helping Hands on a group work basis and additional one to one support. In addition to this a further 25 young people were referred to the groups but were supported on a one to one basis or referred to alternative provision. As part of Helping Hands young people have been involved in sessions on self esteem, conversation skills, anxiety and coping with transitions.

As a result of being awarded a grant the groups have been able to engage in a range of activities to improve their confidence and access to opportunities. Two of the groups went on separate overnight residentials which was an amazing achievement for all of the individuals as it saw them out of their comfort zones and having to address and overcome a range of anxieties and concerns.

As a result of being involved in Helping Hands there have been a lot of personal achievements.
1 young person went to Hull University for a degree in Chinese Studies
5 young people completed a first aid course
1 young man stood for a position in the youth European Elections

Many young people have successfully begun further education courses or apprenticeships, gained employment or been supported in re engaging with learning in a range of settings.

Several young people continue to be involved with 'Change UR mind' which is a North East group which focuses on young people's mental health and been involved in regional and national campaigns.

Ella Hallpike from Connexions, who set up Helping Hands 7 years ago, has moved on to a new job and we would like to wish her well for her future and thank her for her amazing work and the real difference she has made to so many young people.

helping hands

"Helping Hands have shown and delivered an exemplary partnership approach to working with, and meeting the needs of, young people. The partnership has made a real impact and difference for young people experiencing mental health or emotional well-being issues. The judging panel for the North East Youth Work Awards were impressed not only by commitment shown by staff to make the partnership work effectively but also by their dedication to delivering a quality service at a challenging time for the youth sector."

Kevin Franks, Programme Director, Youth Focus North East

INTERGEN

Through a conversation with residents at Chirton Lodge it became apparent that many of them struggled with their shopping. As a result of this we have been having fortnightly shopping trips to a local supermarket. Several young people have been involved with this piece of work and do shopping for those who are unable to themselves. We have also continued the games nights which are popular with young people as well as residents from Chirton Lodge and give people the chance to have discussions on a range of issues. This year there have also been Intergen trips to the theatre, Morpeth and restaurants. Some quotes from the residents of Chirton Lodge include;

"Getting involved with the young people helps us see the outlook of the young people and seeing their point of view, I like watching their energy."

"I appreciate the young people doing my shopping, it's the best thing that's happened to me."
"It is important as I can talk to the young people about what life used to be like and how things have changed."

"The relationship improves with the young people as we can see why they have the opinions they do. It's nice to see different generations, even if they are louder!"

The advantage of the Intergen work is the benefit for all of those involved.

"One of the elderly persons can't go out, I enjoy doing her shopping as I know I am helping her out."

Young person from Phoenix DYP

"I am looking for a job working with the elderly, so doing this is helping me understand the needs of the elderly."

Young person from Phoenix DYP

KNIT AND NATTER

This group was set up last year by one of the young woman who had a passion for knitting and joined together with residents from Chirton Lodge who had a craft club. They knitted 88 items consisting of bootees, blankets and hats for the Tiny Lives charity, based at the premature baby unit at the RVI. Several of the group were fortunate enough to be invited to the ward to present the items and the young woman who herself had been born on the unit was given a teddy and items as a thank you. The group hasn't met for a while due to the young people involved re-engaging with education and employment opportunities but they have said if their commitments or timetables were to change they would like to get involved again.

DEVELOPMENTAL AREAS OF WORK

CANNY DADS GROUP

We have just received funding from ISOS Housing to help us develop a Canny Dads Group. They have just been on their first trip to Adventure Valley with their children. This group will encourage dads to; play, storytelling, reading and improving dad's child care skills and have fun as dads with their children.

CHEMICAL GUINEA PIGS

"I came up with the idea for doing a project about legal highs as I was shocked that there isn't really any information for young people. We want to raise awareness of the problems it is causing for young people. As part of the project we went to Edinburgh to see 'Crew' which looks like a cool chilled out shop but instead of buying things you get advice on things like drugs and sexual health and they do this for the people of Scotland .....

CHEMICAL GUINEA PIGS (CONT.)

We were given what was supposed to have been a 60 minute presentation but actually took 1 hour 45 mins due to myself and the others bombarding them with questions. The presentation was called 'legally high??' and it was VERY interesting . It was very useful and there's a lot I will take from the session. We also got the chance to visit their drop in and look at their resources and show them the ideas for our questionnaire. It certainly gave me a lot I can talk about and include in our project that me and the rest will do in the future. It was an inspirational visit and I can't wait to start working with other young people including MC Rockeye to create some media (film, music, poster, postcards) to raise awareness". Emma.

Phoenix DYP heard about Crew 2000 through Tudor Trust as they fund both organisations. We are really excited about working in partnership with Crew and appreciate the time they spent with us. They have an excellent website for young people to use; www.crew2000.org.uk

CRISIS WORK

One to one work is always a significant part of our work but this year due to the continuing reform and changes to the welfare system we have had even more extreme cases of young people in crisis. This year fuel and food poverty have seen young people in such crisis at times some of them haven't been able to see a solution. Our role is to enable young people to access support young people access the support and provision they are entitled to but on many occasions have been unaware of. A lot of support is practical and that many people take for granted e.g. access to the phone, internet, computer, printer and stationery. All of these cost money which many young people can't afford and as a result they are a barrier to accesses opportunities.

As a result of reading one of our reports the Rainmaker Foundation provided us with an additional grant to help people in immediate crisis in order to stop young people resorting to drastic alternative actions which would have had long term consequences. As a result of this additional crisis grant; 9 grants were awarded for gas and electricity and 10 grants for food. This is in addition to the 21 grants for gas and electric we were able to provide through the Elswick Lodge Charity and the 33 food parcels provided by our food bank in partnership with Owen Pugh.

"Phoenix DYP has helped me loads especially when I've been really struggling. When I had my money sanctioned from the job centre I had nowhere else to go. I came to PDYP and thanks to help through the Rainmaker Foundation they were able to help me when I was at my lowest. If I hadn't had the help I felt my only choice was to resort to doing something which would have lead me to going to prison so I could have a roof over my head and food". Young person, 23 years

EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Our work with NEET (Not in education, employment and training) young people continues to be one of our priorities. On our tenth anniversary we are delighted at the progress we have made this year. This is because of our long term commitment to young people, many at their pace towards gaining the right skills, confidence and belief in themselves, sometimes this process takes three to four years. A few marginalised young people 16-18 years in some cases have opted out of engagement, this is due in some cases to the increase of training schemes but leading to few real job opportunities and legal highs. One of our new approaches this year has been to develop a successful working partnership with Meadowell Connected. This has resulted in greater access to computers for job search and the pooling of resources in supporting young people into work has been a success.

We have successfully supported:
- 20 young people into work (9 into full time work)
- 5 young people into university

In the worst economic climate we have supported the most young people into work ever. This is one of the biggest issues facing young people, and a lot of staff time was allocated to achieve this in partnership with businesses and other agencies.

"Over the last few months we have worked very closely with The Phoenix Detached Youth Project to offer employment opportunities to young people from the Meadow Well Estate. Through effective communication and commitment there have been a number of young people who have successfully gained employment in the Care Sector. We are currently working together with the Care Provider to create a pathway to ensure that other job opportunities are available and that young people from the Phoenix DYP and people from the Meadows are given the chance to apply for these jobs and complete appropriate training".

Laura Holburn, Enterprise Coordinator, Meadow Well Connected

"When I first got involved with Phoenix DYP I told the staff I felt I had no chance of getting employed as I had a criminal record and served an 18 month prison sentence. Since coming and working with staff my confidence has not only changed, my employment status has too and I am now employed! I strongly advise any other young person with a similar background and lack of confidence about their future to be open and honest to staff at Phoenix DYP and to ask for their help. I'd like to take this opportunity to thanks Phoenix DYP for everything they have done for me and helped me with, as a result my life has changed for the better".

Young person, 24 years

"One night I came in to PDYP at 9pm because I had to hand a CV in for a job the next morning, even though it was late because I didn't have a CV they were keen to help me and helped me build a CV, nowhere else would you get help like that at that time of day".

Young man, 21 years

FOOD BANK

With the recent reforms in the welfare system we have seen a huge rise in the amount of people needing access to food parcels. To help deal with some of this we have worked in partnership with Owen Pugh to set up a food bank for young people in crisis. Thanks to the generous donations from the staff at Owen Pugh we have been able to provide food parcels that have helped 33 individuals and families in crisis.

HEALTH

Working holistically with young people is important, especially regarding health where we support young people with physical, mental and sexual health. We are able to do this through 'Living it large, Helping Hands, C Card scheme and one to one work. Through additional funding we were able to pilot a support mentor to support individuals with complex issues with extra support and attending appointments with mental health professionals. We have supported several young people with severe mental health needs and have resorted to contemplating taking their own lives. We have been able to work with these young people and support them in accessing a range of professional support. This highlights the importance of being flexible in our approaches to work with young people and why we continue to work outside of the usual 9am – 5pm culture.

IMAGINE PROJECT

The Imagine project is a piece of research undertaken by both Durham and Coventry Universities looking at regeneration within different areas, in partnership with Community projects from the North Shields, Benwell and Scotswood estates. Within it the PDYP are looking at the history of urban art within North Shields and how it has affected the area both culturally and also physically through the legal urban art spaces. The Phoenix's project will include the young people of the PDYP designing and creating a large spray art piece with the older artists. The youth workers both past and present who have worked with groups on urban art will compare their journeys of development and barriers they have faced. The Cedarwood Trust and Meadow Well Connected are developing their own projects as part of the Imagine Project.

PHOENIX DETACHED YOUTH PROJECT

INFORMAL EDUCATION PACKS

Following on from the success of our Booze factor pack we were asked by Marietta Evans, Director of Public Health, to write and develop three informal education packs / courses on Self Harm, Respect and Domestic Abuse. The aim is that they will be published and used by professionals in informal and formal education settings. The packs have been piloted and will be published soon. We would like to thank young people from Phoenix detached youth project, Helping Hands, Norham High School and Silverdale School for assisting in the piloting of the different packs.

"Can I just say a massive thank you for the work you've done this term with our young people through delivering two of your innovative packs. It has made a massive difference to them and been a real success. The blogs the young people wrote for your website were great and I tweeted the link so followers of the school Twitter account could see. The blogs were also put on the school website". Chris Drennan, KS Co-ordinator Years 8&9, Norham High School

RESPECT FACTOR

For many years we have supported young women and men in domestic abuse situations and been committed to develop a piece of preventative work. As a result of working with victims and perpetrators we are delighted to have been able to write an informal education pack to use with young people.

"A group of us from Norham High School have been working with Phoenix Detached Youth Project to pilot their Domestic Abuse Awareness Pack. We have learnt a lot including:

* *Be aware of what's happening to you and others*
* *It happens to people our age*
* *How to support a friend who is in a domestic abuse situation*
* *That a perpetrator can be anyone*
* *A victim can be anyone*
* *How to spot the different types of abuse e.g. mental, physical, financial, verbal, neglect and emotional*
* *The different things that can count as abuse*

Our top 5 points for other young people are:

* *Make more people aware what counts as domestic abuse in relationships*
* *Offer support and listen*
* *Tell people they can get help*
* *Do things to boost their self-esteem so they can make the right choices e.g. leave and find someone else*
* *Have the confidence to challenge perpetrators*

We feel more young people should do these sessions otherwise you never learn about them. We would like to do more sessions like this on different topics".

Danielle, Ellie and Tyler on behalf of the group

RESPECT Y SELF COURSE

This was a partnership between Phoenix Detached Youth Project, Mobex North East, The Sage Gateshead (Music Trust) and Public Health Department.

The aim was to pilot two courses for six weeks using the arts, outdoor education and youth work to work with marginalised young people.

Respect Y self course would allow young people to learn more about respecting themselves and others, how your actions affect you and how decisions made now will affect you later in life.

The first course was with young people contacted via detached youth work, a mixed group. They successfully completed the course and produced a short film to go with the lyrics and music they had created (some sounds were created down an old mine). We are presently delivering a second course for young people from Silverdale School which has been going very well. This time young people are creating music under an island in Marsden Bay with Adventure Sunderland whilst co steering and a future session will be doing an urban art piece around respect.

Sadly Mobex North East has had to close due to a lack of funding. This brings to an end the loss of an amazing team who made a real difference to our local young people via outdoor education. We wish them all well and thanks for making a difference.

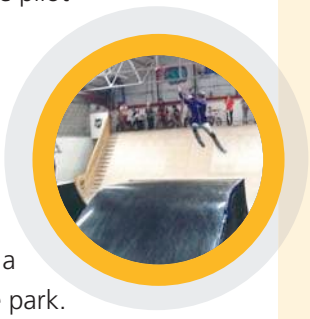
SOS PACK

The need for a pack on self harm came about as a result of an increase in the number of young people self harming. The SOS pack has been written by Phoenix DYP staff and uses a range of innovative activities to address the issues associated with self harm and the reasons young people may do this.

"We have been involved with the SOS Pack trial. We think that it is a good and we learned a lot more about the reasons behind self harm and what might cause it. It would be a very good pack to use with other young people.
It's important to learn about what might cause someone to harm themselves. As a group we thought this would be good to do with people 10yrs and over as it is important to learn about it and the different coping strategies and how we could better deal with it. It's better to learn about it than be ignorant. Self harm seems to have a stigma and through learning about the issues it helps reduce the stigma".

Young people who were involved in the pilot

THE BMX BANDITS/ NE29ERS



Over 30 young people using the Parks Leisure Centre Skate Park are being supported by the staff team preparing a presentation to develop the local skate park. They have designed drawings which have then been professionally drawn by a company and costed. They hope to gain permission and raise the funding to make this a reality for the benefit of the community.

WHO AM I? WHERE AM I GOING?

Due to extra funding from North Tyneside Public Health department, we were able to spend more time working with individuals in depth using our 'Star of success' system. This has meant a 60% increase from 16 young people to 26 young people. The system enables us to measure soft outcomes for young people that are relevant to them and it allows young people to take ownership of their aspirations and needs. This can be shared with funders so they can see the developments young people make.

"Education wasn't even on my 'star of success' when I first met Becky because I never thought I'd be able to go back, I didn't feel strong enough to. Sat here today knowing I've been at school since September 2013 makes me feel really proud that I have achieved it, and I have just passed my textiles at school, that's the first thing I have ever passed. In the last year I've gone from being home educated to going to school, I've now got good friends who I can have a laugh with and I've turned my hobby of knitting and card making into a little business. I had the idea to set up a knitting club for young and old where we knitted 88 items for the premature baby unit. I'm glad through Helping Hands I got the chance to go away overnight for the first time, it meant I could have fun and proved to myself I can do it, I was really nervous before I went. When I first joined PDYP my mum used to come down with me and collect me but now I come down by myself, I am hoping to travel independently to college and my long term plan is to travel to New York by myself. Coming to PDYP has really helped me get back into school and set up my business. I've learnt if you talk about problems people at PDYP can help you sort them out. If I had not have been bullied I would not have been involved with the Phoenix so that's the good thing that's come out of a horrible experience". Diana

PHOENIX DETACHED YOUTH PROJECT

INVESTORS IN YOUNG PEOPLE AWARD (LOCAL BUSINESS)

OWEN PUGH

(Local business that have made the biggest impact in the last ten years). No company has ever won the award twice but due to the massive difference made Owen Pugh Holdings LTD have won this year's award. This is due to:

- Developing a food bank through their workforce to help local young people
- Employing 5 local young people full-time
- Funding the cost of our administrator
- Offering to fund in kind cost to dig two holes for skate park development
- Developing a scheme to give young offenders work opportunities in partnership with a range of companies and agencies including the Army.

" Phoenix Detached Youth Project is a fantastic initiaitve that provides an outlet for marginalised young people and we're proud to support it and play a part in helping people to take control of their lives and make positive contributions to the community and economy".

John Dickson, Chairman, Owen Pugh Group

OUTSTANDING PARTNER LOCALLY THAT HAS INVESTED IN YOUNG PEOPLE

This is a new award for our tenth anniversary for the most outstanding team who have constantly been committed to help local young people. This award goes to North Tyneside Council Parks Leisure Centre staff team. This is due to:

- Working outside their comfort zone (allowing young people to develop a disused basketball court in to a creative positive street space for art, music and dance).
- Regular Street Jamb for the community
- Development of Skate Park
- Caring and can do attitude towards staff and young people of the Phoenix Detached Youth Project

STUDENTS ON PLACEMENT

This year we were delighted to welcome two students on placement from Newcastle College as part of their Social Care Degree course. One of them was Nicole a local young person who had benefited from the project from the age of 13- 18 years she has been a real asset and a great success story about what young people can achieve.

"I first came into contact with the Phoenix DYP when I was 13, at the time me and friends were drinking on the streets every weekend and getting in trouble with the police. Since meeting the PDYP me and my friends formed a group of about 10 girls. I took part in many activities and projects such as 'Risky business' and 'Pissed and unprotected' which educated me on the risks and dangers associated with alcohol. I learnt to reduce and control my drinking which reduced the risks and changed my behaviour to more positive. Since then I have completed a health and social care Nvq level 3 and I am now near the end of my 2 year foundation degree in social care. I am currently still involved with the Phoenix and giving back to the project and community by carrying out my work placement there. It's a different point of view working alongside Mike and Becky who I had previously drove mental on residentials when I was younger but it has made me aware of all the hard work they put into the project, it's not all activities and fun there's much more involved. I'm so happy to have met the Phoenix as they have given me so many great opportunities, allowed me to gain experience for my own personal career path and kept my group of friends so close and a strong group, I still speak to every single one of the group members and see them regularly". Nicole Hodgson.

We have also had two MA students studying Youth and Community Work from Durham University this year, Tom and Leah, which created a positive two way learning experience for themselves and the staff team. In the last 10 years we have had 15 MA students studying either social work or youth and community on proactive field work placements from Durham University and Northumbria University.

FUNDRAISING

Without our funders supporting the work (our main partners) our service would not exist. The Phoenix Detached Youth Project has now successfully raised £1.1 million to deliver a service to young people for the community in the last 10 years. This has been due to the high quality of the work delivered, our ability to create solutions to issues affecting young people and involving them in the process. Our development of an effective way to measure soft outcomes (Star of Success) from Detached Youth Work methods for young people and funders and our success of developing meaningful and effective relationships with businesses on a range of levels means we are able to maintain funding which allows us to deliver our service.

"It is good to know that Phoenix Detached Youth Project staff are there to provide both emotional and practical support for those who really need it, and that you are able to provide one to one mentoring support for the most vulnerable".
Nicky Lappin, Research and Information Manager, The Tudor Trust.

We would like to pass on our thanks and best wishes to Peter Ellis who we are aware has left the Lloyds Foundation. Mike and Becky have been on a long journey with Peter over the years as part of Phoenix DYP and in previous projects Mike and Becky have been involved with. We will always value the support and commitment Peter showed us in so many ways. Thank you Peter, you will always be welcome if you are in the area.

"WHAT AGENCIES AND OTHERS SAID"

"Sage Gateshead and its Youth Participation department has enjoyed a strong and fruitful relationship with Phoenix Detached Youth Project. A key part of our work is not just about offering music engagement opportunities for young people whose lives are lived in challenging circumstances, but also about a wider social engagement that addresses issues around self confidence and self esteem. We use music making to enable young people to express themselves both creatively and artistically. Recently Mike has contributed to the training and development of our young music leaders". Steve Jinski, Head of youth participation, Sage Gateshead

"I am really pleased to be able to support the work of Phoenix Detached Youth Project as they have a unique and very successful approach to engaging and working with young people in the local area, some of whom may be vulnerable or have quite complex needs. Phoenix Detached Youth Project makes a valuable contribution in relation to addressing health inequalities in North Tyneside. Their approach focuses on engaging with young people in relation to issues that interest and challenge them and at the same time using opportunities to tackle quite challenging problems including self harm, domestic violence and alcohol misuse. The emphasis is on respecting yourself and respecting others and building confidence to support young people to go on and achieve great things in their lives". Marietta Evans, Director of Public Health, North Tyneside Council

"I continue to be impressed by the variety of the work undertaken with young people at the Phoenix Detached Youth Project. I was recently pleased to see that the work of the 'Helping Hands' Group was acknowledged at the North East Youth Focus event where they won an award. It is great to see the contribution that this small, local, independent Youth Project can make to the lives of young people living on or near the Meadowell estate. The staff team are always keen to give practical and professional support to other Youth Workers in the area despite their heavy work loads ... ". Sarah Warren, Operations Manager, Newcastle upon Tyne YMCA

"I have known the work of the Phoenix project for several years and have come to admire and appreciate their whole ethos and approach. It seems to me it is about working alongside young people in order to support them during some of the most difficult times and transitions of their lives. The work that they do at Phoenix is not a quick fix it is about being prepared to stick with a young person; journeying with them as they seek to achieve their hopes and dreams in what can feel like a difficult and complicated world". Steve Forster – Together Newcastle, Church House - Development Worker

"Over the past year we have developed a strong partnership with staff at PDYP. We are now sharing resources, maximising staff across each of our services which is vital in the current economic climate".
Darren Greco, Sport Development Officer, North Tyneside Council

Thank you to everyone who supports the Phoenix Detached Youth Project and especially our funders:

Rainmaker Foundation
Owen Pugh Fund
Big Lottery Fund
Prime Fund
Tudor Trust
Customers of Anchor
Public Health Department, North Tyneside Council
SITA Trust
Tyne and Wear Community Foundation
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Do Something Different
Worksure Professional Services LTD
WJR True Potential
The Henry Smith Charity

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Gary Nelson
Ann Courtney
Peter Craig
Davey Potts

TRUSTEES
Jim Robson - Chair
Rev. David Peel - Company Secretary
Lynda McCowie MBE - Treasurer
Rev. Helen Gill
Ben Appleby
Ella Hannant
Jack Nicholls

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