

Youth Ideas & Action

Developments in youth service

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Quality Leaders Project

"Management development through service development"

<http://www.seapn.org.uk/qlp.html>

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Editorial

The Project Group has been visiting participating authorities through September and October. As the QLP-Y project reaches its half way mark, it is important to find out individuals' thoughts on the project and to assess the progress of the Project in each authority. Overall, the visits have been an important opportunity for QLs, Mentors and Sponsors to speak freely about their concerns and/or to voice their opinions, as well as to prepare for the year ahead for QLP-Y.

It has been encouraging to see that Audience Development Activities are now underway in every authority. The Project Group have been encouraged by the progress and have also had the opportunity to meet with some of the young people involved in the workshops and get some initial feedback.

The visit programme was as follows:

Portsmouth: September 18th 2006
Haringey: September 19th 2006
Lincolnshire: October 13th 2006
Barnet: October 24th and 31st 2006

Reports from each of the visits will be sent to authorities for comment and, once agreed, will be available on the QLP-Y website.

Authorities were invited to give updates from their projects for this issue of *Youth Ideas & Action* and we hope this information will be useful to you.

We look forward to seeing your projects grow over the next year.

Emily Sowter
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Authority Update

Barnet

Having joined the project as QL at a later stage this is my first report on the Project. Since the last update in the July issue of *QLP News*, things have moved on apace. Regular planning meetings have been held and the partnership between the Library Service and Youth and Connexions has continued to flourish. Links with a local secondary school targeted for the project have also been developed.

Our plans for the first set of workshops involve young people making a DVD about their views on the library service, the facilities they would like and the things they would like to see changed. The workshops will centre on training the audience in video recording and editing alongside interviewing skills. To ensure we meet the target group of young people aimed for in the project, participants will be recruited via the Youth and Connexions Service through the detached youth team and the personal assistant at the local secondary school. The final film will be presented by participants to senior managers from the council departments involved in December. We plan to reward the young people with Duke of Edinburgh credits for their participation.

Over the summer, recruitment from the Positive Activities for Young People (PAYP) programme began. I will be attending a youth festival to raise the profile of QLP and encourage participation. We have run a competition for young people at libraries and youth centres to design the publicity for the project in order that they have some ownership of the plans at an early stage. The winning entry will be used in all future promotional material.

Plans for the second set of workshops have also begun. Based on the findings from earlier consultations conducted in Barnet and confirmed by the findings of the *Public Libraries: Destination Unknown* report, these workshops will be based around a DJ session and will start in the new year.

Catherine Lusted

Quality Leader
August 2006

Haringey

QLP Haringey Update – Tottenham Carnival Project

Since submitting the original proposal there have been a number of developments in regards to the project. The cameras, cases and paper outlined and approved in the proposal have been purchased.

The Tottenham Carnival did take place on 17th June at Bruce Castle Park in Tottenham. Using the QLs contacts in the Youth Service four young people agreed to come along on the day and take photographs.

Selma was the QL present on the day and acted as the contact point on the day.

With the help of one of the Youth Workers we have contacted a trainer to lead the photo developing workshop. The trainer explained what software is needed – Adobe Photoshop.

It was planned to run the photo developing workshop on 8th July. This date was chosen so that it would be before the summer holiday period and not too far removed from the Carnival having taken place.

The workshop was to be run at the St Ann's library on some stand-alone computers so as to avoid the restrictions on the libraries People's Network computers.

Once the QLs had the opportunity to explore what operating system was needed to run Adobe Photoshop it became apparent that the stand alone computers at St Ann's library weren't powerful enough to do the job.

At this stage the workshop was put on hold until a solution to the problem could be found. The Youth Service contacts were informed of the situation so that they could let the young people know what was happening as we don't want them to disengage with the project.

Together the QLs discussed what options there were to be able to take the project forward. The ideas discussed are:

- Upgrading the existing computers – this was deemed not suitable due to the age of the computers.
- Using the Peoples Network computers – this was deemed not suitable due to the experience of one of the QLs of trying to get software loaded and useable with the aid of the libraries IT Technician being not possible.
- Purchasing laptops – This was considered by both QLs the most reasonable option to pursue as not only will it benefit the photo development workshop but also the laptops will be able to be used in future projects such as the website development workshops.

In terms of evaluating the project using the performance indicators identified using ***Every Child Matters*** this can only be a partial analysis as the project has not been completed.

1. Enjoying and Achieving

Young people have the opportunity to learn the skills needed to use digital cameras. The first measurement for this was four young people taking part on Carnival Day. On the day, while four young people agreed to come only three took part.

Young people learn the skills to develop and present images. At this moment this cannot be assessed as the workshop has not taken place.

2. Making a Positive Contribution

Young people actively engage with the Tottenham Carnival. The first measurement was the number of photos taken on the day. 183 photos were taken.

The second measurement is to be comments collected from the young people about their experiences of taking part. This has not been collected as the workshop has not taken place.

3. Economic Wellbeing

To provide young people who don't usually have access to digital cameras the experience of using this technology thus increasing their skills base which can be mentioned in portfolios. The measurement for this will be students learn new skills in regards to digital photography. This will be covered in the survey given to workshop participants. This has not been completed due to the workshop not having taken place.

Selma Ibrahim & Claire Stalker- Booth

Quality Leader
Haringey

Images from Haringey library Creative writing classes Jan 06.

Lincolnshire

Young people from Grantham have recently begun working with an Arts Worker to look at producing a comic type magazine, planned, designed and delivered by the young people using the library as a reference point and for inspiration. The comic will have a young people focus and be used to advertise the library to their peers. The Artist is used to working with young people and so a rapport was easily established. The workshops include elements of research, consultation, graphic design, IT and print lay out and the marketing process. The library has pulled together a graphic novel collection to give inspiration to the young peoples' work.

The project was identified in consultation with the young people and it was facilitated by youth workers and library staff using the library as a focal point for regular book meetings.

One of the desired learning outcomes for the young people is around improved community involvement and responsibility leading to active citizenship through increased library use. Another outcome will also be increased knowledge of the consultation process, partnership and team building skills. These will be measured by consultation both before and after the program finishes.

If successful, this programme may well be proposed to other groups of young people (presently being consulted) across the county so that a network of magazines could be established.

The ability to manage projects across the county when both services are undergoing organisational review has been difficult. This is coupled with libraries facing challenging budget pressures which have impacted on staff that have an outreach role being re-deployed to staff counters. This has meant that implementing plans has been more time consuming and difficult to pull together. The work with the young people of Grantham will be our first major use of the funding. The effect of accessing

this money will hopefully give a greater emphasis to those areas where plans are taking longer to activate.

Wendy Bond
Quality Leader
September 2006

Portsmouth City Council

Audience Development Activity Factsheet

Art workshops took place in five children's residential units in Portsmouth. Looked after children were provided with art materials to produce work which was displayed in the Central Library for two weeks from Monday 18 September 2006. The work will be framed and then "travel" to those branch libraries nearest the residential units for a brief period. There was no theme given to the participants, young people were free to choose. They were supplied with acrylic paints, paint brushes and canvases

The sessions took place weekly, over four weeks during the summer holidays and were coordinated by Monica Porter, a care worker in one of the children's homes.

Dave Percival, the Quality Leader provided supporting books and information, and encouragement to the young people. He also organised the subsequent exhibition of the work after it had been produced.

This activity has given participants the opportunity to express themselves freely and have their work exhibited in public. It came about following consultation with the group, undertaken as part of the first phase of QLP-Y. In total, TWENTY workshops took place, with TWENTY-FIVE young people from residential units producing artwork.

The exhibition has raised wider public awareness of looked after children, being a positive expression of the talent possessed by the group. It has also consolidated partnership working between libraries and social services within the authority.

The participants were invited to an opening event, attended by senior figures from various departments within Portsmouth City Council. Those artists who did not attend this event, or did not get to the Central Library, will have the opportunity to view their work in local libraries before the work is returned to them.

Dave Percival
Quality Leader
September 2006

Youth initiatives

Moss Side Powerhouse Library

QLP-Y is one of many youth projects taking place in the UK and around the world. It is always interesting to look at other projects or organisations to see how they relate to QLP-Y and if there is anything we can learn from them.

QLP-Y is a project driven by young people. In essence, by consulting with young people, QLP-Y has as its objective to encourage young people who would not normally use library services to start accessing libraries through workshops that can range from drama to Ding, but not necessarily books.

With children's services rapidly changing, it is interesting to look at different models that are accommodating young people and making services increasingly more accessible for young people. Below you will find two examples of services that are 'user' friendly for young people and their families.

Moss Side library has a youth centre attached to its building and has the advantage of not only functioning as a library but also as a youth centre, focusing specifically on young people and their needs.

Blackburn's curve will be relevant to all authorities that have or are currently implementing the 'Youth Matters' agenda and are in the process of forming inter-agency partnerships under the umbrella of children's trusts. Blackburn has adopted this way of delivering children's services more effectively, prior to the recommendations in the 'Youth Matters' paper.

Both examples are extremely relevant and, although they are highlighted below, worth researching further into.

Moss Side Powerhouse Library:

140 Raby Street
Moss Side
Manchester
M14 4SL

The library is part of the Moss Side Powerhouse Centre. The centre is for young people between the ages of 11-25. Apart from library services other services also include a music studio, fitness studio, sports hall, computer room, cafe, meeting room, arts and craft studio and careers advice.

Further details: **Moss Side Powerhouse Library**. Manchester City Council: Libraries - Moss Side Powerhouse Library. Available at: <http://www.manchester.gov.uk/libraries/distlibs/mossside/index.htm> [Accessed 28th September 2006].

Blackburn's Curve

Integrated children's centre
Blackburn and Darwen

"The centre has brought together 12 agencies offering more than 20 services in one

place." I&Dea- the innovation forum.

A review of children's services was set up in 2002 involving learning and education, social services and the primary care trust. A review of services involved extensive community consultation to help integrate local services. It was concluded that this could be achieved by creating integrated centres that could be used by families to access services such as childcare, job search, training advisors, housing services and libraries etc. in one single place.

The concept of integrated children's services in Blackburn was initiated long before the similar strategies mirrored in the national Every Child Matters framework, which in turn led to the creation of Children's Trusts, bringing all services together. This has been achieved in Blackburn already.

Centres are accountable to funders, local authorities and their local communities. To ensure that all the services function, nursery assistants, health visitors, care workers, trainers, librarians, doctors and nurses all work together.

The benefits of integrated services should be improved school performances which should lead to higher rates of employment, lower child poverty and less demand on social services.

Further details: **Blackburn's Curve, The innovation forum, beyond excellence**
[The innovation forum: beyond excellence \(PDF, 59 pages, 654KB\)](#)
Accessed 28th September 2006

On a High Note: Songs For and By Young People

'The Goodenough Voices of the Commonwealth' -- a music album featuring songs written, composed and sung by and for young people -- was launched on 22 August 2006 at Goodenough College, London, UK.

The album features six songs from a diverse range of music genres: disco-pop, ballad, rap, jazz, R&B and rock. This youth empowerment initiative seeks to inspire Commonwealth youth to contribute positively to their community.

The album is the product of collaboration between the Commonwealth Youth Exchange Council (CYEC), the Commonwealth Youth Programme (CYP) and Goodenough College.

The project is the brainchild of Singaporean Charles Chao Rong Phua, who was a delegate to the 4th Commonwealth Youth Forum (CYF4) in Abuja, Nigeria, in 2003. After gaining additional experience working for the Commonwealth as Head of Operations for CYF5 in Malta in 2005 and contributing to Goodenough College as House Treasurer among other capacities, he discussed his plan to launch this album with various stakeholders and it was subsequently put into action.

Produced by Walter Koerte under the musical direction of Mr Chao Rong, the album was completed in five months utilising the musical talents of students from Goodenough College and across the Commonwealth.

“The strength of this production lies in the fact that none of the team members are full-time music professionals, but students and young working adults who share an interest in music and community service. Therefore, the album exudes the creativity, energy and optimism of the youth,” said Mr Simmons.

“This album project is an important and innovative contribution to CYP’s effort to empower young people to participate in the development processes of the Commonwealth.”

The album can be downloaded free of charge from Goodenough College’s website (www.goodenough.ac.uk/393.html) from mid-September 2006.

SOURCE: Blackburn’s Curve. Available at: http://www.thecommonwealth.org/news/153806/on_a_high_note_songs_for_and_by_young_people.htm . [Accessed 17th October 2006].

Images from authority workshops

Haringey

Images from Haringey Library Creative writing classes Jan 06.





Portsmouth

Young people's work displayed at Central Library, Portsmouth, September 2006.



