

A JOURNEY TO THE CENTRE OF A COMMUNITY

In the space of a year work has started to transform the problem of young people in Stanwell. The issues ranged from involvement in anti social behaviour to no education, a lack of accessing of activities, risk of sexual risk taking. This is not a record of a journey of success but of one a journey to a place where the problem can be challenged by the whole community

Present and Past

August 10

- Community involved in Community Conference with over 40 attendees
- Active partnership collaboration across partners
- Reduction in ASB in Stanwell (police data)
- First Stanwell Fun Day held as part of Quake
- No young people seen as inaccessible
- 5 distinct YP groups identified and worked with
- Parents / YP support group set up and moved onto being co produced
- Healthy Lifestyles focus of work with regular gym attendance
- Groups run by 4 local residents
- No formal incidents of sexual behaviours



August 09

- Section 30 in place due to ASB
- Over 15 YP involved in assault on youth worker and barred from youth provision
- Police at point of distrust re partners and their interactions with young people
- Young people express distrust of those tasked to work with them
- Group of 15+ young people have no Education input or aspirations re future
- 4 at risk of ASBOs
- Series of one off un co-ordinated interventions with groups by groups
- Community wants to challenge problem but does not know how
- Uncoordinated monies available in community as a hotspot
- Group of young people identified as engaging in forced exploitation of young women

1.

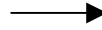
Understand the community and the timing of your entry into it



- Youth Justice prevention increasing work in community
- A2 Housing undertake community project May 09
- Section 30 in place for July / August 09
- Professional distrust among potential partners at low eg police / YJS
- Diagnostic of area completed in July / August 09 involving community identifying issues and solutions
- Targeted young people known to the police but no other agency engaged despite remits to do so

2.

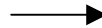
Identify a number of distinct partners, know where you cannot tread and assume what is left is open to collaboration



- Police took the initiative to contact YJS prevention to air issues
- A2 Housing already connected to local Voluntary group which had barred same group of young people
- Borough linked to all above
- Over first 3 weeks numerous informal meetings occur in order to explore potential
- First hub meeting meets 3 weeks from inception. Focus is young people identified by police
- Connexions and Education Welfare added to group
- All Members agreed a to-do culture, no invitation unless contributing and willing to offer beyond present culture

3.

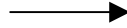
Identify young people through partners and engage quickly. However be ready to change direction. Mobilise the community. Expect partners to respond as quickly. However know your limitations



- 2 most at risk of ASBO identified. They were in turn asked to invite others to activities. This was led as intended group was known
- Recruitment and police clearing of volunteers and mentors from community
- Borough offers fishing and spaces on holiday scheme
- Youth Justice offers staffing
- Voluntary group offers volunteers
- Police share intelligence and agree its use. Response to it within 48 hours by YJS
- A2 Housing offer meeting place for projects and young people
- Connexions prioritise appointments for young people
- Youth service offers local water sport sessions to engage young people
- Funding available through PAYP
- Within 2 months a distinct girls group, a 15 – 16 year old boys group and 13-14 year old group identified
- The 18-19 year old group are not worked with.

4.

Respond quickly, take risks-
NEVER LET THE YP DOWN
but hold onto and communicate
the reason you are engaging
with them



- As part of relationship building 9 highest tariff YP were taken on a 2 night residential
- Follow up activities were undertaken to Go Karting, ice skating, Go Ape
- Since Jan 10 activities are tied to specific learning outcomes e.g. college applications, sexual health...
- If behaviour is challenging it was not ignored but they would not be barred

5.

Appreciate partners working
outside their comfort zone and
ensure successes are shared.
Respond to each others needs
as if your own

6.

Financial and physical
resources must be adaptable to
changing needs. What you
apply for in August may not be
valid in September

