

**INSIDE
THIS ISSUE:**

Fiona 1
**Heritage
Park**

Club 66 2

Niketa 2
NSPCC

Action for 3
Stannington

Roundabout 3

Seven Hills 4

What else is 4
going on?

Back in 2008 Sheffield City Council asked Chilypep and Sheffield Futures to look into what provision there was for young people to get involved and have a say in the decisions that affect them. We asked young people for their views and presented these to decision makers and other organisations across the city. One question we were keen to ask was 'what can we do to get young people more involved?'

One issue came up every time and that was that too many people see young people in a negative light and it was noted that there was an unfair portrayal of young people in the media.

Therefore a group of young people decided to come together and challenge this view. Coming from Action for Stannington, NSPCC and CAST they helped design a bus poster to challenge the negative stereotypes and sent us out in search of positive news stories.

These stories were not hard to find, all over the city young people are getting involved in great projects, helping their community and making a difference to where they live. Read on to find out what good things have been happening where you are...

fiona

Fiona is 15 and is autistic. People with autism say the world is seen as a mass of people, places and events which they struggle to make sense of, and can cause them considerable anxiety. Therefore understanding and relating to other people can be a lot harder for them.

Yet Fiona from Heritage Park Community School chose to take part in the Reading Mentor training by Reading Matters to help other young people in her school learn to read. After completing a two day training course Fiona started mentoring Tanisha an 11 year old pupil for 10 weeks. Firstly Fiona sat down and had a chat with Tanisha, building a relationship and finding out what they had in common "at first I needed a little bit of help then after a few weeks I did it myself."

During these sessions Fiona planned what they would do, made teaching resources such as

wordsearches using words Tanisha needed extra support with and evaluating her progress. The sessions were a great success as Tanisha's reading improved and all Fiona's hard work is now being collated into a portfolio to be assessed for an OCN Level 2 qualification. Fiona has also since passed her Literacy Level 2 with "flying colours".

Following the success of the project Fiona was invited to a celebration event at the Town Hall where she received a tour of the building and a certificate to award her achievements. For more information about Reading Matters please call 01274 692219.



Club 66

Club Double 6 (a youth club in Woodseats, Sheffield) recently tackled the negative stereotype of young people that is consistently portrayed in today's media. After completing workshops delivered by Takedown Media, the volunteers learnt basic media production skills involving camera work, setting up tripods, planning/design and interviewing techniques. The young people then went out to interview members of the community regarding their views of young people and the media's coverage of this social group.

The young people tried to target as many people as possible including residents, police, community support officers and decision makers, including Councillor Andrew Sangar the Cabinet Member for Children's Services and Lifelong Learning, and Jane Bird the then Lord Mayor.

The interviews were compiled together and made into a DVD to promote a positive image of young people, expressing some of the club member's views of why they received negative stereotyping and how they would prefer to be treated, "the minority of youths is what the media and other people are focusing on, not the majority, because the majority of youths are actually alright, and don't cause trouble."

Richard Hay, the clubs youth worker, fully supported the young people in producing the DVD and was proud to see the sense of achievement the young people gained, encouraging them to continue with their hard work when occasionally they became disheartened by comments in some interviews. Richard was also impressed by the understanding and awareness the young people developed of how the media can portray minority groups within society, and the unfair judgements that can be easily made as a result of this.

The DVD should soon be available on the Club 66 website, as is further information:
www.club66.webeden.org

Less than 2.5% of young people under 25 were cautioned or convicted of a crime in 2001



80% of young people have never taken or even tried drugs
 Source: Ofsted, November 2007

90% of stories on young people don't quote them

Niketa

I became involved with the NSPCC some years ago because I liked their willingness to get children and young people involved in the decisions and decision making process of a large charity that's sole aim is the improvement of children and young people's lives and standing in society.

Since then I have had the opportunity to be involved in a wide range of participation events. These include the 11 million takeover day, interviewing potential staff members for positions (including the current NSPCC Chief Executive), media training, and making a CD Rom.

Currently I sit on the Young People's Board of Trustees on behalf of the NSPCC and was involved in the planning of the annual 3 day summer residential and a showcase event within the Sheffield branch. My involvement with the NSPCC is now being recognised outside the organisation and I presented my achievements to many key decision makers and partner organisations at seven participation events held by Chilypep and Sheffield Futures commissioned by Sheffield City Council.

Action for Stannington

Action for Stannington's aim is to improve the local environment by raising awareness and encouraging residents to look after their community. Currently the group have around 40 members on their mailing list and have 14 young volunteers working on the project. Christina is the young volunteers' team leader and has been volunteering for Action for Stannington (AFS) for nearly six years. Working with Danny Piermattei MBE she helps co-ordinate the young volunteers on various environmental tasks. Christina told us: "If you're just sat on street corners and do nothing, everyone thinks bad of you, but when you get out and do something and make yourself known everyone respects you more."

Most of the young people involved with AFS are from a socially disadvantaged background and have many reasons why they wish to join the project including "to keep out of trouble" and a desire "to help people". Sal, Daniel and Connor admitted that they caused trouble out of boredom before starting with AFS but now they all feel part of the community and enjoy learning new skills and helping the environment.



The work undertaken is generally tending to the flowers and plants at Stannington Park, help with recycling, gardening services for the residents of Stannington and keeping the neighbourhood litter free. Working with the community has lead to an increased understanding between the elderly and the young people, yet mistakes are still made. "Sometimes we remove graffiti from a wall by spraying a graffiti remover and they think instead of taking it off you're graffitiing on walls." Yet now they have built up relationships with the members and they all sit down together and have a cup of tea and a chat. "We respect them more when we realise they're not scared of us."

This work is completed on a weekly basis. Action for Stannington has helped young people to realise their potential by giving them the respect and understanding they deserve which in turn has encouraged a more respectful and mature outlook on life and work. For more information visit www.actionforstannington.org.uk

Roundabout

Roundabout have been working with young homeless people in Sheffield since 1977 to support and empower them to recognise, develop and take advantage of the choices open to them. There are 15 bedspaces in its hostel open 24 hours a day where staff offer one to one support, training and activities to help residents gain confidence and key skills.

Kieron (19) had only been in the hostel two weeks when we met him and has already noticed his confidence increase, with an interest in health and nutrition he has been helping other residents plan out their meals and assists leading the budgeting sessions. Other residents have recently wrote a successful bid to build a bike shelter and recycle old bikes so residents can ride across the city cheaply and have met Cllr Paul Scriven,

Leader of Sheffield City Council to talk about their issues and what can be done.

Both Kieron and Natalie (18) have come to the hostel to make a positive step towards finding a home and employment yet both at times have experienced discrimination from people treating them negatively or crossing the street as they approach. Natalie commented "we're just walking down and it's horrible...people keep going on about us showing respect, but they don't know how to show it themselves." For more information visit www.roundabouthomeless.org

Teenagers are less likely to commit crimes now than they were in the early 1990s
Source: Fran Abrams, Observer, March 2008



Pupils at Seven Hills

Seven Hills School is a school in Sheffield where students with physical, complex and multiple learning difficulties attend, working within a culture where they are challenged to achieve their potential in a climate of support and encouragement.

Students in the post-16 unit work with younger children in their school, people in the community and have competitive involvement in sport locally and nationally. Marcus (16) is a fully trained 'Reading Mentor' helping younger children at the school learn to read, as well as representing other young people who use non-verbal communication on the school council.

Furthering the young people's involvement within their community, Tom (18) wrote a successful bid for £1,220 to help develop the garden area of their school. The young people are planning to buy benches and plant the area to make it a nicer area for everyone to enjoy. One of the young people at the school (Kyle, 16) even has an award in their honour that is given to members of the public. The 'Kyle Barton Triumph Over Adversity Award' is given out annually to anyone who overcomes any kind of adversity and achieves something special.

The young people have much sporting involvement too. Tash (17) is the 2006 Boccia knockout champion (a game similar to bowls), as well as being a gold medal winner for the Slalom and Bean Bag events at Disability Sport England (Yorkshire) Athletics Championships. Alex, as well as being a competitive swimmer for the Sheffield Otters and basketball player for the Sheffield Hatters, has achieved a lifesaving award and coaches basketball and cricket to children and young people at after school clubs across Sheffield. On top of this, Alex along with his classmates Jake and Brett has worked towards and achieved Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award by helping young people in schools with profound multiple learning difficulties for thirty hours.

As a collective group of young people, other achievements of the students at Seven Hills post-16 unit include fundraising for breast cancer awareness by holding coffee mornings, making and selling Christmas crackers to raise money for a residential home for the elderly, and then continuing to work with them to find out about developments within the community since they were young people themselves, performing a pantomime earlier this year as part of 'Stepping Stones' and carrying out weekly work experience with Mencap.

What else is going on?

Chilypep

Children & Young People Empowerment Project

Remington Youth & Community Centre

200 Remington Road

Parson Cross

Sheffield

S5 9AG

UK Youth Parliament—Good Behind the Hood campaign. www.ukyouthparliament.org.uk

British Youth Council and online young people's charity Youth Net—Respect? campaign. www.byc.org.uk

Children & Young People Now—Positive Images Awards.

This work has been carried out by the Children and Young People's Empowerment Project in partnership with Sheffield Futures and has been commissioned by Sheffield City Council on behalf of the Sheffield 0-19+ Partnership.

