



Gateshead Young Women's Outreach Project Annual Report 2009



The day Pudsey came to the Young Women's Project

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Welcome

Welcome to our Annual Report we hope that you enjoy sharing a flavour of what has been happening at the Young Women's Project this year. In addition to the everyday programmes there have also been several additional exciting pieces of work in which young women have enthusiastically participated. The worker team is very appreciative of the commitment that young women give to new opportunities that are offered to them, and the positive impact this has on their peers and families as well as the wider community.

Fundraising has been very much on the agenda of the Project this

year as all the main grants that fund the work of the Project were due to run out this autumn. The staff team spent a few 'nervous months' going through the process of writing applications, and responding to telephone and face-to-face interviews involving groups of young women as well as workers. It is great that young women have been so involved in the process, and wonderful that we have been so successful in our bids. We are extremely grateful to our funders and are happy that the work is now secure for the foreseeable future.

Jo and the staff team



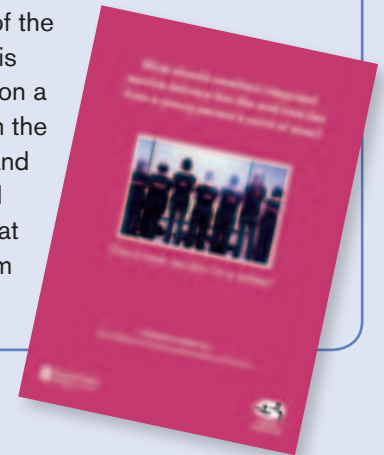
BBC Children in Need

A BBC film crew along with Pudsey came to the Project to meet with young women and children beneficiaries of our BBC Children in Need grant. A fun time was had by all and the resultant feature shown on local television was a thrill for all to see.



"Don't treat me like a bother..."

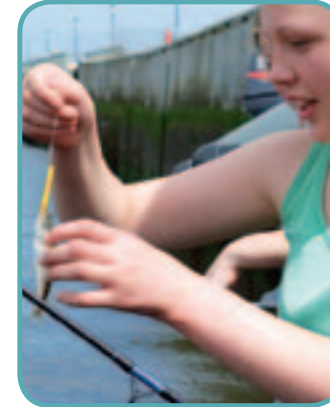
This Peer Lead research – funded through the Children's Workforce Development Council – was carried out by 8 young women from the Project and asked the question "What should excellent integrated service delivery feel like and look like from a young person's point of view?" A creative presentation by young women of the findings of the research is available on a DVD from the Project, and is entitled 'Don't treat me like I'm a bother'.



Residential Experiences

Young mothers and Young Stepping Stones enjoyed a residential at the Calvert Trust Kielder taking part in various outdoor challenges!

As part of the Summer Activities programme a group also participated on an exciting and very challenging week long experience on the tall ship 'De Tukker' sailing on the Northumberland coastline.



Star Awards

This year both Joanne and Eleanor received Gateshead Council Star Awards and took part in a celebration event at Gateshead Civic Centre. Champion of Young People Award was awarded by Gateshead Youth Council to Eleanor for her many years of dedication and service to young people in Gateshead.

The Young Women's Project also nominated Jodie Gray as a Youth Champion for her achievements as a young mother and peer educator.

"Thanks for giving my niece the opportunity to take and control her life once more"

I would just like to commend the hard work and the soul you put into the Young Women's Project.

My niece is a new woman and it's all thanks to you lot, whatever you have done - it has been the right thing. I can't put a price on seeing my niece starting to come out her protective boundaries and enjoying her life once more.

As her beloved uncle, I have always strived to show her love, attention, and the positive side of life - over these years I was convinced she was being bullied - I would try and try to talk to her about this. As much as she loved me she would always go upstairs, go on the computer, and shut herself off from the outside world - living a life of isolation. Straight away I recognised these traits. As a family we felt powerless - we had someone we deeply loved in trauma. It was only later I found out the true meanings of her lengthy problems. Being so bullied in school - she felt powerless and let down by them.

I and my family are ever so grateful for you giving my niece the confidence to just be herself and develop her own personality.

You have watered her shoots with 'Miracle Grow' and I and my family are eternally grateful seeing her grow into someone so positive and beautiful. God bless Ya's in the work you do giving young women some hope to put back into their lives.

'Every parent can learn from it, it is helpful and mind opening not a lesson how to bring up your child, but advice, steps and tips on how to be a better person and have happy kids'



Family Nurturing

Joanne and Julie delivered a 10 session Family Nurturing Course for 10 young women who attend the Project. It was a fabulous learning experience and all the young women really valued the opportunity to take part.



'It makes you feel different and to see things in a different way'

'I am realising that there are different ways to nurture and this is making me a better person. I am more understanding and I think about things now'

'I learned skills which are useful to have as a parent and how to have better relationships which will make me a better person'

New Developments!

In addition to our regular programmes

- EMA 'packages' – an increasing number of young women are now accessing extra provision at the Project enabling them to qualify for EMA. These additional opportunities are available because of successful funding bids by the Project.
 - Our offer of supportive learning programmes to Year 10's has developed further over the year.
 - Two 'Core Skills with Philosophy Courses' were run in partnership with Gateshead Youth Council.
 - Positive activities and support were offered to young women throughout the summer – activities included one-to-ones, college visits, outings, art & craft sessions, application forms for EMA, Care to Learn etc.
 - Working in partnership with the Shipley Art
- Gallery Culture Shock project giving young women the opportunity to create digital life stories.
 - Some young women have taken part in dance & drama with the Ginger Music company, culminating in 2 performances at The Sage.
 - Jemma Logan, a V talent volunteer, is working with the Young Women's Project until the Spring 2010.
 - 2 young women (Amy and Stacey) took part in a week long Digital Voice for communities project and produced a short DVD entitled 'Sick of being stereotyped'.
 - Young mothers outreach support at the young persons scan clinic is provided as this new development gets under way.



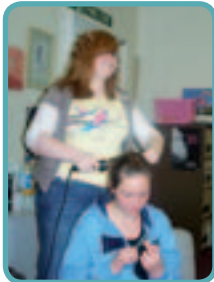
We've been busy!

Over the last year the Project has:

- Had contact with **307** young women aged 11-25
- Worked with **86** young women on our year long programmes
- Provided a programme for **10** young women on an outreach basis
- **56** young women took part in **19** different types of sessions over the summer holiday period



- The Project runs **9** 'day long' groups on a weekly basis
- Delivers **54** hours of face to face group work a week
- Offers additional one to one support to young women
- Employs **5** part time youth and community support workers to co-work with the full time workers, and one admin worker
- Work alongside **45** other agencies



We also

- Refer, signpost and support young women to other agencies
- Deal with daily referrals and enquiries, giving support and advice
- Deliver training
- Seek funding to enable the excellent quality service to continue
- Seek funding for specific needs of young women
- Host information meetings about the Project for other professionals
- Give student health workers the opportunity to shadow workers
- Continue to be a C Card registration centre for the young women who attend the project.
- Facilitate pregnancy testing
- Carry out CAFs (Common Assessment Framework)
- Offer Chlamydia testing



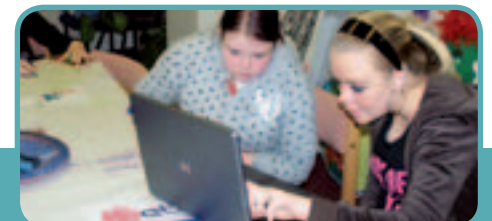
Young women attending the Project have achieved:-

- **211** recorded outcomes
- **138** Accredited outcomes

Accredited outcomes include qualifications in – Community First Aid, AQA Literacy and Numeracy, Youth Arts, ASDAN Youth Achievement Awards bronze, silver and gold, Duke of Edinburgh's Award, ASDAN Life Routes, CIEH Award in Food Safety in Catering

The Young Mother's Outreach Support worker has:

- Has visited/contacted/ given a wide range of support to **197** young women
- Given more intensive and in some cases longer term support to **97** young mothers
- Arranged **10** hospital visits for young parents to the Labour Ward/ Delivery Suite at the QE Hospital



Masked Ball

The Young Women's Project hosted a borough wide event in May after being given £1000 donation from Gateshead police station. It was decided to do something fun with the money and each community centre was offered the opportunity to bring a group of young women along to a fun masked ball. Each young woman designed a ball skirt out of netting which they decorated with sparkles and glitter and proceeded to sing and dance the night away!



I am Beautiful Book Launch



This year the groups worked alongside the Creative Arts worker Lesley Wood on a creative writing project involving young women writing personal stories that they wanted to share with other young women in the hope that they would be able to give hope and inspiration to others experiencing challenges in their lives. The book was launched on Thursday the 9th of July 2009 with a 'soirée' at which the guests of the young women were treated to readings from the book whilst sipping non-alcoholic cocktails! The book is available from the Project and can also be downloaded from the Project website.

A thank you letter (from an ex group member)

I attended the Project around 7 and a half years ago (although it feels as though I was there just yesterday). I came when I was about 15 years old and pregnant with my daughter. I often think back to my time at the Project and just cannot describe in words what the Project gave to me. I'm currently a nurse and have been nursing for the past year all thanks to the Project for providing me with the opportunity to complete some of my GCSEs along with the help of the tutor and other workers. I'm currently completing a degree in Nursing Studies having achieved my Diploma and would just like to say that this could have never been achieved or may never have been achieved until later on in my life without the help and support of the Project.

I have been looking at your website and reading the stories of other young women and am just so pleased to see that the Project is having such an influence on their lives as it has had on

mine. By the time I had completed my time at the Project I had developed the confidence and self-esteem to make confident decisions in my life and the advice gained through my time at the Project has never left me. The impact all of the team make in young women's lives is enormous and I think that the work, time and effort put in by staff is huge.

It is lovely to see what the young women have been up to, and I remember going away for a weekend and also being presented with my Record of Achievement. I love to look back over what I took part in and reading through my thoughts and feelings I had written at the time at the Project.

My daughter has grown into a lovely confident little girl.

Overall I just would like to say a massive 'thank you' and even this does not feel enough.



Contact with young people

The Young Women's Project communicates with young people through various methods, such as MSN messenger, texting, phone calls, home visits and Facebook as well as through our website: www.gywop.org

Staff Team

Jo Vary MBE - Senior Youth and Community Learning Worker

Joanne Jopling - Youth & Community Learning Worker

Julie Stott - Young Mothers Outreach Support Worker

Youth & Community Learning Support Workers (part time)

Eleanor Langley

Rebecca Hudson

Louise Widdrington

Claire Conner

Michelle Burns

Administration support

Carla Reed

Youth & Community Learning Service Manager Borough wide Team

Marcia Holmes.

Gateshead Youth Assembly Representatives

Amy Scott

Stacey Lowary



Thank you to:

- BBC Children in Need
- The Northern Rock Foundation
- Targeted Support Fund
- W.A Handley Trust
- Learning and Skills Council
- Gateshead Police - donation from 'sweetie fund'
- PAYP funding towards summer activities
- Greggs Trust and Frank Buttle Trust – grants for individual young women applied for and administered by the Young Women's Project



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