

Youth worker: Emma Edwards

Area: Steyning, Upper Beeding, Bramber & Ashurst

Date: 25th February 2015

Main areas of work since last report

Youth Café

Youth Voice

The Steyning Downlands Scheme

Volunteer Recruitment & Training

Cuthman Based Youth Clubs

Outcomes / Achievements

Youth café continues to run on a Monday night in Upper Beeding. Run by youth steering group. Hot chocolate mountains continue to be the Top seller! Numbers are small but constant of about 8-10 young people The young people have come up with ideas for activities they would like to do in future sessions.

Recruiting has started to form a youth focus group as part of the neighbourhood plan. It is hoped that this group will critique the questionnaire sent out so it is accessible for young people and lead to a youth questionnaire so that youth input can be included. This group will then go on to become a new Youth Voice group.

As part of the Steering group for SDS Emma has been involved with the development of new logo working with the SGS Church Street site. Steyning Downlands Scheme are also in the process of pulling together a new Youth Steering group which will have heavy involvement from SAYS.

We have gained another 2 Young volunteers who are both in college for our junior youth club, currently going through the application process, whilst continuing development of our regular young volunteer. We have also taken on Maria Colenso 2 days a week to release Emma to do work managing the Community Youth Work Team. Maria will be involved running Monday night Café and Thursdays at the Cuthman as well as administration tasks. She has a background in Health and fitness and is a great addition to the team. We are still keen for more adult volunteers to cover sickness

Clubs continues to run with reasonable numbers of young people attending (30-40 young people per week). Junior and Senior Clubs on Tuesday's and All Age on Thursday.

This term we have done sports such as,

- Football
- Basket ball
- Hula hooping

Crafts and cooking such as,

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- Valentines Chocolates and card making
- Pancakes
- Nail Art

Topics such as

- Sexual Health
- Smoking
- Freedom of speech
- Eating disorders

And much more....

We have enjoyed board games, TV and DVD's, table games, consoles, tuck shop etc.

Through the next term we are hoping to provide more sporting opportunities for young people and hold tasters in things such as Zumba, Boxersize and Circuit Training

Trips and Events



Football - 5 Young men are competing in a 5 – aside football tournament in Seaford on Saturday the 7th of March organised by Sussex Clubs for Young People in partnership with Tackle Homophobia. The boys will be taking part in the Under 16's category

(UPDATE – Sadly we did not make it to the final, the team played 5 games and won 1, The boys played very well as most teams represented football clubs – The young men have been inspired to train for next year!)

Stars and Songs - SAYS are partnering with SDS's stargazing events to hold a Stars and Songs evening at the Star Inn in Steyning. The evening will have a small number of young performers showcasing a set before using powerful telescopes out in the beer garden to see the stars. It is hoped this will encourage more young people to attend the evenings in the future as well as provide a gig opportunity.

SDS Acoustic - It's time to start thinking about SDS Acoustic, which will take place on Saturday the 6th June. Auditions will be held soon.



Schools Work

Oasis - Emma has been involved with delivering lessons in SGS with Oasis Pregnancy Crisis Centre teaching young people about how babies develop during pregnancy and the options available for young people should they find themselves with an unplanned pregnancy.

Mentoring - Emma is currently seeing 2 young people on a weekly basis referred from SGS. There have been

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UPDATE

"Many thanks for the sessions last week and the week before I hope we will be able to arrange similar next year as well. Please pass on my thanks to your team." – Deborah McKail – Head of PSHE at SGS

Funding bids and grants

Training

LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, transgender and Questioning)

14 young people referred to date.

On going work with the school continues and we are in the process of starting a girls small group session.

Mocktail Apprentice Project - Having secured the Mocktail apprentice project for SGS Church street site Emma and team have been involved in delivering lessons to year 8 students around alcohol safety and health. The Mocktail day will take place on the 11th of March with the grand final in South Lodge in June.

Alcohol and legal highs awareness lessons – Emma and team have been involved in delivering lessons to all year 11 pupils on the health risks and dangers of drinking too much alcohol and teaching about the dangers of legal highs(NPS's). The dates for these lessons are the 27th of Feb and the 6th of March.

Saxon Weld - We have now been awarded **£870** by Saxon Weald in order to purchase 2 reconditioned Ipad airs and one I pad mini. The hope is to use this equipment to run music and video projects as well as engage young people about topics in relevant ways as well as for use when doing detached work.

These training courses are for personal career development as well as specific training for specific activities planned.

Emma has recently attended a workshop on mindfulness to use when working with young people, encouraging emotional control.

Maria has just completed a behavioural management course in London covering, communication skills, managing aggressive behaviour and encouraging young people to communicate positively.

Working with two young people from the LGBT community we are working on providing a monthly group for young people to talk through issues surrounding LGBT and provide support. We are currently looking for adult volunteers to support this group but have a lot of useful contacts and opportunities for speakers. This will be part of the local loneliness and isolation agenda as young people from the LGBT community are statistically at higher risk from isolation and suicide.

Emma has been involved in the writing of the new West Sussex Anti Bullying strategy that will soon be rolled out

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West Sussex Anti Bullying Strategy	across West Sussex. The group are now pulling together the operational plan to go along with this paper providing advice for young and community groups.
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Areas of work to focus on in next quarter

Gigs and Events coming up
Youth Voice group
Volunteer recruitment
Eliv8 course
Girls group SGS

Feedback from young people, volunteers, community

"I am finding life really hard at the moment just everything is getting on top of me and sometimes it's like I can't breathe - talking helps though, thanks, it's good to have someone to listen" – 16 year old girl youth club

"It would be good to have a group like that (referring to LGBT group) We had nothing like that when we were in school and everyone used to take the piss. It would have been nice to know that maybe you're not alone and that people go through that kind of stuff too, id be interested in coming along" – Female sixth former

After email for acts to play in Stars and Songs event - "Hi Emma, I am interested! Loved doing the last gig! How many songs will I need to do etc?"

Any concerns going forward? E.g. lack of hours, lack of volunteers....

Any Support needed not in place? E.g. volunteers, funding, equipment...