

Sally's Youth Work Report November 2011:

Here's the latest on Iver Parish Council's Youth Work...

Volunteers:

More and more people are getting on board our youth work team which is an ever present excitement. Our fab team of volunteers are continuing to be trained in supporting our local project.

Buddy Up:

We now have 4 new local volunteer buddy's in the process of being trained and CRB checked in order to be paired up with local young people who require support. The new bakery has proven to be a great space for one2one meetings. It ticks all safe guarding boxes as it is not a private secluded space and is always attended by others and staff. I am excited about the forward movement of this program.

Wednesdays "Time Out"

Wednesday's continue to run enthusiastically! We have regular trips out of the area and are committed to providing craft and sporting options at each drop in session. It continues to be popular in attendance.

Half term was packed with activities such as Pumpkin Carving, Fright Night at Thorpe Park and a group trip to Longridge Activity centre where teams were Raft building, Dragon boating and taking a leap at a giant swing.

We have been on a number of **trips** with the youth since the last report.

- Wakeboarding	4 th Oct 2011
- Fright Night	26 th Oct 2011
- Longridge	28 th Oct 2011
- Fireworks Night	5 th Nov 2011
- Bowling	9 th Nov 2011

Tuesdays/Thursdays Detached:

Tuesdays and Thursdays have changed a little since my last report. Since so many of the older Iver Heath lads, who we began working with a good few years ago, have now got both driving licences and jobs, we are seeing less and less of them. We recognise this as being a good thing and do not want to force contact where it is not required.

We are therefore putting more of our attention into the younger teens in the area although not all of this needs to be through street based youth work. We have identified a key small group of lads who are in particular need of guidance and support. We are seeing them every Tuesday evening. We have made the commitment to take them out of the area once a month. Every other trip will be something that they enjoy and the alternate will be something that they may find a little more sociably challenging. It has been really beneficial to be able to spend such quality time with them. Parents have identified the difference this is making so please be encouraged although it is only a small number of young people.

We have been encouraging many of the others to head to the Evreham centre on Friday evenings. Although I am not there regularly, I do occasionally head down there to show our support and to keep the contact with those young people although this is occasional.

We are encouraged to witness a reduction in young people hanging out in Iver Heath recreational ground. This is especially relevant when it was only in the summer that we had identified a problem in negative influential behaviour moving from one peer group to the next. Working with the different groups/ages appears to be dealing with this situation head on.

Football:

We finished our football project with a great 5-a-side tournament at the end of the summer. Since then, a grant has been sought to keep the Astroturf running on Friday nights which gets more and more popular every week. We are seeking to provide an alternative for the girls. I am currently trying to arrange pampering evenings for girlies. We are hoping to have this in place in the new year, fingers crossed.



Early Intervention:

We have just begun providing **Supervised Sports and Play** in Iver Village Junior school in the hope of supporting this local community school who are currently facing some tough and challenging times. In providing this service weekly, we are able to build good relationships with the children before they make the difficult transition from Junior to Secondary school, potentially becoming the next generation of Young People on our local streets.

Future Projects:

Paralympics':

We are about to embark on a large project focused on challenging views on disabilities, specifically looking into the Paralympics and the legacy at Stoke Mandeville. The project begins on the 9th December and we are excited about where the project takes us and hope to capture much of it video. I hope to present you with a video at the end of the project.

Sexual Health:

I am currently putting together a sexual health course that we hope to run soon into the new year. We have more recently identified the increasing demand for a space where young people can be educated in a safe and honest environment on sex and relationships.

Afterschool Club:

We are looking to begin three afterschool drop-in's covering all three areas in Iver. This should begin soon into the new year, staff/volunteer depending. There is a high demand for a relaxed and unstructured space for young people to exit their school buses and enter a chilled, friendly and safe environment where they can rant, chat about their days or simply chill out.

It is important here to highlight the value of having a part time worker. While having a team of volunteers is great and makes such a program achievable, there are certain times of day that can be very difficult for people to volunteer their time. It is also a big responsibility to be the leading facilitator, one that cannot always be expected of volunteers. Likewise it is unrealistic to expect the full time worker to run every session. For all these reasons, I would encourage the continued employment of the part time worker.

That's all for now, once again, please let me know your thoughts!

Sally Vigurs

07866 944479