

# Youth Work In the Ivers

A Report by Sally Tugwell  
(Detached and Outreach Youth Worker)



I am the detached and outreach youth worker for Iver Parish council in partnership with Iver Educational Trust. I cover Iver, Iver Heath and Richings Park in my work. Before taking on the job, I was already involved in detached youth work on a voluntary basis. I have been employed since July 07'.

Detached work is a style of work in which a youth worker goes out to meet young people on their own grounds i.e. bus stops, street corners, Recreational Grounds, parks etc. Not having to manage or be responsible for a building allows us to be much more flexible and responsive to the young people we meet.

Engaging in detached youth work allows us to actively target groups and individual young people on their territory. Some young people can respond negatively to authority. Through detached youth work, we are not perceived as "in charge" and can more easily get alongside the young people and therefore work more effectively. This also encourages an honest relationship, building trust and confidence. Contact with young people in a variety of street situations can also lead to a better understanding of youth culture, young people's lives and their wants, needs and desires. By engaging in a dialogue with the young people we are able to participate in discussions concerning social issues, giving our views while also hearing theirs. Detached youth work also allows for contact with more 'hidden' groups within society and with young people who are marginalised.

As well as street based work, we also run 'drop in' centres on a weekly basis for the local youth to 'drop in' as and when they feel like it. These centres provide them with shelter and activities such as table tennis, pool, cards, playstation etc.

During half term and summer breaks we provide a variety of activities for these young people. We hope to encourage them to explore new skills and develop in that which they are already interested in. This, so far, has included Mc/ Mixing, Contemporary art, street dance and pool training.

Below is a list of the weekly activities that take place.

<b>Day:</b>	<b>Activity:</b>	<b>Area:</b>	<b>Time:</b>
<b>Monday:</b>	'Drop In'	Richings Park	8 – 10pm
<b>Tuesday:</b>	Hot Chocolate & Donuts	Iver Heath Rec	7.30 – 9pm
<b>Wednesday:</b>	'Drop In'	Iver Village	7 – 9pm
<b>Thursday:</b>	'Drop In' ----- Detached	Richings Park ----- All areas	4 – 6pm ----- Evening

## **Sally Tugwell**

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