

Report June 2010

**I must say that since my last report in April, only a few new things have taken place while most of the old projects continue to run.**

## Knowing Me

**Knowing Me** is a project that is currently taking place with local women from 16-19yrs. It is only in the last year that I have been able to properly interact with these women as they are often dominated by the guys but number and volume. In working with the girls I am seeing a generation more confused and misguided about their self-worth than ever. They nervously enter into what appear to be controlling relationships, lacking respect and value. I am challenged to look at how the lies of the media mould the thinking of these woman, and the huge impact that celebrity culture has on their philosophy of life.

I have recently met a local lady with expertise that I felt could develop into a course for these young women. Sam run suitability courses exploring what colours and materials best suite what shapes and skin types. She is also a hair dresser and manages her own hair salon in Langley.

It has not been too difficult to get the local young women involved as they are naturally, as most women are, interested in these things. We will look into relationships and consider celebrity culture and the impact that has on us as consumers. We will also look into how to appropriately present oneself for different occasions. This will encourage the women to consider appropriate wear when searching for jobs or in professional roles.

This began last Friday and will run over the next three Friday evenings. I am excited to be working with them separate from the guys and hope that this might develop into something more.

I will keep you posted.

## in the mix

I have just finished editing a video of footage from the anti-racism project that we recently facilitated in Iver. It's fantastic and gives an insight into their way of thinking. I hope to get the chance to show some of you sometime.

A number of us are meeting regularly about how to tackle the ever present problem of racism in Iver Heath. Although it seems that the young people are being more discrete

about their views, I still believe more work needs to be done to address what appear to be some deeply rooted extreme views.

While it may seem that nothing is currently being done, we are beginning to think much bigger than we have done so far. We are searching for funding that may support a possible 3 year project working not only with the young people who are known to be a problem now, but with the younger ones who are being influenced at an earlier age to prevent the problem continuing down the generations of young people.

Please be patient with this process as we're thinking big, and already have many others involved outside of the Iver area.

# Police

SVI meetings:

*Supporting vulnerable Individuals* is a new program set up by the police that allow one to refer a young person who they see as vulnerable. For me, this program is brilliant as it allows to me get immediate help where needed with particular individuals who I am unable to help alone.

Through the recent SVI meetings, I have been able to meet with professional drugs workers and we are now working together with a few individuals in Iver Heath who are abusing drugs. This is so exciting for me as I am not a trained drugs worker and am limited in how far I can go in the intervention work that I do.

# BMX

Wow, what exciting times. It's not possible to express what a great difference this new track could make to this area.

I have been popping over the Rec every other day for the last few weeks watching the track grow. Just yesterday, I arrived at the Rec only to witness about 15 of our young people standing by the track, watching the diggers do their thing...waiting...as if ready to jump on their bikes and be the first to try it out on the word 'FINISHED'!

What a wonderful thing to witness. It is moments like that that make all the stress, sweat and tears worth it!

Now, where's my BMX?

# Grants

I am proud to say that already this year we have successfully received £11k and we're only on June. If I may say so myself, I'm getting pretty good at this form filling business...even if it is the ULTIMATE WORST PART OF MY JOB!

Not sure we'll beat our £38k last year!

## **General update:**

The weekly projects continue to run as usual. The Iver Heath Drop-in is up and running, and has been since Christmas. This is going really well. Wednesday evenings are also positive, and we've begun taking it outside with the great weather! Wide games in the grave yard have become particularly popular.

A couple of guys called Dickson and Jimmy have begun playing football with the Iver Heath lads on Tuesday early evenings before the drop in. The best part of this is that they are Kenyan. Anyone who's aware of our most poignant problem in Iver Heath will understand the relevance of that. The fact that they are relating to these two guys is fantastic. I'm very excited!!!

Well, that's it for now, I always appreciate any feedback on my reports and I am happy to discuss any of the above with you so feel free to call or email me.

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