



### Extended Schools Category

#### **Room 21 (multi-agency team on a school site) - Leek High Specialist Technology School – Leek C&LP Barbara Hine, C&LP Development Officer, Staffordshire Moorlands**

Room 21 provides a safe environment where students can access a range of multi-agency support. It is open every day, including school holidays, to all students and their families. The purpose of the unit is to work with young people to help them overcome barriers to learning, support their well being, raise educational attainment and make a difference to their lives. Room 21 provides access to universal services for young people and their families, progressing into targeted support delivered through either a single practitioner or integrated intervention. Referrals to services are via agencies, school staff / family or self referral. Students can either drop in or attend by appointment.

- **Impact:**
- 147 students have accessed services to date in this academic year resulting in a total of 3992 visits to Room 21
- Improved attendance
- Improved behaviour
- Data is being collated to identify the % of young people who have additional needs or are at risk of becoming "NEET"
- Young people are introduced to multi-agency support within the school environment. The young people's increased confidence and willingness to continue to work with agencies post 16 is enhanced. This impacts positively on transition to training/employment/education.
- Ofsted Inspection of 21 January 2009 says..."Care support are outstanding, particularly for vulnerable students in the school. The multi-agency support base is a real strength of the school. Large numbers of students are referred or self-refer and receive high quality individual support"

#### **Kossmic Action Team Entry – Wombourne C&LP Imre Tolgyesi, C&LP Co-ordinator**

Wombourne Community and Learning Partnership (C&LP) and its Management Advisory Group (MAG) highlighted the need to provide a wider variety of provision for teenagers in their community outside of school times. The locality has the highest number of residents aged over 65 compared to other areas of South Staffordshire; in contrast the area has one of the lowest numbers of under 16 year olds. The local housing estate is also in the bottom 10%-20% of all wards for skills and education deprivation in the country (IMD, 2007). Young people and agencies came together through membership on the local MAG. As a result KOSSMIC, a



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summer holiday provision, South Staffordshire Housing Association, C&LP Coordinator, Staffordshire Youth Service and WYAT (Wombourne Youth Action Team) worked together and created a young people's action team to increase extended service provision and develop intergenerational activities.

The young people called themselves KAT (KOSSMIC Action Team), they volunteered throughout 2009 formulating ideas then built an action plan with an aim to create local volunteering opportunities that take place over the summer holidays in their community. KAT arranged an intergenerational project by improving the gardens at a local elderly resident's home in partnership with the tenants. They also painted the fence on a local brook with nearby young residents and volunteer members of the nature reserve. The young people in KAT expressed a great interest in developing a run down area on their housing estate where litter is strife, fences are broken and ASB is reported to the police. As a result of the young people's concerns they are working with South Staffordshire Housing Association to change the use of land and build a park for children to play on. KAT have made a presentation where they will present their plans to the local community to acquire local support to build the park in partnership with local agencies. Members of KAT sit on the local MAG and a residents group supported by agency staff where they have forged positive relationships through their volunteering. With the partnership approach, both South Staffordshire Housing Association and the C&LP provided funding and staffing for volunteering projects.

The six KAT members also sit on Wombourne Youth Action Team where young people run the local youth club, organise young people's activities and represent a youth voice in meetings including on the MAG and District Children's Trust Board. Since the application the KAT team and WYAT have been successful in gaining £45,000 to build a multi-use games area in the community following 18 months of volunteering every week by the young people.

**Summer Activities Programme – Staffordshire Moorlands C&LPs**  
**Craig Chorlton, Dawn Forester, Debbie Jacobs, Margy Woodhead, C&LP Co-ordinators**

The project was delivered via integrated services that have realigned resources and budget to deliver shared outcomes, resulting in a comprehensive and affordable programme of activities across the Staffordshire Moorlands District. The programme was marketed across the entire district reaching children and young people in 62 schools.

We achieved this through the joint commissioning of activities and giving children, young people and families' best value for their money'. Staffordshire Moorlands District Council and North Staffordshire NHS also became partners in delivering our summer activity programme.



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The summer activity brochure was developed to give the children of the Staffordshire Moorlands a picture of all activities being delivered across the Moorlands. The planning of the summer activity brochure started in March 2009 and was jointly commissioned with all of the 7 C&LP areas within the Staffordshire Moorlands and other agencies.

Whilst offering the activities across the Moorlands we also wanted to make transport as accessible and affordable as possible. The Staffordshire Moorlands C&LP's again joined together with the Staffordshire Moorlands Community and Voluntary Service who offered a free bus service for 13-19 year olds. We then advertised this at all of our venues and also distributed the information to all 62 schools in the clusters. This was also advertised on our website in our online summary activity brochure.

### **Impact**

This project received positive feedback from children, young people, families and also the agencies that have used the brochure.

- Programmes were fully booked and an additional summer activity camp was put into place as the number of young people taking part exceeded our expectations.
- Parents have reported that this has been much easier to understand and they are finding it easier to access services.
- 25000 brochures were distributed to all 62 schools and to every Library, Health Centre, One Stop Shop, Children's Centre and Leisure Centre across the Moorlands. Press releases went into local press.

### **The Parenting Award Category**

#### **Kushti Project – Great Wyrley C&LP Kate Sharratt, C&LP Co-ordinator**

The concept of engaging and developing a better understanding of the traveller and gypsy culture has long been researched at national and regional levels; nevertheless there will always be the potential for localised disparity. The need for such localised awareness was highlighted at Landywood Primary School as the traveller cohort was quite significant and the gap between attainment and achievement of children from this section of the community was becoming recognisably lower.

The resulting relationship ensured that a booklet has been written by the traveller and gypsy community for the mainstream audience that aims to highlight and explain their concerns of opting out of KS3 and KS4. In addition a cultural mural was commissioned and produced with the families and young people and is on display at the local children's centre as recognition of their place within the local community.



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Also, the home educated KS3 students who have been in attendance at the project have been commissioned to publish a range of early years materials which will have cultural relevance and bearing on their community history. The skills required by the young people to produce such material have been developed in partnership with Cheslyn Hay Sport and Community High school where a number of traveller young people have been attending a design and technology course after school.

The Kushti Project has seen measurable successes with attendance of traveller and gypsy children at Landywood Primary School up by 12% to an average of 94.4%, with many children now participating in school trips and attending after school activities. Furthermore, the engagement of parents with the school has seen a significant increase with many parents accessing consultation events and conversing with the headteacher on a regular basis. In addition, 4 post 16 year olds have enrolled on vocational courses at the local college, 6 traveller women successfully completed a basic skills literacy course, over 18 young people have completed and passed their theory and practical driving test, 1 woman is now employed as a lunchtime supervisor at the Primary school with another standing for a vacant governor post in September.

### **The Third Sector Engagement Award Category**

#### **Community Play Inclusion Project – KEVI C&LP (Stafford) Ross Podyma, C&LP Co-ordinator**

This project developed as a result of an acute need for a free open access type of service for children identified in the first summer opening of the Signpost Centre in 2007 when centre staff were inundated with over 800 children of varying ages who were not linked to any other service provision within the immediate vicinity.

Working in Partnership with the County Council's Community and Learning Partnership ( KEVI) the Signpost Centre developed an action plan to further examine the probable causes and effects on the community and on how this also affected children 'playing out'. An application was then made to the Borough Council's Community Safety Team, to pilot a scoping and community training programme within the area. This was to establish need and to empower the community to have both practical skills in working with young people and a broader understanding of probable causes and the reasons why young people feel disaffected and to hopefully lead to some solutions. The emphasis was to re connect the neighbourhood with the younger community in a positive way through play in an aim to negate the growing fear of crime which has manifested itself in recent years and promoting a social cohesion model (the pilot ran from December 2007 until March 2008).



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#### Aim of the Project:

- To provide an alternative outreach approach to delivering service to young people which are not formally linked to out of school activities or special interest clubs
- To work with residents/ tenants' associations, young people, teaching assistants, lunchtime staff and PCSOs to identify areas within the community where there are regular 'hotspots' of disaffected young people
- To develop a positive dialogue with young people so there is a forging of trust and a platform for their voice to be heard
- To listen to children about when and where they want to play outside and to arrange times to meet children and young people in the park or open area to arrange games activities and events through negotiation with the local Play Ranger Service
- To engender a tolerance towards children's play and demonstrate through being 'seen and heard' that children playing is socially acceptable and intrinsic to our societies fabric
- To help make sure neighbourhoods and open spaces are looked after, properly cleaned and are safe places for children and young people to gather in and play
- To inform local people of the project through attending of resident meetings and focus groups

As a result of the successful pilot the collaboration between the voluntary, private and statutory sectors has brought about a further two years funding from the Children's Fund for the project to roll out into the schools and community associations within Stafford. Currently a further development of a training package for schools and communities has been initiated targeted at reinstating into communities traditional children's games promoting cooperation, safety and imagination through a peer training programme called 'Playpals'. Since September 2008 community groups, teaching assistants, PCSOs, YOT and lunchtime staff will be trained in play work practices along side the children so there is a connection between the adult and child. In total there have been 18 schools who have taken part in the process with the emphasis being on understanding of how in terms of behaviour and what to play as well as when and where, both on the Playground and within their own community. In terms of service delivery and sustainability this project evidences clearly that children's services is everyone's business including the community and we all have to take some responsibility to ensure our children and communities are child friendly places where people feel safe and children have a say about where they live and play.