



LOTTERY FUNDED

Hearing Unheard Voices

September 2009

Residential Report



Introduction

- The Hearing Unheard Voices (HUV) Local Influence Groups held their first residential at Avon Tyrrell 11th – 13th September – With the theme of getting to know each other and getting to know the needs of the young people involved with the HUV project.
- It all kicked off with introductory presentation's on UK Youth, UK Youth Voice (UKYV) and HUV. An Icebreaker session followed – which was led by UKYV introducing both the newly elected members of UKYV and the new HUV project groups. UKYV provided the guidance over the session – then broke up into the 2 projects to continue with session work (UKYV + HUV).
- The Local Influence Groups for HUV were then presented with a range of sessions; 'Ground rules;', 'Getting to know you', 'Interests Questionnaire', 'Raft building', 'Who are you?', 'E-Reporting', 'Campaign for Change' and 'Evaluation'.
- The role of the Steering Group was discussed at the residential and it was suggested that the groups themselves would steer the project and would have opportunities to be involved with the E-Reporting. The aim of the residential was to introduce the HUV project to the Local Influence groups and to build a safe environment within the project to enable the young people to feel confident to share their experiences and have their voice heard!



Groundrules



The Steering Group dived straight into the first session; creating a set of groundrules that all members would abide by for the whole residential weekend and for the duration of the project.

1. Show good attitude towards another
2. No swearing
3. Be careful what you say – be respectful
4. Participate/contribute
5. Attack the point not the person
6. Treat people the way you want to be treated yourself
7. No fighting
8. Think!
9. No speaking over each other
10. Respect each other's properties
11. If you have a problem share it



Participants were encouraged to build their resilience, self-confidence and ability to stay safe through making positive life choices, developing life skills, through creating an environment where they feel confident to have their voices heard.

Interests questionnaire

The interest's questionnaire was designed to assess the Steering Groups needs and to find out what they find interesting, and the methods of learning that they respond to.

	Like	Not Sure	Dislike
Film	5	1	3
Sport	7	1	1
Dancing	2	1	6
Photo	7		2
Drawing	5	2	2
Drama	4	1	4
Computer's	9		
Reading	3	2	4
Singing	6		3
Music	5	1	2
Sleep	9		
Animals	9		



Encouraged the involvement of young people through their own interests of engagement, starting advocacy work to increase the understanding of young peoples needs in a local context.

Raft Building



The Outdoor activity of the day was Raft building giving UKYV and HUV the chance to do some team bonding!

With new addition's all over the place – this was the perfect setting to create a safe atmosphere where everyone contributed to make a floating raft!



The Steering Group gain confidence to have their voices heard in a team environment enabling more vulnerable and disadvantaged young people to enjoy, achieve and develop important life skills giving the opportunity for all to influence service provision and youth policy

Who are you? – Presentations

Each group had 30 minutes to put together a 3min presentation about who they were, what organisation they came from and why they wanted to be part of HUV



Honeypot

Nathan and Amy

Nathan: *I'm in young carers because I care for my 2 brothers who have autism + ADHD. Young carers meet every month, so I get a break + see new people. It's quite hard at home with my brother's behaviours and now James is in a residential home to help him. I'm here to have a break and to get heard. What I'd like is for my mum to get a break but she doesn't. I also go to Honeypot for a break and there I do a variety of things that are fun. Cheers for listening - Nathan.*

Amy: *My name is Amy; I'm 13 and I love my family. I go to young carers because I care for my mum, because she has severe epilepsy. I do this through Andover Young Carers (A.Y.C) and Honeypot, which has brought me to HUV. That's my journey on why I'm here...*

Provide support to project participants in developing life skills via participation worker support, local youth worker support, UK Youth team support and e-reach worker.

Right Track Initiative

Mitzi and Odane

My name is Mitzi; I'm 14 s that makes me year 10. I'm the DMYP for North Bristol. I go to a school called Lotham; it's a performing arts school. I've been working with right track for 3 years. When I'm older I wouldn't mind being a social worker. I've been invited to Germany to do youth work.

Film making: *We made a short film about Stop & Search, Know your Rights. It was aimed at young people and for them to understand their rights during a stop and search.*

Racism in Bristol –'Listen Hear': *About two and a half years ago I made a racism DVD for professionals to understand how racism affects young people's lives*

Train the Trainer: *I was trained up to be able to train other young people and professionals about the issues that young people face.*



Recognising young peoples contribution to local communities and their society.

LGYM – Lesbian + Gay Manchester Keeley and Ashleigh

LGYM has a lot of links including: young men's project, young women's project, Pyar – pride youth around Rochdale, the Bass in Stockport, Gliss group in Warrington, Out in Oldham, MONF – female to male Trans people.

We want to stop sexist and homophobic language in people's everyday life. E.g. that phone is so gay. We do this through residential's, summer camp, winter camp, St. Helens, and work in schools to educate people.

We came to HUV to campaign on:

For the last 31 years LGYM has always kept a record of all young people who come to LGYM but 3 years ago the council wanted LGYM to put young peoples details on a network – where people can access them who have nothing to do with LGYM. We fought the council on this and won. But now the council want to do this again.



Project 28

Taelor

(Drugs and alcohol support)

Music and Art: you need to listen and learn.

1-2-1: you can say wat eva u want about ur life an family an drug issues an they will do there best to help you.

Communal area: you can mix wid people and talk, eat, use the net, search for housing.

Pro 28: music!!



Young people make positive contribution by working with local young people's services, developing services that better meet their needs in community contexts and by advocating for better understanding of young people's needs.

Acorns



- Jake and Alex are two young men who use Acorns Services. Jake is 14 and lives in Coventry, and Alex is 17 and is from Dudley. They recently visited London to meet with the UK Youth staff to talk about ‘Hearing Unheard Voices’, and they are keen to become involved in the project.
- As they were not able to join the residential this time, they wanted to introduce themselves to the rest of the group, so everyone know’s who they are when they do get to meet them, which will hopefully be soon!

Jake says,

Hi to you all, I am Jake—I wanted to tell you a bit about myself. I like wheelchair football because it’s a lot of fun. I am a big Man United fan, and I also like cricket. I like being creative and have recently completed a large-scale project making a life-size Dalek, as I’m really into Dr. Who. I enjoy getting involved with things and making them happen, I recently organised an X-Factor competition for everyone at Acorns—I made the posters and signed people up for auditions. It went really well—the best bit was being one of the judges and voting people off when they were rubbish!

I am looking forward to this project, getting to meet new people, and I’m interested in computers. I am looking forward to meeting the rest of the group and hope we get to meet you soon.

Good luck with the residential and bye for now..... :-)



E- Reporting

The Steering Group got the chance to start thinking about E-Reporting, using the new Flip Cams they interviewed workers, other young people, and even the Chef! To create a Vox pop of people opinion's....

If you were Prime Minister for the day what would you change?

Describe the residnetial in one word!

How do you think young people are represented in the media?

What do you like about Avon Tyrrell?

Encourage involvement of young people as e-reporters tracking local services and gaining publishing credits.

Campaign for Change

- *“Everything happens for a reason”*
- *“More and Free theme parks”*
- *“I want to change the image of young people in the media from negative to positive”*
- *“More stuff to do in the evenings”*
- *“Pay less money for a bus pass”*
- *“Free cinemas and swimming”*
- *“Hating someone for who they are”*
- *“More jobs and opportunities for young people”*
- *“To be listened to and heard”*
- *“Children treated better”*
- *“Perfect brothers”*
- *“Transport for young people”*
- *“Stop abuse for adults and children”*
- *“Help people in poorer countries have a better life e.g. Africa (put your country first though!)”*

The Steering Group tackled campaigning head on with the Campaign for Change session, where they expressed what topics they wanted to campaign on!



Enabling young people and youth workers to become more involved in developing, running, reviewing and influencing young peoples services via feedback surveys and training reviews.

Evaluation

- *“The surroundings are marvellous and help maintain a relaxed, enjoyable and productive stay. The staff are amazingly dedicated and very youth centred. I felt however the disco for the HUV project, could have been replaced by some sort of film night”*
- *“It was a FAB residential”*
- *“Need more activities in the evening”*
- *“Perhaps needed more info on what activities were available and what to bring with us like swimming stuff, towels etc....”*



- *“The whole weekend was mint (even the walk me + 2 others went on in the dark around the grounds and got lost!!)”*
- *“It was awesome”*
- *“Loved it!”*
- *“Lovely site, brilliant lakes, great house, smashing food!”*
- *“Thanks for a great time! Keep up the fab work☐”*
- *“Looking forward to coming back!”*

Monitor effectiveness of programme in enabling young people to develop self-confidence needed to make safe, positive & healthy life-choices.

Evaluation	Agree	Not Sure	Disagree
The residential was useful?	9 "actually thought it was useful but don't know why!"		
The residential was enjoyable?	9 " was a good experience" "nice view from my room" "good fun but need's more umph"		
You understand HUV?	5 " I don't think I fully understand it" "It's just kicking in!"	4	
Looking forward to being involved in the HUV?	9 "coz I actually really enjoyed this weekend"		
'Getting to know you' workshop was enjoyable?	9 "I enjoyed it but needed to have more sport activities – there was no football!"		
'What do you do in your organisation' workshop was good?	3 "learnt about everyone and where they're from"	1 "didn't want to get up in front of people I barely knew – but did it anyway"	5
'Extra, Extra' workshop was useful?	6 "got to see what people think"	2	1 "don't like asking people questions"
Raft building was enjoyable?	6 "yea but wanted to go canoeing and not get wet"	2	1 "my shoes are still not dry!"
You're able to campaign?	2	2 "easier to go out after this and campaign but still not"	5 "still not very confident – I might not do it properly"
Is your voice heard?	6 "yea coz I got a big gob" "everything I've said I've had feedback on"	3 "sort of do - in general"	
I understand the role of the steering group?	1	1 "I've got an idea but not quite sure"	7 "coz I don't understand it"
I understand the role of the e-reporters?	1	2	6 "coz don't understand it at all"

Monitor effectiveness of the project to showcase the positive contribution young people make to their local community and society.

What's Next....?

- HUV groups are invited to the next residential which will be taking place on the weekend of 27th – 29th November
- Opportunities to get involved with the development of the Campaign for Change toolkit
- The chance to do some E-reporting at the Labour and Conservative Party conferences!