

Devon Youth Service Exeter

Annual Report 2009

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National Context 2009

This year has seen an acceleration of changes being implemented across teenager's services at a national level. Changes in the 14-19 agenda, in Information Advice and Guidance, Targeted Youth Support, Youth Justice developments to name but a few. These have been coupled with yet more disparate funding streams which are, at times, confusing to the workers delivering services yet alone many of the young people those resources are aimed at.

Despite the changing environment, and perhaps because of all these significant changes, youth work seems to be coming into its own. With a strengthening of the statutory responsibilities for delivering youth work activities, local authorities are increasingly using youth work methodology in a range of settings and projects, as a means of delivering services to teenagers.

Despite the ongoing budget pressures and calls on the work, it seems that the Government are at last getting serious with regard to putting young people in the driving seat. The nationwide success of the Youth Opportunity and Youth Capital funds has reinforced the view that where young people are facilitated by able youth workers, they can take on increasing levels of responsibility. Around the country there is evidence that young people are now accountable for the distribution of millions of pounds and for the commissioning of services to them and their peers.

The Ofsted Annual Report 2008/9 emphasises the value and importance of the work a number of times. It states that '...youth work makes a valuable contribution to young people's development'.

More tellingly, 'in the best local authorities, managers are well informed about the contribution of youth work to local priorities and communicate this well. The informal but educational role adopted by youth workers is important as part of the broader services for young people.'

Local authorities are also now required to develop and to publicise a 'Youth Offer' for young people, outlining where they can go, what they can do and who they can speak with. Youth work is at the heart of many of the 'positive activities' that local authorities have to have in place as the core part of the Youth Offer. It also continues to play a key role in supporting young people through life's ups and downs, both directly and by signposting to other agencies through ever improving partnerships.

Youth work and youth services are as important and as relevant to young people today as they ever have been.....



100 Club

This has been another good year at the 100 Club with new members attending and new opportunities and challenges. Sessions have continued four nights a week with the Kool Club on Monday for young people with special needs as well as similar provision on Saturday.

Tuesday and Wednesday nights are dedicated to senior young people (yr 9 upwards) and one junior evening on Thursday (yr 6 – yr 8). Alongside this the centre hosts the Inclusion Project for Young People facing difficulty in mainstream education three days a week and the Exeter Youth Bank meets every other week to distribute grants and funding to other Young People around the city. On any day local young people and members of the community drop in to participate in activities, chill out, chat or to seek one to one support from Youth Workers.

As well as offering a safe, warm, welcoming environment we continue to provide a consistent programme of activities that are needs led inline with the Every Child Matters requirements and designed to address the issues faced by young people and the local and wider community. As in previous years,

this involves an extensive and varied programme. This includes sexual health advice as well as contraceptive distribution and Chlamydia testing. Also available is information and training for young people around drugs and alcohol use and careers advice supported by Connexions.

Sport as always is very popular and ranges from hockey, table tennis, fitness training, and basketball and of course football to name a few. On many occasions the young people have been taken off site to compete in competitions or friendlies and to experience different activities such as swimming, skating, paintball, caving, climbing, gliding and Go-karting as part of the Exeter Summer Activities. The 100 Club also won an inter-service competition that involved a race across London. This was our first award in a few years and the trophy sits proudly in its cabinet with space for many more!

At the start of the year a new professional style kitchen was installed offering excellent catering facilities and accessible to wheel chair users. This was partly funded by a successful bid from the young people to the Youth Opportunities Fund who gave them £10000 towards the refurbishment. Throughout the year, cooking has been a major part of the programme offering the chance for young people to learn new life skills, experience different foods and discuss and consider aspects of healthy living and culture. During the summer the 100 Club also hosted an inter-service "Ready Steady Cook" competition which was judged by Councillors Spence, Newcombe and Westlake. Young people from across the city produced extremely good food in a short space of time, whilst making new friends and enjoying the other facilities at the 100 Club and developing through competition.

A similar open evening came in the form of the Music Jam. The centre opened its doors to young people from across the city offering a wide variety of music related experiences



from participating in a folk band supported by "Mix 4 Six" music project. There were also other activities on offer including DJing workshops, drumming, graffiti tasters and Mocktails. The Young People who took part really enjoyed the evening and had a chance to sample different urban based skills.

During the year we have worked alongside the young people to focus on issues relevant to them such as relationships and sexual health, drugs and alcohol use, health and fitness, crime and the justice system, training and careers to name but a few. The positive relationships the staff team have built with the young people has enabled them to feel that this is a place that they can be themselves and somewhere where there is a listening ear and they can find impartial support and advice. Where appropriate we have referred those with the most need to partnership agencies where external expertise coupled with the staff's support has made a difference. They have

included CAMHS, Police, Connexions, local schools and The Ivy Project. We have also helped young people in the design and completion of their curriculum vitae, applications for work and provided letters and letters of support.

Crime and anti social behaviour have been high on the agenda both nationally and locally. With this in mind we have worked closely with the area Police Officer and PCSOs. This has resulted in a number of joint initiatives which includes some successful pieces of work such as diversionary activities during the summer holidays, Halloween and Bonfire night.

The young people have also been enabled to "have a voice" in the PACT meetings and in relation to local issues such as a youth shelter and site for a possible Multi Use Games Area.

Looking forward to 2009 we hope to offer yet more exciting opportunities for young people. We are looking to develop the IT suite and have been lucky enough to be donated 7 wireless Laptops from a Primary School in Plymouth. We are also planning to build on participant's achievements to develop on existing accreditation schemes and to create a youth forum that will

enable the young people to have a more formal input in to how the Club is run and resourced as well as advocating on behalf of their peers in the local community. We hope also to develop our accredited schemes after 2 senior members achieved their V50 certificates. We are also hoping to produce a D of E scheme based in the centre for those Young People who wish to take part.

And lastly big thank you to all the administrators (without whom.....!), 100 Club members, peer mentors, volunteers, part and full time workers, and supporters of the project who have given their all for the club and this community.



Grenville Youth Club

The Grenville Youth Club is situated on the old site of St Luke's High School. Created in January 2007 as a result of funding and support from County Councillors, it has developed into a popular and successful venture attracting a good number of young people several times a week.

Opening times and age groups are as follows:

Mondays: 6.30 to 9.00 Senior Club (Year 9 upwards)

Wednesdays: 6.30 to 9.00 Senior Club (Year 9 upwards)

Fridays: 6.30 to 9.00 Intermediate age club (Years 7 & 8)

These clubs were created as a result of the Headteacher and the staff of the Grenville Pupil Referral Unit kindly offering their facilities in the evenings and we continue to be grateful for the tremendous support that they have given us. As a result, it is one of the best resourced Youth Centres in the city as it has access to a large modern kitchen, a sports hall and various sports equipment, a Drama/Dance area, an ICT suite and the potential to hopefully

expand into what could be an outstanding outdoor area if adequate lighting could be installed. In addition, the comfortable seating area has pool tables, large flat screen television, music facilities and Playstations. In addition the club has the resources to encourage a wide range of art and craft activities. Our thanks go to all the staff of the PRU for all their assistance in enabling us to make such successful use of this excellent facility.

The creation of this club has enabled us to work with young people that were not always well provided for prior to 2007, particularly in the Heavitree and Whipton areas of the city. In addition, some members travel from Pinhoe, Kings Heath and Clyst Heath. Close links have been developed with St Luke's School and they have allowed us to visit the school to promote the youth club.

The Grenville Youth Club is now in its fourth year and it has continued to be a very popular youth club. The demand for youth provision in this area of the city has remained and the club maintains good numbers attracting both boys and girls alike.



In 2008, the club opened an extra session on Monday nights, making the centre open three nights a week. This is due to the support of the local County Councillors. The Monday club is a Senior Club and it includes members from a local school and college for young people with hearing impairments. This offers these members the opportunity to socialise outside their school and college and is of a clear benefit to all young people who attend.



In addition to thanking the local councillors for their assistance in last year's formation of the Monday club, the Grenville is also indebted to them for their continued support which, in 2009, has led to the acquisition of a karaoke machine and new computer games. Their continued support for this facility has resulted in possible expansion plans for the site, which could involve making this resource even better than it is now.



Wednesday night is a club for young people in the senior age group and Fridays are dedicated to intermediate ages. In all sessions, a wide range of activities are on offer from Sports in the gymnasium to Drama in the specialist suite, cooking and healthy eating in the kitchen and arts and crafts in the communal areas. As well as pool tables, members have access to Playstations, Wii consoles and dance mats. The Senior Club on Mondays and the intermediate club on Fridays is part staffed by Senior Voluntary Members who actively support the Youth Service staff in the weekly running of the club.



In addition, members of the Grenville Youth Club have access to a range of further opportunities which in 2009 included a trip to London for a "Monopoly Run" and the chance to participate in our own version of Ready Steady Cook at the 100 Club – in which the Grenville Club came joint first! Other offsite activities on offer include Ten Pin Bowling and other trips and visits will take place in the future.

Buddle Lane Youth Centre

The Centre is currently open during the following times:

Monday Year 7 + 8 6.45pm – 9pm

Tuesday Girls Group Year 7 + 3.30pm – 5pm

Thursday Year 9 to age 16yrs 6.45pm – 9pm

Friday session age 13+ 5.30pm – 9.30pm

We also operate a lunchtime drop in session at West Exe Technology College.

Generic sessions

Our junior group continues to develop, with our older juniors creating a scheme to mentor and welcome new members to the Centre. They have called this "Buddle Buddies" and received a Youth Opportunities grant which enabled them to buy t-shirts so they could be easily identified. The young people developed a set of guidelines for Buddle Buddies to follow, including encouraging new

members to adopt the code of conduct, challenging bullying and being someone to talk to. This has contributed to a culture where all young people are included, welcomed and encouraged to take part in activities. Several of our new members have expressed a desire to become Buddle Buddies next year, so we hope the scheme will continue. Our theme for this year within the junior sessions has been to help foster emotional intelligence and empathy, our curriculum activities have reflected this and included work on friendships, feelings and bullying. We also end each session with a group discussion focusing on the positive contributions young people have made throughout the evening. We hope that this will be a good foundation for positive group work and participation when the group move into the intermediate sessions.

Following a somewhat challenging year with our senior group, we recently decided to change the sessions, limiting



the age of young people attending to 17yrs. We felt that this would encourage younger seniors to attend and thus make the Centre more inclusive (older seniors are still able to access provision on a Friday night). Although this is in its early stages, we have welcomed back some old faces and numbers are gradually building. The young people have spent the first few sessions carrying out a consultation around what they want from the Centre and working with staff planning activities and trips. They have also developed a group agreement and designed and painted a multi-lingual welcome board. We plan to work on the young people's sense of ownership of the Centre and have begun to approach young people with project ideas around this, such as decorating different parts of the Centre and designing a chill out room.

For the third year running, the local Neighbourhood Beat Manager and PCSO secured funding to engage with young people from the local estate. We have worked jointly over the summer holidays and the October half term to organise a variety of offsite activities including karting, paintballing, ice skating, climbing and laser tag, providing young people with the

opportunity to try new things as well as experiencing risk in a safe environment.

Diversionsary work

The Friday night diversionsary session is still attracting good numbers of young people. The earlier part of the session is attended by an older group of young people who have built good relationships with staff and appreciate the opportunity to discuss the issues they are facing as they transition into adulthood. Although this group are less interested in engaging in structured activities the staff team have been able to use conversation and dialogue to explore a number of areas such as employment, drugs and alcohol and the impact of anti social behaviour. The later part of the session is attended by a group of young people who have been participating in various activities such as graffiti art, dance, arts and crafts and cooking as well as generic youth club activities.

Young parents group

As the members of our original group are now outside of our core age group, at the beginning of the year we supported them in becoming self managing.



Since then we have been working with the West Exe Children's Centre, the young parents midwife and the care leavers team in order to discuss how best to meet young parents needs. We have attended two events for young parents held at Buddle Lane Youth Centre and are hoping to work with young parents to develop a group in the New Year.

Sexual Health work

We have continued our lunchtime session at West Exe School, providing young people with relationship and sexual health advice on a drop in basis.

For the second year running we are delivering a weekly sexual health and relationships session at the Loft Club, covering all aspects of sexual health. Once we have completed delivery of the programme, we intend to continue the sessions as a more informal drop in. We have also set up a Friday night sexual health and relationships drop in at the Centre, where young people can register for the C-Card, access condoms and Chlamydia and pregnancy testing as well as come to talk about their relationships. This has received a good reception from the young people and we feel that it has met a need for sexual health advice outside regular hours.

Girls group

The girls group continues to be a success and is currently made up both of young women who attend our generic provision and young women who otherwise would not access the Centre.

The young women who were attending the session throughout the previous year gave careful consideration as to how they could welcome new members to the group and have successfully done so, incorporating them into planning sessions and taking part in projects. This year the young women took part in a London treasure hunt along with other youth clubs in the city. For many of them this was their first time in the Capital and they really enjoyed the experience. They also took part in our city wide Ready Steady Cook competition, spending several weeks practicing and planning and coming a well earned second! The

group are committed to helping others, with members holding a cake sale to raise money for Devon Air Ambulance and putting on fancy dress to collect for Children in Need, raising a total of £364.

Alongside their project work, the young women have been carrying out activities around relationships, self defence, global issues and the way in which women and young women in particular can be discriminated against. The group provides a safe space for the young women to come and discuss any issues or explore any ideas that they have and we believe that it is the trusting and open relationships that they have built up with staff that make the group such a success.

Teen Team

We have recently begun working in partnership with the Express and Echo to produce a weekly page for young people (every Friday). The Express and Echo hold meetings with a youth worker and a group of young people from youth centres around the city in order to discuss what young people wanted from the page and how it would be set up. Young people came up with the name "Teen Team" with Teen standing for Together Everyone Equally Noticed. They have also met with a web designer to discuss the content and layout of a dedicated website due to go live in the New Year.

The Team Teen meets with a youth worker on a regular basis to produce a main article for the page and also to provide comments on various stories which have hit the headlines that week. Articles so far have included a diverse range of subjects such as the cervical cancer jab, the X factor, school uniform and the mosquito device. The Teen Team also plan to conduct interviews and work with different groups to enable a diverse section of young people to get their voices heard.

The Express and Echo have been extremely young person centred during this project in handing over control to the young people. The page really is a place where young people can get an opportunity to combat negative press but also to give their opinions on issues that directly affect their lives.

Kool Club

The Kool Club operates from the 100 Club in Countess Wear on a Monday night and is run as a joint project between the Youth Service and JAS, working with young people with special needs. This project has developed into a vital part of the weekly lives of these young people who previously had little or no way of meeting and interacting with their peers outside school.

Through consultation both individually and as a group, the young people have the opportunity to choose and take part in all the activities that are on offer. The young people are encouraged to develop rules and boundaries that are appropriate to their needs and to have some ownership of their experience during sessions. In this way the young people can build friendships, self esteem, confidence and social interaction skills that are vital for some of them who live in a world isolated from society as a whole.

This year has been a busy year for the club with a new leader since October. The programme has included cooking nights from around the world, a social evening and meals out. There has also been a Ghost walk around Exeter which the young people thoroughly enjoyed as well as bowling and swimming trips.

This year we have organised a Christmas party and invited all the young people's parents. We will be organising food, games and a few Christmas carols that the young people will perform for their parents.

Once again, a big 'thank you' to all the staff and young people who have contributed to making this the vibrant and exciting project that it has become.



Phoenix

Wonford has a strong history of quality Youth Work provision, which is delivered through one purpose built unit - the Phoenix Club, which is located on a site with access to a sports and leisure facility, local Community Learning Centre, Family Centre and local amenities. There is also the possibility of extending the current club and upgrading the current youth centre provision, but this is currently stalled whilst ways of expanding the premises are explored. If more space could be made available, it would certainly help meet the demands of the young people's needs in the Wonford area. The Devon Youth Service Team - Exeter are currently in a position to invest a capital investment grant from the sale of the Exeter International Airport which could involve expanding on or developing the site to improve the youth provision in the community for the young people and allow a range of social and personal activities as well as being able to achieve qualification's in subjects including First Aid, Food Hygiene, Senior Member Training, Sports Awards, Youth Achievement Awards and the Duke of Edinburgh Awards. Young people will also be able to access volunteering opportunities from the Centre.

Generic Youth Work

Monday Evenings

Age Range Year 7+,

Times of face- to- face contact: 19.00 / 21.30hrs

Attendance Numbers: range from 40 / 60 gender ratio 60% male 40% female.

Activities that are very popular range from football training on the Flood light astro-turf court to art murals and creative drawing. Cooking sessions involve young people managing money to purchase food from local superstores in the community to improve their knowledge and understanding of the value of budgeting for food and gaining a positive understanding around personal hygiene, and dietary requirements. Pool tables

and Playstation, Nintendo Wii consoles, are very popular with the members organising group games and mini tournaments to earn individual and group achievements through the youth club's internal incentive and rewards scheme.

Girls Group

Wednesday evenings

Age Range Year 7+

Times of face-to-face contact
18.30 / 21.00hrs

Attendance Numbers: 15 Gender Ratio 100% Female.

Art murals and creative drawing are very popular as well as cooking sessions and pool competitions. The current group have spent time, planning and reviewing the club's behavioural policy which has also had a positive affect on the current culture within the club and community. During each session, the staff team has offered structured activities around single gendered issues to promote the curriculum area of our work, around personal identity, relationships, sport /arts & travel, health advice. Through group work discussions during sessions, we have introduced another football team for girls aged under 13's who have joined the Phoenix Club football project this year and they train on Tuesday evenings using the astro turf pitch, from 20.00hrs until 21.00hrs. We currently have sixteen girls registered who decided to form together and involve friends from the Girls group project who showed an interest. They took part in 6 a side tournament and surprised themselves by reaching the final and finishing runners up. What a great achievement and they are now playing in the Devon Girls League on Sunday mornings. We have also introduced another football team at Under11's. The team consists of a selection of boys and girls and have seventeen team members, who also train at Wonford on Thursdays from 17.00hrs till 18.00hrs. During the summer holiday break they won two 6 aside tournaments at Willand and Honiton

football clubs and are currently registered in the East Devon Youth Football League playing on Sunday mornings. Both teams have been supported further by a small group of interested youth club members aged 15 and 16 years, who have gained qualification to become referees.

The Ladies Football Project, who are in their third year together, currently participate in the Devon Women's Sunday afternoon League One. The ladies training session is on the same evening as the Under 13's girls session.

During the summer period they participated in a 6 aside tournament at Okehampton Football Club and reached the semi finals only to be beaten by tournament winners Plymouth Argyle Ladies. The team have a squad of eighteen young women aged from 16 to 23 years, and are currently placed in a mid table position of Division 1 and doing very well.

Wednesday Evenings

Age Range Seniors 16+

Times of face- to- face Contact
19.00hrs til 22.00hrs

Attendance Numbers Range
from 10/ 20 Males

The Phoenix Club Senior Football Project now have access to the Wonford Sports Centre Gymnasium, and the astro turf pitch, to which has been a valuable local resource.



After another successful year, the senior team won their fourth league title in the Devon & Exeter football Saturday afternoon League four. The team only lost one game all season, and are a shining example of loyal group of young men who have shown a great team attitude and spirit from the age of sixteen, to stay together to achieve success again. They are currently joint leaders of their League and developing a very good reputation in local football.

The Under Fourteen's boys football have also progressed from last year's Under 13 boys team and they play in the Exeter & District Youth Saturday morning league, Division 1. We have squad of sixteen youth members and they are also doing very well in the league and are currently top of the league. Training takes place on a Monday and Friday evening's on the astro turf pitch at the club from 19.00hrs til 20.30hrs. The team is currently showing their true potential in a small league and hopefully they can continue to develop as individuals and as a team.

The introduction of a Sunday team who play in the Exeter & District Sunday morning league Division 1, on Sunday mornings was a good opportunity to offer a balance of younger and senior members playing together. They are currently placed at mid table in their league and have had their personal and social difficulties challenged, but have done well to cope and deal with it Credit must be given to the all the staff and volunteers that have helped with this project.

Special thanks to our local County Councillor for her continued funding support for the project's running costs of pitch hire, training facilities hire, and Leagues affiliation fees

The community football project has engaged around one hundred and twenty young people and adult volunteers during each

weekend, and is currently planning to gain charter status with the Devon County Football Association and to utilise the Phoenix Club around raising the funds needed towards helping with the budget needed for the New Year.

Friday Evenings

Age Range Year 7+

Times of face-to-face Contact
19.00 / 21.30hrs

Attendance Numbers: Range from 80 / 100
Gender Ratio 55% Male 45% Female.

The sessions focus mainly around recreational engagement through a variety of young person led activities ranging from disco dancing, karaoke, arts & crafts projects, music, Under 14's football Coaching session, pool competitions, table tennis, darts and board games, playstation access, wide screen television and cooking.

The Phoenix Club's working culture is still continuing to influence a dramatic change on how young people present themselves personally and socially. This is an ongoing theme that at times has been very challenging for all concerned, but the Club has run a very successful, rewards and incentive programme that supports and provides examples of good behaviour.

Diversionsary Work Saturdays

Age Range Year 7+

Times of face to face Contact 17.30 / 21.00

Attendance Number 50 to 70 Gender ratio 55% Male 45% Female

Diversionsary Activities on Saturdays evenings at the Club have also made a positive contribution towards discouraging anti social behaviour within the community of Wonford. With high numbers of young people from a variety of Wards in Exeter attending the club, the project works closely in partnership with the DC Leisure owned Wonford Sports Centre with access to the main Sports Hall, which is very popular with female and male participants. They are able to play a variety of team games ranging from football, team rounders,

tag rugby, badminton, hockey and basketball. The generic work in the Club offers a variety of young people led activities such as arts and crafts, pool competitions, cooking sessions, ICT access and the young people are also planning an all night disco in the new year, to help towards funding new equipment and the running costs of the Club's Mini Bus which is a valuable resource at the club.

NEETS Day Programme

Mondays and Fridays

Age range 16 to 21 years

Times of face to face contact
11am/14.00hrs

Attendance Numbers: Range from 15
Gender ratio 60% Male 40% Female

The introduction of this project is the continuation of a good working partnership with the Devon Youth Service - Exeter Team and excellent relationships formed with Connexions, Youth Offending Team and Exeter College. The project has engaged with a variety of young adults who have struggled to access further educational skills around, employment, independent life skills and basic communication skills. This has been a great opportunity for the team to examine the key issues that must be addressed to provide young people with the comprehensive, integrated support they need to continue in education and training and prevent them from falling into unemployment.

The real progress that has been achieved at the club during the past year is a credit to the current staff team of Youth Support Workers, Administrator and Adult Volunteers, who have continued to form positive relationships with the young people. They have been able to address and support all the young people who attend, in order that they may realise their full potential in shaping their own lives, and by promoting the social and economic inclusion of all young people so that they can contribute to, influence and be valued as part of their communities and society as a whole.

Exeter's Street Based Youth Work Team (SBYW)

Taking youth work to young people

What is Street Based Youth work (SBYW)?

In its simplest form – SBYW is an alternative to youth centres for young people. Not all young people can get the most out of a centre based environment, for a variety of reasons. Devon Youth Service – Exeter recognises this and attempts to create varied youth work settings, so as to exclude as few young people as possible.

Is the purpose of SBYW to encourage young people to “get off the streets?”

No. Like adults, young people have a right to gather in informal spaces as long as they are not on private property, committing a crime or acting in an anti-social manner in a Section 30 area. The informal networks that young people build in informal spaces without structure can be incredibly developmental. It is the intention of the SBYW team in Exeter to work within these informal spaces to enhance their developmental opportunities through group work, fun activities and the promotion of discussion.

Paul's story:

Paul has been working with the SBYW team at Kings Heath on a Wednesday night for about 18 months. During the first few months Paul's behaviour towards youth workers was extremely challenging. It became evident that this behaviour

was just as challenging for his friends and family, in fact, to most people he came into contact with. This made it difficult for youth workers to engage with him at first. After spending time with the whole group it became clear to the team that Paul lacked confidence and was subject to bullying from older members of his peer group. Over time the team was able to build positive relationships with Paul and the rest of the group. Through these relationships, they were able to promote discussion and provide activities that addressed the way the group treated each other. Team building activities such as Go-kart building and football were used as a tool to address the underlying issues. Slowly the group began to make small changes in how they behaved towards each other and this had an effect on Paul's challenging behaviour and confidence. Through the relationships he built up with the SBYW team and the activities they provided, he slowly developed more confidence in himself. In recent months his behaviour has become far less challenging. Paul left school in July and since then has secured himself a part time job and a place on a sport development course at college.

“The youth service helps us for later life” Paul age 16.

How long does the SBYW team work with groups?

As long as the group need and want to work with us. There is no prescribed time to work with groups; it depends on where the groups starting point is when they start working with the team. Often young people get to a stage where they no longer need the developmental opportunities the team offers and the group will come to a natural end. Groups can work with the SBYW team for anything from 6 months to 4 years. Groups will normally keep going as long as the work continues to be developmental.



"Youth workers are important to me because they are fun and help us learn things" Damien age 12.

How does the SBYW team chose where they work?

In a variety of ways really, sometimes other agencies will contact us to tell us where young people hang out if they feel that they would benefit from engaging with the SBYW team. Sometimes we will chose to work in a community because it has little or no other provision for young people. Other times we will simply go looking for young people who regularly gather in outside spaces. The important thing is, if the young people want to work with us, we will.

A very musical group!

The SBYW team have been working with a group of young people in St. Thomas Park for about 10 months. Soon after meeting the group the team became aware of their interest in music. The SBYW team helped the group to develop this interest over the next few months; they worked with a variety of music including DJing, synthesisers and song writing. The group were really excited by this opportunity and worked hard to widen their musical skills. After 4 months the group had produced a CD of their music. They secured a spot on the local radio station Phonic FM, where they played their music, sang and answered questions

about the issues facing them as young people. This group are still working with the SBYW team and are in the process of developing a new project to work on.

Doesn't SBYW just encourage young people to hang around outside when they could be in a youth centre?

No, we deliberately target young people who don't engage with youth centres. It is never our intention to find a space to work and then try to get a group of young people to engage with us. Quite the opposite actually; we look for young people and then work with them in the area that they hang out in (their territory).

"The best thing about the youth workers is that I enjoy myself and learn new things at the same time" Lazlo age 17.

Lisa's Story.

Lisa has been working with the SBYW team for around 2 years now. As she developed in herself she began to take a leadership role within the group. She is part of a group of around 25 young people who regularly hang out near a sports area. Because of the size of the group some of the residents found them intimidating and there was often conflict between the young people and the adults in the community. Lisa decided to do something about this and with support from youth workers wrote a letter to her local MP, met with local elected



members and attended several community meetings. It is really important to Lisa that all community members see young people as a part of the community and not as the problem of the community, so she set out to prove to everyone that young people can be responsible members of their community. Lisa currently sits on steering groups involved in work with young people and helps youth workers to work with the young people in her area. With the support of the SBYW team Lisa has taken on more and more responsibility and has become a key member of the community. She confidently voices her opinions to agencies and organisations that work with young people in her area, she attempts to break down stereotypes of young people by demonstrating what young people are capable of within a community and she is a positive role model for her peers.

"I live down the road from a youth centre, but it's never really been my thing. I went a couple of times when I was younger but I prefer meeting with youth workers in the park with my friends" Alexandra age 17.

"As well as having fun, youth workers let us share our problems with them" Alannah age 13.

Scott's Story.

The SBYW team met Scott about a year ago. The team bumped into him while checking out an area the Police had suggested may have some young people who would want to work with the team. The team introduced themselves to Scott and he explained that he was part of a small group of 6 young people in the area who were intimidated by a larger group in the area. Scott said that he and the group would be really happy to work with the SBYW team but also said that he was getting bullied within this smaller group. The team began working with the group and Scott continued to confide in the youth workers. The team spent time working with the group, focusing in particular on how we treat each other and working together. The team supported Scott during this time and made sure he always had an opportunity to participate as well as challenging any bullying. Now Scott says he feels really safe within the group. He is no longer bullied; he has been supported by the team to access

other activities outside of the group as well as with the group. Scott's journey over the year has been amazing – he is now a key part of this his peer group, and at times takes a lead role within it. Recently Scott helped his friends to apply for a grant to attend a residential with the SBYW team. The group chose a residential centre, priced up how much it would cost and applied for the money – all under the leadership of Scott. Scott is a really good example of how a little input with one individual can change the dynamics of a group for a positive outcome. Scott continues to develop his self confidence and feels that this is a result of working with youth workers in his own area.

"The people that come to youthy are a laff and the youth workers are sound, the best thing is the DJ decks" Lewis 16.

Does the SBYW team work in partnership with other organisations?

Yes. It is always our aim to work with other agencies and organisations to provide the best possible service for young people. Within our generic work we will often work with other organisation such as the Police and Connexions as well as voluntary organisation on an ad-hoc basis depending on the needs of young people at any given time. Some of our projects however, are completely based on a partnership approach. These are projects that have been started by Devon Youth Service and at least one other organisation. The aim of these projects is to pool our skills, time and resources to meet the needs of the young people participating in the project.



SBYW team and Partnership work

The Friday night project

The Friday night project is a diversionary project in partnership with the Police. The aim of the project is to offer young people in the Beacon Heath/ Summerway area of Exeter an alternative to drinking on Friday nights. The SBYW team run a football league for around 50 young people every Friday night from 5.30pm – 10 pm. This project has proved very successful and has been well supported by the local elected member for the area. Young people began by taking part and slowly, with the support of the youth workers have begun to referee their own matches and help organise the teams. Soon the young people will be running the league themselves. Each month the team award prizes to the team with the best score and the team that has helped others the most and to the person who played the most fairly. This project is funded with partnership money and will hopefully continue next financial year as it is clearly having a positive impact on the community.

D of E project

This project is run in partnership with Social Care. The aim of the project is to involve young people in care and care leavers in the Duke of Edinburgh scheme. This is a fairly new project which has so far signed up 10 young people who are currently working towards

their Bronze Award. This project meets a definite need for these young people who don't always have the opportunity to engage in projects such as these.

St. Lukes project

This is a project in partnership with St. Luke's School and Early Years. This project provides youth workers from the SBYW team at St. Luke's every Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday after school. The team take the mobile provision to the school and run youth work sessions for 2 hours each day. These sessions are run like any other session the team run and aims to provide provision to those who do not otherwise access youth work provision or for those who need to participate in activities at an earlier time than other youth work provision.

Connexions projects

The SBYW team have been working in partnership with Connexions for a number of years now. There are two main groups that the team work with, these are: Activity agreement and New Leaf. Both projects aim to break down the barriers some young people have to entering employment or training. The SBYW team work with Connexions to meet the needs of the young people involved. Activities young people in these groups are involved in include: communication exercises, group work activities, activities to increase self confidence, problem solving activities, careers advice, work experience, life skills and fund raising. The current New

Leaf group is raising money for cancer support and have so far raised over £150 and are on target to raise £500 by the end of January.



Knight Club

'Best day of my life' –

Not one but two young people said this about the trip to Thorpe Park at the October Half term. It has got to be a good thing for many young people that we can provide opportunities that they normally would not get both in the day to day programme and in special events. It is great to know that they appreciate it. Often they don't tell us at the time, but grown up members return or meet members of staff in the street and talk very positively about their experiences at the Knight Club.

It is difficult to work out sometimes exactly why use of the Club ebbs and flows. The year started with low numbers attending the senior sessions: A group they we had been working with for nearly 4 years had reached the stage where they were ready to move on but, we think, the 'new' seniors hadn't grasped this and filled the gap. In the junior and intermediate sessions the numbers were good. The value of doing work with younger ones began to prove itself in the Autumn term with the intermediates becoming seniors and the numbers attending senior sessions back to the levels they had been a couple of years ago. At the same time the junior and intermediate sessions are flourishing. All of this bodes well for the short and long term. Young people are making it clear that they value the service.

Total membership is now heading for the 250 mark.

Of course it is not all good all of the time but it very much feels that it has been a year of progress. The 'new' seniors, who have had an association with the club for some time, have started with a relatively positive attitude. Evenings vary but on the whole have a good feel about them.

On the back of our core facilities – pool, football, computers, play stations,

table football, music, coffee bar etc, we endeavour to offer a healthy mix of opportunities – cooking, arts and crafts, trips, volunteering, awards and much more. But as ever, the key is establishing relationships with young people, listening to them and talking with them. Our nightly recording sheets note a few of these conversations but cannot capture the entirety and quality of the exchanges. We have discussed relationships, careers, alcohol use, conflicts with teachers and the law and many other topics, often while doing an activity such as playing pool or cooking. We also use these informal exchanges to find out what activities young people would like to do and get general feedback. Our approach is one of constant examination of our practice, informed as much as possible by what young people think.

Not everything we do is the result of what young people are telling us. Funnily, we have not had young people telling us that they want, for example, condoms to be available from the Centre. The C-card project, which we have just launched, has come from Government aspirations to lower the number of teenage pregnancies, particularly in Exeter, which statistically has a high rate. When the programme is in full swing and has been running for a while we may well get positive feedback from young people.



Mondays

15.00 – 17.00 International Club

18.30 -21.00 School years

7&8 (Intermediates)

Tuesdays

15.00 – 17.30 Young Carers

18.45- 21.15 School year 9 – 19
years of age (Seniors)

Wednesdays

18.30 – 20.30 School year 6 (juniors)

Thursdays

18.30 – 21.00 Open for young people
from year 8 to 19 years of age

Members from the Club took part in Kongomini with one member letting the politicians know what she thought – at length!

Outside the mainstream programme we continue to work with the Young Carers organisation to provide the opportunity for young people who are carers to socialise and take part in activities which many normally have little chance to take part in because of their caring duties within the family. The programme is very much a youth work programme as previously described. The Club has been able to continue due to external funding being found for the Youth Service input and support from the young carers to keep their involvement going.

Likewise the International Club operates on Mondays after school for young people with English as an additional language. This has gone pretty well through the year, but recently, we have lost a few of our regulars who have moved or are unable to attend on Monday afternoons so we need to recruit more members or review the evening we provide the club.

There continues to be good links with the community,

parents and community groups. Beacon Heath is showing signs of re-forging its sense of community. It is hoped that the Knight Club can play a positive role in this development. The Pupil Referral Unit used the Centre in the day times in the Spring and Summer Terms. The re-arrangement of provision for excluded pupils has meant that they no longer need to use the Centre. A little of the 'slack' has been taken up by the Family Centre programme which is clearly bursting at the seams and has overflowed in to the young side on an informal basis. St.James School has also used the Centre.

Other users

Friday evenings – SOCOPS (for young people and children with Aspergers Syndrome and their families.

Saturday morning – Young Headway (Young people with head injuries)

After 5 years there is still a new feel to the building but we are beginning to feel the effects of wear and tear.

The staff team are to be thanked for all their effort; the long standing members, those who have left and the new staff. There is a good team spirit. This has been vital to aid continuity when the Area Youth Worker was ill and off work over the summer term and the early part of the autumn term.





Topsham

There is now a very committed team consisting of two paid workers, a volunteer who has supported the project since the beginning, and two new young volunteers whose positive input has enabled the project to flourish. We are also grateful for the support of the Dorothy Holman Youth Centre Committee who have enabled the project to continue in its present form.

Although there has been a dip in numbers over the past year as the older ones moved on to University and work, there is always a core group of about 10 to 20 young people who attend the club. The sessions are focused around Curriculum and Every Child Matters outcomes and a healthy eating and lifestyle theme is maintained as an important part of the sessions. The young people come from different backgrounds and some from as far field as Countess Wear and Wonford and integrate well with few problems.

The programme this year has been varied and exciting, offering everything from girls pamper evenings, kayaking, discos, cooking, sports, arts and crafts and healthy living posters to name but a few. The senior member volunteer team have been excellent and have been key to the success of the evening sessions. They clearly understand their roles, have the respect of their peers and are extremely

effective working alongside the staff team to deliver high quality youth work.

Plans for the forthcoming year include Senior member training, which may culminate in a residential, a new group to start Duke of Edinburgh awards, a News Group to offer positive articles about young people and their achievements, as well as sessions around self-defence, playing musical instruments and DJ-ing. There are also plans to start a Girls Group separate to the youth club session which will cover topics such as self care, beauty, emotional well-being, relationship skills, confidence and self esteem. All this will run alongside normal sessions with a focus on teaching skills, healthy living and arts, crafts and sport.



Haven Banks

Haven Banks Outdoor Education Centre continues to offer a professional high quality service to groups and individuals of all ages and ability levels; the Centre has once again received its annual inspection certification from the Royal Yachting Association (RYA) the British Canoe Union (BCU) and the Adventurous Activity Licensing Service (AALS).

At the beginning of the year the present financial climate was taken into account and a prediction of a 10% decrease in income was forecast. Despite this and reasonably quiet start with relation to the number of groups at the beginning of the season, the Centre has had a particularly successful year, both financially and most importantly with what it has provided for its customer base.

Groups during the early part of the year (May and early June) fluctuated somewhat, which made staff engagement difficult. On some days the Centre would be catering for up to 150 participants, whereas on other days, just 50.

Training, Assessment & Development which has taken place through the Centre during 2009/10

BCA – Local Cave Leader – Training, Assessment & revalidation

BCA – Local Cave Leader Training & Assessments

BDA – Dragon Boat Club Coach

BDA – Dragon Boat Helm

Duke of Edinburgh – Bronze/Silver Assessors

Duke of Edinburgh Expedition Assessments

MLTE – Single Pitch Training

Mountain Medicine First Aid – 1 and 2 Day Courses

NVQ - A1 – Assessors

RYA – National Sailing Awards – Levels 1, 2 & Seamanship Skills

RYA – Senior Instructor

RYA – Youth Sailing Scheme Awards – Bronze, Silver, Gold Awards



RYA Nation Powerboat Awards
 – Level 1, 2 & Safety Boat Awards
 RYA Windsurfing – Level 1 Awards
 UKCC – 4 Star Canoe Assessment
 UKCC – 4 Star Sea Training
 UKCC – 4 Star White-Water Training
 UKCC – Level 3 Coach Canoe
 Training/Assessment
 UKCC – White-Water Assessment
 UKCC – White-Water Safety & Rescue
 UKCC 1, 2 and 3 Star Kayak & Canoe
 UKCC Foundation Safety &
 Rescue Training/Assessment
 UKCC Level 1 Coach Kayak
 UKCC Level 2 Coach Training & Assessment

Future Initiatives and Activities

Plans are well under way to offer new and exciting activities and opportunities at the Centre. These are not set to replace any of our existing activities; they will strive to compliment the activities and courses the Centre already offers.

Dragon Boating

Following the Centre's success of winning the 2009 Dream-a-way Dragon Boat challenge, plans are well under way to be able to offer this fun, exhilarating team-orientated activity during 2010.



Having formed a strong partnership with Exe-Calibre Dragon Boat Club, the Centre and the Club are keen to develop and promote will offer sessions to groups during the week days, with Exe-Calibre delivering all weekend sessions. Plans are also progressing to run several events throughout the spring and summer months. Those of particular note and interest are the 2010 National Dream-a-way Challenge and an inter-School/Youth Centre event.

Centre staff are in the process of being trained and qualified as British Dragon Boat Association Helms & Club Coaches and it is hoped the Centre will purchase its own boat in March 2010.

Paddlesport

To compliment its already extensive paddle-sport programme, the Centre, as of June 2010, will offer Sea kayaking tours and expeditions as well as from January 2010 White-Water Canoeing. For those a little more nervous about taking those first steps, a fleet of both single & double sit-on kayaks will be available from April 2010.

Coasteering

Coasteering is a mixture of swimming, climbing, scrambling, and traversing the South Devon coastline. Coasteering will be available to groups and individuals

from July 2010. This exhilarating activity will allow you to explore areas of the coast that you would never normally see. Coasteering is ideally a group activity that will allow you to have fun with friends, family or corporate colleagues.

Delivery & Provision in 2009/10

The Centre's annual programme has continued to be developed and expanded. Every school holiday period, with the exception of Christmas, the Centre provides a vast range of activities for young people aged 8-16 years old on a range of planned and programmed activity sessions and courses. The summer holidays being the most extensive and popular programme, where over the six week period some 700 young people participated in 1 day – week long courses.

Provision for the latter part of the summer holiday period also included a programme for Early Years and DYS (Exeter) Summer Activity programme.

Outside of school holiday periods delivery has been provided to all areas of the public and the community. Groups using the Centre have included: adult evening & weekend training courses, adult groups & private individuals, birthday parties, Colleges and Universities, family groups, groups and individuals with learning, mental and physical disabilities, Inclusion & Alternative Curriculum programmes



for schools and youth centres, Pupil Referral Units, Homeless Groups, schools – mainstream primary, middle & secondary, private & state and the

Youth Offending Team 1:1 programmes. This list continues, though this gives a great example of the diversity and range of groups and individuals the Centre provides for.

Street Paddler

Another project which the Centre developed and piloted back in 2007 was Street Paddler. This project was initially funded by Community Action through Sports and Devon and Cornwall Police. Despite the pilots success both locally and nationally, additional funding was unable to be sourced which threatened the projects future. Regardless of this and to ensure the project continues to be developed, giving young people a focus, the Centre ran a further two projects free of any charge and funding allowing, is planning the 2010 Street Paddler to commence in May. Street Paddler runs on Friday evenings for a 10 week programme.

Positive Activities for Young People (PAYP)

In February 2008 the Centre secured a further 14 month contract with Connexions to deliver Positive Activities for Young People (PAYP). The Centre has provided 216 hours of provision to 8 young people during every school holiday period. Young people are referred to Haven Banks by Connexions, Devon & Cornwall Police, Social & Youth Workers YOT & YISP. These young people engage in structured outdoor and adventurous activities (positive activities) rather than engage in other negative activities, which may otherwise be pursued during the school holiday periods. Despite the provision being free to the young people and referrers, there are often vacant places remaining. Any youth worker or

agency wishing to make referrals for the remaining contracted hours should do so at their earliest possible convenience.

Young Peoples Training & Development

8 Students completed a 7 month Instructor Training Course in September 2009. The course provides trainees with 4 months of intense personal skill training, followed by a 3 month work-based placement at the Centre, which then leads them then onto National Governing Body Instructor/Coach Standards in a variety of activity areas.

The Centre also ran another 4 month intensive Winter Skills Course. This has enabled staff to gain and further progress their skills and National Governing Body Qualifications. 4 of the 5 students will return to work during the 2010 season. Three other Trainees / Students





gained NVQ Levels 2 & 3 qualifications in Outdoor Leisure, as well as a variety of NGB coaching awards whilst on Modern Apprenticeships. Apprenticeships, linked with Duchy College are offered annually to young people aged 18-25 years.

Adult Courses & Training

An extensive adult programme is offered annually. This includes introductory sessions, National Governing Body training and assessment courses, as well as NGB Coach Training & Assessments.

Equipment & Maintenance

As always, there are always numerous ongoing purchases required each year in order to repair and maintain the kit the Centre already owns. This costs the Centre an average £7000 - £8000 per year in maintenance and upkeep alone. There are also areas of kit which require complete replacement. This kit renewal programme is an important exercise, as not only are the Centres National Governing Body recognitions dependant on this, but also those groups and individuals who use the Centre expect the Centre to provide professional equipment to match the professional delivery.

Exeter Canal Basin Development

Following a £2.75 million award from Devon County Council in 2008, the plans for a new Centre are progressing. In late 2008 a young people's steering group was

set up. Members of this group included pupils and students from local schools and colleges, members of Haven Banks PAYP group and also private users of the Centre. Following extensive consultation with this group and consultation meetings with other users of the Centre, neighbours, members of the public, potential future users and neighbouring businesses, plans for the new state of the art Centre were finalised and submitted to Exeter City Council. In September 2009 members of the Project Board attended the ECC Planning Committee and it was with great delight and excitement that all plans were approved subject to minor conditions. The Project Board is now tasked with negotiating leases and raising further funds to make the Centres and the Service's dream become a reality.

Planned Purchases for Winter 2010 included:

- 8 Sit-On Kayaks
- 8 Sea Kayaks
- 24 Kayaking Helmets
- Canoe Paddles
- 1 Dragon Boat
- Caving Helmets
- Various Climbing kit
- 8 Master Kayaks
- 4 Open Canoes
- New Canoe/Kayak Trailer

One Life Inclusion Project

Well, another year has passed and the Learn 2 Work Inclusion project has continued for a further with great success. The students that took part this past academic year have been some of the most successful yet. The One Life course, as it is now known, was originally set up as a one day youth work session for young people who were experiencing difficulties in education or school, whether this was from low attendance, poor behaviour, anger and aggression, low confidence or self esteem or simply just needing some breathing space from their lives in general. The original rationale for the course and continued ideal was to present a provision that was inclusive of all young people, irrespective of their academic or social ability. This has continued to be our ethic, with a focus on developing social and interactive skills such as conversation, prioritisation, working with others, practical skills and self awareness. This course does include a small amount of academic skills, but is not the focus of the course. The young people as individuals are very much in the centre of this course and sessions are designed around established need of groups or individuals in a more holistic learning environment within the youth centre. Staff work very closely with the referring school to make sure the skills learnt with us are transferable and relevant to the their overall education.

In the past year we have worked in new and challenging situations with very different groups. We have worked with Barley Lane, a school for young people with emotional and behavioural difficulties. We have established a new and exciting relationship with Exeter Royal Deaf Academy, working with students with hearing and other impairments and St Peter's School who continue to use our provision. We have also taken students from West Exe and St James. All the young people referred to us by their school present some challenges, but the aim of the youth work staff is to make them feel welcome and valued before anything else. To do this we offer a variety of activities that young people can undertake whilst with us and hopefully build on a variety of skills.

The activities on the course are predominantly practically based, with students having to work in small groups or individually. The rest of the course is based around personal development through reflection and how they have achieved a goal through trying. This is generally the most beneficial process that the group will go through.

Up until now, the accreditation offered on the course has been excellent with specific accreditations only being added if the group are ready for them. These include The Devon Award, Bronze Youth Achievement Award, Emergency First Aid at work, Red Cross Looking After other people's children, V Volunteering certificates and more recently, the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award. A group can achieve one or several of these. We also have added the capacity to support schools in the delivery of their own accreditations whilst students are with us.

The programme will continue to offer a good learning experience for students by being individualised and bespoke dependant on groups and young people. The future of the course will hopefully be its expansion and further groups from other educational establishments undertaking a course with us. As for the students who are currently enrolled, we are sure a good job or career awaits them on complete of their secondary education.



Youth Bank

The Exeter Youth Bank has had another successful year of grant allocation through the Youth Opportunity Fund, with grants being awarded to various youth groups around the city including groups who wished to perform a hip hop musical, a ready steady cook event for charity, a peer mentoring scheme in a youth club and lots of trips and equipment.

The young people have focused on diversity this year and have looked at ways in which they can encourage lots of different types of young people to join the group and apply for money. In the New Year, with the help of a newly appointed Youth Bank Development Worker they will be visiting different organisations to talk about the work that they do.

Young people had this to say about being part of the Exeter Youth Bank:

"I have got more confidence and I can speak out more. I have learned more teamwork skills"

"I have learnt skills such as decision making, team work, leading a group and running meetings"

"I have learnt how to give out money to projects and have gained some new skills along the way I have boosted my confidence and have better communication skills"

"Youth Bank gives young people a voice and opportunities they might not otherwise have had"

The young people took part in a successful residential which combined some hard work and training with lots of fun! Exeter Youth Bank was responsible for delivering a workshop on practical methods for increasing diversity within Youth Banks around Devon. The young people were accredited with the OCN grant givers award through Youth Bank UK.

Thanks to the dedication and hard work of this committed group of young people, so far in 2009 Exeter Youth Bank has given out grants totalling £33,000 benefiting over 3000 young people. This doesn't include numerous Youth Capital bids which responsibility for is shared amongst the 6 Devon Youth Banks.



The Future

The Devon Youth Service – Exeter Team, in conjunction with key partners and agencies, will continue to offer and develop a comprehensive range of services to young people. These services span leisure, education, personal development, information, advice, training and accreditation. They are delivered with a desire to maximise social, financial, educational and economic inclusion. The work in the city will now need to be sustained as best we can, subject to sufficient resources being made available. Consequently, our service must always be prepared to diversify and be flexible as these financial changes and trends keep moving.

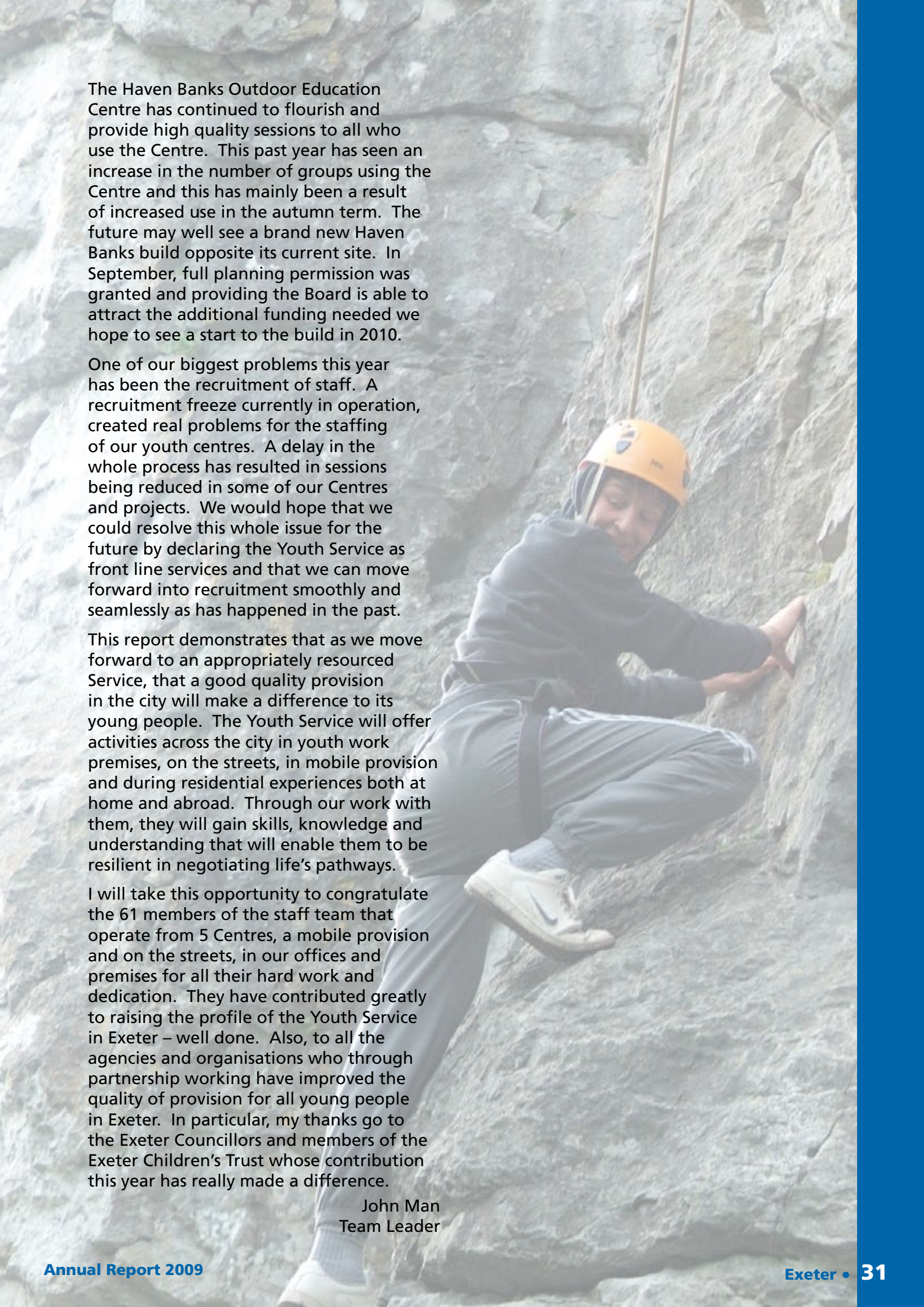
Resourcing will always be an issue for the Youth Service across Devon and we appreciate the efforts made by all concerned to help address this issue. We are under no illusions that the coming months and years will be difficult and it is our hope that we will be able to maintain the number of sessions that we make available to young people and maximise the use of our good resources. There are further exciting developments in the pipeline with possible funding for developing the Grenville YC with additional youth work space and the approval for the new youth centre at the Exwick Foxhayes site. In these difficult times, it is essential that we are able to provide the revenue costs that are needed for the new youth centre. We are grateful for the support of local County Councillors for their considerable input into supporting and securing these additional resources.

One of the big successes of the year has been the excellent partnerships that we have continued to develop with our many partners in the city. The new diversionary programmes that we have developed over the past 15 months have proved to be very successful. They have targeted specific areas of the city where anti social behaviour was at its highest and working in partnership with the Police, good progress has been made. Each project is working with between 40 to 80 young people at a time. The Police have recently reported a 62% reduction in youth crime in Exeter over

the past year, and we are confident that our work has helped contribute to these figures. The projects are currently being reviewed as the funding stream is due for renewal next year and it is hoped that these schemes will continue to be further developed and funded for other parts of the city next year. Linked to this has also been the success of the Mobile and Streetwork teams, who meet with young people in parks and streets across the city in all weather. There have been further demands on this team to provide programmes for young people in areas of the city that have been developed more recently. Revenue funding is currently not at the levels that can cope with the expansion of our work and whilst we remain as a very low funded authority, it will continue to place severe pressures on our capacity to deliver youth work to all young people who wish to engage with us.

The next major partnership has been the successful bid for funding play and positive activities in the city. This is a partnership between the Youth Service and the Exeter City Council and involves providing play delivered by the City Council's Play Rangers and positive activities through the Youth Service. A successful application to the Exeter Children's Trust has resulted in a significant grant to provide these activities throughout the school holidays from February 2010 to March 2011. It will be developed on similar lines to our successful summer activities programme.

Work with the local High Schools and Colleges has continued to be really successful. In particular, the Learn 2 Work programmes – inclusion projects – have benefited many young people in the city and it is hoped that this work will continue to be developed in future years. Our team has continued to develop and deliver a high quality of delivery and curriculum input throughout the past year, with an additional day added this year. Once again, it is hoped that this work will continue to be resourced at the levels currently experienced. The major issue will be looking for the continued financial support from the secondary schools in Exeter during 2010/2011.



The Haven Banks Outdoor Education Centre has continued to flourish and provide high quality sessions to all who use the Centre. This past year has seen an increase in the number of groups using the Centre and this has mainly been a result of increased use in the autumn term. The future may well see a brand new Haven Banks build opposite its current site. In September, full planning permission was granted and providing the Board is able to attract the additional funding needed we hope to see a start to the build in 2010.

One of our biggest problems this year has been the recruitment of staff. A recruitment freeze currently in operation, created real problems for the staffing of our youth centres. A delay in the whole process has resulted in sessions being reduced in some of our Centres and projects. We would hope that we could resolve this whole issue for the future by declaring the Youth Service as front line services and that we can move forward into recruitment smoothly and seamlessly as has happened in the past.

This report demonstrates that as we move forward to an appropriately resourced Service, that a good quality provision in the city will make a difference to its young people. The Youth Service will offer activities across the city in youth work premises, on the streets, in mobile provision and during residential experiences both at home and abroad. Through our work with them, they will gain skills, knowledge and understanding that will enable them to be resilient in negotiating life's pathways.

I will take this opportunity to congratulate the 61 members of the staff team that operate from 5 Centres, a mobile provision and on the streets, in our offices and premises for all their hard work and dedication. They have contributed greatly to raising the profile of the Youth Service in Exeter – well done. Also, to all the agencies and organisations who through partnership working have improved the quality of provision for all young people in Exeter. In particular, my thanks go to the Exeter Councillors and members of the Exeter Children's Trust whose contribution this year has really made a difference.

John Man
Team Leader

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