

Is There a Need for Provision / What Should it Be?

Establishing the need

It is important to establish if there is a need for a project in the area. Researching your community will show if the need exists. It is important to involve young people in the local research so that they are fully involved in the planning and development of their project. They will also feel valued and part of the local community. This could lead to other members of the community maybe being more supportive when they see young people taking an active role in the development of the project.

Local research could take the form of

- Questionnaires / interview style survey.
- Research into other youth activities in the area.
- Open day inviting local community members.
- Comment boxes.

The consultation process should help show —

- What provision already exists?
- What are the interests and needs of young people?
- Do young people need a venue?
- What community support is necessary?

Examples of questions you may want ask yourself and as part of the consultation are as follows —

- What age will the group cater for?
 - If it's for 13+
 - What are they interested in doing?
 - What are their needs?
 - If it's a wider age range.
 - How will you manage the different needs and interests for example a 10 year old to a 16 year old?
- What project type could be established?
 - One activity or a variety?
 - A sports group? Social activities? Youth club?
- Is it realistic? What facilities/equipment are required?
- How many volunteers will be required to provide the activity or programme of activities?
 - Ratio of **
 - Skills needed. (Can drive)
- How will members and volunteers will be recruited?
- What is the catchment area?
- Where will the project be held? Or meet to travel to activities?

- How often will the project occur?
 - Monthly? Weekly? Adhoc? During the holiday periods?

Who Will Staff?

Volunteers

The group and project cannot function without enough staff or volunteers to sustain it. The reasons why people volunteer and how to recruit volunteers are the foundations to staffing a project.

People volunteer –

- For their own personal development.
- Because they have a genuine concern for young people.
- To share a sport or past time.
- To help others.
- To lead into a paid post.
- Avoid boredom! Loneliness.
- To make friends.
- Religious! Moral conviction.
- Widen horizon.

All of these reasons are valid but understanding why someone is volunteering can help you support them as individuals and to work well as a team. Because projects and the roles within them are so

varied it is difficult to describe the attributes your volunteers should have. However here is what you might be looking for:

A volunteer that has –

- The time.
- The enthusiasm.
- Patience & common sense.
- A 'Positive' view of young people.
- An understanding of young people.
- A sense of humour.

To help volunteers fit into their role it could be appropriate to have a list of responsibilities that they can understand and adhere to. These responsibilities will depend on the individual project. You must be aware that individuals will have different skills and strengths to offer but here are some general attributes you might look for in a volunteer:

- Able to give young people the opportunity of meeting together in comfortable relaxed way.
- Able to develop with young people.
- -Can involve and empower young people to be of the decisions made within the project and its programme of activities.
- Can help and support young people through problems and difficulties.

There are a number of ways to recruit volunteers for Youth Work here are some ideas:

- Through newspaper articles in the local paper.
- By advertising in local shops I supermarkets.
- Asking people directly
- Contact your Council Voluntary Sector and see how they could help.
- Through friend and parents.
- Recruit ex members
- Through local radio.
- Don't be afraid to ask for help from the Town / Parish council.
- Set up a stand or stall at local events.

Young People

This might seem obvious but young people are the most important factor in setting up a project for young people. Without them no matter how much effort or will power is put into setting it up the project will not be successful.

INVOLVEMENT & CONSULTATION

As mentioned in 'Establishing the Need' involvement from the start is very important and then they need to be apart of the planning and development of the project at every stage.

You may feel that young people will be happy with a room, a pool table and a couple of footballs. How would you know this without asking them. You may find out that they want activities that do not require a set venue. Don't make the decisions for them — ask them.

As part of establishing the need you should have devised ways in which you can talk to the community including young people. At some point young people need to meet up to discuss their needs, interests and ideas further.

The first meeting - The first meeting should be the time to show what could be possible given the information from your consultation and an opportunity for volunteers and young people to meet for the first time.

It would be the ideal opportunity to

Discuss what activity / activities might interest the group.

What equipment is available and might be needed.

Set out the programme for the group set dates, actions and meeting places.

Discuss how to encourage new members to join.

Acquire consent forms (See below), names addresses and telephone numbers.

Think about rules and boundaries for individuals within the group.

Following the first meeting everyone should be then aware of members, workers, programme, times, dates and responsibilities of individuals. After the meeting information can then be sent out to clarify the points discussed.

Safe Guarding & Legal Responsibilities

Before the group can start on the programme set out you must fulfil the following requirements in order to ensure the safety of young people and volunteers.

CRB Checks — Under the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 the Criminal Records Bureau must check volunteers. There is a cost implication to this. As a new group you can apply through an umbrella organisation who will administer your application. For volunteers the cost of undertaking a CRB check is £1 to 20 per person for administration and the CRB will process the applications free.

Visit the CRB website www.crb.gov.uk for more information and a list of umbrella organisations.

Put in some umbrella organisations.

Appropriate behaviour - Nottinghamshire County Council Youth Service' have a guidance sheet.