



## Evaluation for Investing in Children membership

### Phoenix Detached Youth Project

The Phoenix Detached Youth Project started in February 2004. Due to the commitment of several funders it was possible for youth work provision to continue in the Meadow well area. The Monument Trust agreed to fund a Project Manager to set up and develop a new detached youth project.

The project's mission statement is, "Working with Young People to develop their ideas and supporting their life choices and education."

The Phoenix Project has been set up to provide a service to young people;

*"They go around the streets three times a week till 9pm, and you get to know them"*

*"They ask you what you want to do, such as canoeing and sailing"*

*"We have a group meeting to plan activities"*

#### **Mind and Body**

This programme helped young people explore various activities to improve the use of their Mind and Bodies. Activities such as Dance, Decks, Kayaking, Orienteering, making the sign, and going on a trip to Edinburgh were undertaken.

#### **Construction**

This is a multi-agency approach to create training opportunities, whilst placing six young people with private construction companies for twelve months. The young people work alongside tradesmen on site, gaining skills, whilst 'being in the shop window' available for employment if considered suitable by employers.

#### **Intergeneration**

The Intergeneration Project was set up in consultation with young people to raise awareness around age and cultural issues. They bring together the local community to learn and educate themselves about each others differences, identifying areas of need and learning and creating new projects.

*"We wanted to do some intergeneration work with old people. We taught them how you use mobile phones, we played bingo and they showed us to cook pies"*

#### **Helping Hands**

This project is a young person led solution, for young people 13 to 19 years to come together to support each other. It gives young people the opportunity to meet new friends, build confidence, increase self esteem so young people feel good, have fun through activities of their choice and access resources.

*"You don't have to keep it inside; you can talk to someone about it" Annual report 2007*

### **Cedar Wood landscapes**

A group of young people offer discounted gardening work to OAP and disabled individuals. This includes hedge cutting, strimming, grass cutting, digging, and weed removal.

### **Sexual Health**

SeXfactor is a joint project with Longbenton Youth Project. It is young person led, celebrating being a women, whilst increasing sexual health knowledge. Last year the SeXfactor benefited 26 young women.

*"You can not fault it, learned a lot on STIs and abortion"*

*"I enjoyed the two sessions, they were really good! I have learned more about contraception and the risks there are." Annual report 2007*

### **Meadow well Motor Project**

There were concerns about people hurting themselves or others in their local community. The young people's solution was to develop a safe controlled community motor project. The Phoenix & North Tyneside Youth Service worked in partnership to help a marginalised group involved in offending, excluded from school and long term unemployed. The aims of the project were to set up a go karting project, learn how to fundraise, learn mechanical and driving skills in safe driving and stop young people flying around the estate, giving them a safer option.

*"We wanted to do this to stop people joy riding"*

*"Going Go-Karting has stopped me playing around the estate on Motor Bikes and getting a criminal record. It has given me something to look forward to instead of doing nothing. I feel happy, as nothing has ever happened to me like this before. The project gets me off the estate to learn new things" Annual report 2007*

### **Importance of Water Project**

A group successfully raised funding to learn Brazilian Drumming and performed to a group of young people from Botswana, who were visiting in the diocese of Newcastle. The Botswana's then sang to the group at the Phoenix and they discussed the importance of water.

*"We did a bike ride and canoed along the Great Glen in Scotland"*

*"We got involved with another group in Byker and joined up with them"*

*"We have had discussions and talked about everything and what we plan to do in the future"*

*"Next year we plan to help with water aid in Botswana"*

### **General Comments**

*"We asked to go to Alton Towers and raised the funds to go"*

*"We have been on youth exchanges and things like that"*

*"We have lots of groups and projects here, like the Intergeneration, European exchange, Importance of water, Mind and Body, Book worms and Helping hands"*

*"You definitely have a voice, and you always get listened to"*

*"Mike always has got a way to get things"*

*"Every year we take part in the E2000 project. We worked with people from Lithuania, France and Italy and at the end we put on a show for the Italians."*

*"I've set up the Phoenix book worms for young children in the community to learn more skills in reading. This will help with their education in school. 9 parents and 15 kids have benefited." Annual Report 2007*

## **Conclusion**

It is evident that the Phoenix Detached Youth Project are committed to including young people in dialogue in order to alter the service they provide to best suit the young people. Phoenix Detached Youth Project is imaginative in the way they work with young people and how they involve them in service development.

It is clear that they successfully achieve this and that young people are involved in service development and feedback.

I look forward to hearing of the developments of all current pieces of work over the next year.

All the young people I met with were all very positive about the Phoenix Project. They felt they have the opportunity to participate in the direction of the project. The young people involved in this report agree with the content.

It is on their behalf that I have no hesitation but to recommend that Phoenix Detached Youth Project become Investing in Children members.

**Eleanor Seed**  
**Investing In Children**  
**April 2008**