



YCHLOW Newsletter June 2009

YOUTH PRESS



Youth Clubs Hampshire and Isle of Wight

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CAT MARK SUCCESS!!

We are delighted to announce that YCHLOW have been commissioned by Hampshire County Council (HCC) to run the CAT Mark Programme for the next year.

Since we first began to work in partnership with HCC the CAT Mark has grown from strength to strength! So far we have trained 25 Young Assessors throughout Hampshire and assessed 13 projects.

We currently have assessors trained in Winchester, Southampton, East Hants, Basingstoke, Hayling Island and The New Forest, so if you are in any of those areas and would like to undergo a CAT Mark Assessment, please get in touch!

If you have young people who would like to become Young Assessors then let us know and we can come out and train them.

For further information on the CAT Mark and to apply, please see our website www.ychiow.org.uk or contact Lynsey on 01962 852307 or ac3.ychiow@ukonline.co.uk



SAVE THE DATE: YCHLOW AGM

Our Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be taking place at 7pm on Thursday 15th October 2009 at the Littleton and Harestock Millennium Memorial Hall just outside Winchester and we'd love to see you there.

Our AGM is a chance for YCHLOW and all its members and supporters to get together, celebrate the work of the past year and look forward to our future successes too. The AGM also sees the presentation of the Youth Worker of the Year Award and the Club of the Year Award.



So, put the date in your diary and we look forward to seeing you there!!!



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YOUTH ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Would you like to have the work that your Young People are taking part in accredited? Giving them a structured programme to work to and a recognised accreditation at the end of the work?

Youth Achievement Awards (YAA) are a fantastic, simple way of accrediting the work young people are already doing. Most projects and challenges fit easily into the YAA.

YAA are in four levels, Bronze for taking part, Silver for taking responsibility, Gold for leading and Platinum for leading, managing and organising. At each level young people have the opportunity to set their own challenges and work as a team with other young people.

Young people complete a booklet which is clear and interesting, whilst collecting evidence to support the work they are doing, and monitoring the time they are taking part in the project or challenge.

If you would like to learn more about YAA or for one of our team to come and visit you to see how YAA could best work for your club/group/project then get in touch! Call Lynsey or Charlotte on 01962 852307 or email secac.ychiow@ukonline.co.uk

IN2ACTION BRING NEW ACTION

Our In2Action team have been working alongside you to deliver a number of workshops such as Positive Portraits, Chic or Unique, Making the News and all the other favourites. To compliment these existing workshops we would like to announce two new workshop-based projects that will be available soon.

ACT OUT! In2Action will be getting all dramatic with its new ACT OUT project. The project gives young people the chance to create a play about the roles of young people in the local community, whilst developing their communication skills, teamwork and self-confidence. The project is intended to run over 4 weeks and will include games, discussions and a variety of fun and interesting tasks looking at the variety of issues facing young people in their communities. For the final project, young people will create and perform a piece of drama and invite people from the community to enjoy it.

GET INVOLVED! That's what the In2Action team are asking young people to do with the second new project GET INVOLVED. The workshop aims to get young people meaningfully involved with their club by understanding more about Participation and empowerment. The project will last for 4 sessions and will support young people to take a more empowered role with their club through either developing a committee or becoming a CAT Mark assessor. The young people will also have the opportunity to give feedback on projects already run by In2Action, whilst developing their communication skills, self-confidence and participation skills.

If you would like further information on either of these new projects or would like to book either of these projects or any of the other In2Action projects please contact Lynsey or Charlotte on 01962 852 307 or email secac.ychiow@ukonline.co.uk.

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THE OPPORTUNITY OF A LIFE TIME?

Do you know about the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust? Are you working with young people who may be eligible to apply for funding for a once in a lifetime opportunity?

Each year the Trust aims to award 100 Travelling Fellowships to British citizens. Each Fellow receives a grant to cover return and internal travel, daily living and travel insurance within the countries visited.

A Travelling Fellowship is a unique addition to your personal development and brings long-term benefits to you, your employer and your profession/community in the UK. For examples of Fellows` achievements, visit the website, address below.

For 2009 the average grant is £5,055 covering overseas visits of between 4-8 weeks. The Trust have a specific category for Young People to enable them to undertake a worthwhile project to benefit the UK community and their personal development.

To find out more visit www.wcmt.org.uk.

ANYONE FOR TABLE TENNIS?

Did you know you can get help, support and advice about providing Table Tennis in your youth club, group or project? I`m Sara Lunn and I`m Table Tennis Development Officer for Hampshire. I am here to help develop opportunities for table tennis within youth clubs, whether this is by providing advice on equipment, help gaining access to funding for equipment, delivering training to youth club leaders, providing resources, creating links between youth clubs and local table tennis clubs, generating participation and interest in the sport, and helping to develop competition opportunities where desired.

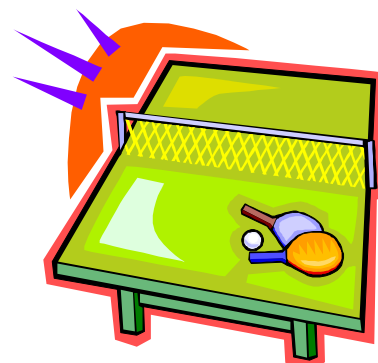
Following a successful year in 2008-09, the role of Table Tennis Development Officer has been extended for another 12 months. The job is a part time role and if you want to get in touch with me, I work mainly on a Monday and Tuesday, (although this is flexible depending on meetings). I am based in Winchester within Sport Hampshire and IOW, the County Sports Partnership. The table tennis work programme is centred around club development, schools development and competition, and working with Youth Clubs.

Last year table tennis equipment was provided to 10 different youth clubs across the county, training was provided to 8 youth club workers to enable them to deliver more structure table tennis sessions, and a link was established between The Garage Youth Club and Waterside Table Tennis Club who now go into the youth club to provide exhibitions and deliver sessions.

The role is open to working with any youth clubs that are interested in table tennis and would like help, so please feel free to contact me.

Sara Lunn

Table Tennis Development Officer, Sport Hampshire & IOW,
Mottisfont Court, High Street, Winchester. SO23 8ZF
email sara.lunn@hants.gov.uk. tel 01962 847285



PARTICIPATION

What passes for youth work can sometimes seem to change on a regular basis, especially in the statutory sector where they are subject to the vagaries of Central Government policy. One minute it's about the voluntary nature of the relationship between a young person and youth worker the next it's about only working with those young people with the highest need often in a situation where the young person has no choice.

Whatever your preference, those of us lucky enough to work in the voluntary sector can take or leave government trends. However, the one thing that seems to remain on the agenda is PARTICIPATION. Yet, even when we are talking about Participation everyone seems to have their own definition. For some it simply means young people taking part whilst for others it means young people taking power.

If youth work is about enabling young people to learn and practice life skills in the safe and secure environment of a youth project then learning how to use power and dealing with the responsibilities that go with it are an essential part of the youth work process. Like any life skill the appropriate and responsible use of power is something young people need to learn and practice and like anyone practicing a new skill they will sometimes get it wrong but will learn from their mistakes and get nearer to getting it right the next time.

So, Participation is about the use of power and exercising responsibility. It's a learning process so needs to be conducted in a supportive and safe environment where getting it wrong does not have lifelong and serious consequences. When we are thinking of running a Participation project in our club or project it is vital we consider the above points before we proceed. Let's consider the most popular Participation project, that of using Senior Members, Young Leaders, call them what you will.

Having Young Leaders is an excellent way of young people experiencing real power. They are in charge of other young people, they have the power to say no if they think the situation warrants it, they have the power to challenge the behaviour of other young people, they have the power to ensure the rules are obeyed, they have the power to decide who can and cannot take part etc... With all this power comes the responsibility of taking their Duty of Care for the other young people seriously, of ensuring they are consistent about the way they treat the young people they are in charge of, of ensuring they always challenge in a positive fashion and condemn the behaviour and not the young person, of always being seen to be fair in their dealing with the young people they are working with. So no pressure there then!

As I said earlier this is a learning experience and they will sometimes get it wrong. Left on their own this could be a disastrous situation and like any other risk it needs to be managed by those with the skills and experience to manage it. That is the adult youth workers. They need to be there to ensure that the Young Leaders are learning from their mistakes and that their mistakes are not allowed to escalate out of control. This close supervision is required whatever the Participation project is.

I quite often hear workers discussing the Young Leader possibility and coming to the conclusion it is about doing themselves out of a job. Just because you have a successful Young Leaders programme running does not mean you can hand your responsibilities over to the young people. Participation is like any other activity you may run at your club or project it needs adequate supervision to ensure it is safe and suitable.

Want to know more? Call us on 01962 852307.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

If you want to discuss any of the topics included here or have a topic you'd like us to include in a future edition of the Newsletter please call us on 01962 852307 or email fo.ychiow@ukonline.co.uk.

Should Youth Workers Join In With A Football Game?

This is a commonly asked question and one which requires a number of different factors to be considered. First and foremost there is the question of adequate supervision. When you take on a Duty of Care for the young people who attend your youth club, group or project this includes ensuring you provide adequate supervision at all time in order to ensure the safety of the group. If you are running around on a football pitch you simply are not able to also supervise the young people taking part in the game.

You should also consider undertaking a full Risk Assessment of a football game that includes both young and adult players. Generally adults are considerably larger than most young people and a collision on the pitch between a youth worker and a young person could result in some pretty nasty injuries; its really not a fair match in this sense.

It is also worth reviewing the role of the adults in the scenario. As well as have a supervisory role, the youth worker's role is to work with the young people. Amongst other things, you are there to provide support and enable the young people's personal and social development, you facilitate the social interaction between the different individuals and groups you work with and you identify and challenge any negative or inappropriate behaviour. Whilst a game of football might seem like fun, is it really the most appropriate and effective use of the often short amounts of time we have available to us to work with these young people?

Many of these issues should be considered in relation to any activity you provide for the young people you work with, not just football and it is up to each individual club, group or project to make their own decision about whether or not their adult youth workers take part in the activities offered for the young people.

Workshops and Instructors; What to Consider

In order to expand the activities we are able to offer young people, we might want to utilise some of the skills of our staff team or go down the route of getting someone in from outside the organisation. But is it okay to do this and what things do you need to consider?

Insurance Considerations: If you are going to offer an activity that is classified as hazardous by your insurance company it is important that you check what their requirements are otherwise your insurance may not cover you. They might require the person leading the activity to have a particular qualification or the equipment to meet a certain standard. You should also consider who is liable if there is an insurance claim, is it your organisation or is it the instructor (in which case are they adequately insured?). A further aspect to consider is whether you feel that the person leading the activity is suitable experienced and capable to do so in a safe manner.

Visitor Policy: It is a good idea to have a visitor policy so that you and your colleagues know what procedure to follow when outside instructors and other visitors come along. This might include ensuring that they do not have unsupervised access to young people during their visit and how to go about verifying their identity to check they are who they claim to be. A visit log-book is also an option so you keep a record of who has visited and when.

Remember, our primary responsibility is for the safety and wellbeing of the young people we work with.



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TAILOR-MADE TRAINING TO MEET YOUR NEEDS

Throughout your time working with young people in a youth club, group or setting you are likely to come across a range of different challenges and issues as well as needing to keep yourself up to date with current legislation, guidance and best practice.

Our training offers an affordable and flexible way to meet your training needs to help ensure that the young people of Hampshire, Portsmouth, Southampton and the Isle of Wight are provided with the high quality youth work they deserve.

Many of our members are taking us up on our offer to come and deliver training for them 'in house'. There's a wide range of courses to choose from which can be tailor made to meet the needs of you and your colleagues. Each course can be run over 2-3 hours or a more in depth course lasting a full day can be provided.

Here are just some of the courses we have on offer.

Positively Challenging Negative Behaviour

Peer Education

Breaking the Ice with Young People

Planning, Doing and Reviewing Youth Work

Child Protection and Confidentiality

Icebreakers and Games

You and Young Leaders

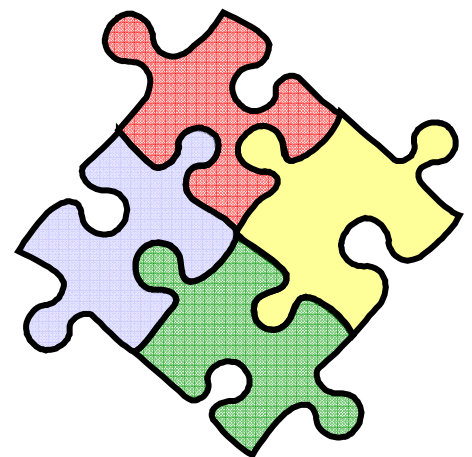
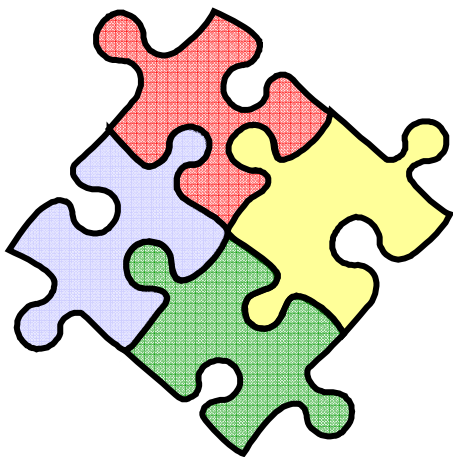
What is Youth Work? An Introduction

Accrediting Young People's Contributions

Getting Young People Involved

Going Off-Site and Doing Residentials

Risk Assessments



If you don't see a course listed that meets your needs, please call us and we will work with you to identify appropriate training.

For more information you can download our training brochure from our website, www.ychiow.org.uk. If you'd like to talk to us about any of our training or to discuss your training needs give us a call on 01962 852307 or email fo.ychiow@ukonline.co.uk.

- **STOP PRESS: Participation Resources are available free to download from <http://www.participationworks.org.uk/resources> along with their 'How To...' guides.**