

## Youth Adaptation

### UNIT 6

### COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND HEALTH

#### Unit 6: SUMMARY OUTLINE

<b>Exercise Number</b>	<b>Exercise</b>	<b>Alterations/Suggestions</b>	<b>Alternative Exercises/ Handouts</b>
1	Recap from Unit 4 and Introduction to Unit 5	Take a bit more time to ensure key messages from Unit 5 have been learned	None
2	A Historical Perspective	Get them to identify the major events rather than use Handout provided	
3	Dimensions of Community Development	See notes	<b>AH 1 AH 2 AH 3</b>
4	A Community Development Approach	None	None
5	Group Project	None	None
6	Recap and Summary	Take time to ensure key messages understood	None

## **Unit 6: Additional Summary Notes**

Using youth related case studies makes this Unit more interesting and relevant for young people. It also helps highlight to students what could be achieved by participating in community action.

### **Exercise 1: Recap from Unit 5 and Introduction to Unit 6**

Try to spend a bit more time than normal on this exercise to ensure key messages have been learned.

### **Exercise 2: The Historical Perspective**

You will probably need to bring this up-to-date with events over the past 20 years or so. It's a good idea to ask the young people what they feel are the major events from their perspective. This could be done a one large group or several smaller groups

### **Exercise 3: Dimensions of Community Development**

To help young people explore the dimensions of community development we have introduced three new *case studies*:

- BMX Bike Park **AH 1**
- Lambeth Youth Council **AH 2**
- Street Vibe Youth Inclusion **AH 3**

### **Exercise 4: A Community Development Approach**

Run this exercise as normal with the group.

### **Exercise 5: Group Project (planning)**

Run this exercise as normal with the group.

### **Exercise 6: Recap and Summary**

Try to spend a bit more time than normal on this exercise to ensure key messages have been learned.

### **Exercise 3**

#### **Prince's Park BMX Skate park**

Prince's Park BMX skate park was formally opened in July 2005, following two years work by young people, supported by an area youth worker, to secure this facility as part of a community initiative to improve the park. The core group involved around 12 local boys aged 13 – 15, all keen BMX riders. The local community identified the improvement of the park as a priority in the 2001 Community Action Plan. It had become run down and there was a strong feeling that it should once again become the hub of the community.

Local young people had already identified the need for a BMX skate park, and formed the BMX Bandits to achieve this. They started a campaign to secure funding and an appropriate site. They approached the local community health worker and neighbourhood manager and area youth worker, who offered support.

During the two years it took to secure the skate park young people undertook activities supported by the area youth worker. They formed themselves in to the BMX Bandits, a group with its own constitution, in 2003. Group members joined the Parks and Open Space Group, a sub group of the Local Community Council. They were also trained with adult members in consultation approaches. Then they consulted local young people through distributing flyers and running focus groups and helped evaluate the findings of the consultation. They made regular reports to the Community Council committee, and raised a total of £23,000 for the project themselves, as well as helping put together an application to the big lottery.

The bandits have been involved in every stage of the project, from the initial ideas to the continuing development of the site, including fundraising, budgeting, design and negotiation. They also organised the celebration at the opening of the skate park and undertook a monitoring role once the park was open.

Local high school pupils had also chosen to design and manufacture their own ramps as part of GCSE design and technology and their increase knowledge and practical skills helped to make this project a successful partnership.

Young people have gained a range of skills including planning, consultation, fundraising, budgeting, art and design and giving presentations.

Since its opening in 2005, the BMX Park has been used nonstop. Crime and anti-social behaviour has been reduced, and the park has become the main meeting point for young people to take part in constructive activities. Other local residents have come to appreciate the skills and expertise of the riders. One parent commented "this has really brought the community together and is the best thing that has happened in a long time.

The Parks and Open space group followed a simple approach of:

- Consult and involved the community, including children and young people
- Develop a vision and action plan
- Keep the community informed
- Deliver what has been promised
- Celebrate achievements
- Learn together

Investing in young people has been the key to the regeneration process.

### Exercise 3

#### **Lambeth Youth Council, Lambeth Council**

Lambeth Youth Council was established in 2002 to involve young people in improving local services and policy, and to encourage them to become community leaders. One hundred black and minority ethnic young people aged 11-24 are involved in the youth council. It is open to all young people with an interest in community development and there is an equal gender mix.

The youth council was established following the continued involvement of a group of young people in local authority events. More members were recruited via outreach work and word of mouth. Although the youth council meets weekly to discuss issues, their work is more project-focused. They currently have three main areas of work: the Peer Inspection project, the Teenage Pregnancy Peer Education project and the Stop and Search project. The young people involved in these projects receive a variety of relevant external training and receive payment and accreditation (either through the Youth Achievement Award or Millennium Award) for their work.

Video consultations and questionnaires are also carried out with a wide range of young people within Lambeth. Eight young people have recently been elected as youth executive members whose role is to shadow councillors and highlight issues raised within the youth council meetings.

Lambeth Council have demonstrated a commitment to participation through their provision of funding and work with the youth council. The latter feels that it has considerable access to all council services and councillors. The youth council budget includes money for staffing, resources, publicity and payments for the young people. There are three full-time project workers and an administrator to facilitate the youth council's work. Participation is emphasised in Lambeth Council's Youth and Play Service Strategy and in youth service staff training. Youth council staff receive

internal training (involving youth council members), as well as external training about participation.

The youth council's work is highly visible within the community (local newspapers as well as youth council information) and this publicity highlights the positive work undertaken by the young people. All work undertaken is evaluated by participants.

Initiatives undertaken by the Youth Council include;

- a direct improvement in services for young people in Lambeth (e.g. better sex education in schools, improved training for police officers, improved youth projects)
- improving awareness of the benefits of involving children and young people within the council

“Previously certain Councillors were wary of involving children and young people. Now they want to, and appreciate that the young people are not there just to complain but to work together to find positive solutions” **(Youth council development worker)**

Peer inspection is now built into the quality assessment framework of the Youth and Play Service resulting in increased self-confidence, skill development and work experience for young people.

“More than words can describe, the personal development has been first class” **(Young person)**

In overall terms there is a greater willingness by a variety of decision-making bodies (e.g. the local strategic partnership, area committees) to engage with and involve young people.

## **Exercise 3**

### **Street Vibe Youth Inclusion Project**

Street Vibe works with young people between 13 and 25, particularly the most disadvantaged. It engages around 150 young people a week through detached and outreach work.

It has three strands including a mobile youth bus/outreach facility, detached youth work and youth affairs. The youth affairs strand aims to involve young people in the regeneration of Braunstone estate through the involvement in a youth panel, youth forums and consultation events. The youth panel administers the Youth Action Fund, which provides young people with small grants for activities and initiatives. A young people steering group helps run the project to ensure that its programme meetings the needs of young people in Braunstone.

Research, which was carried out by trained young residents, sought views from children and young people about their views about Braunstone and how the New Deal for Communities (NDC) regeneration money should be spent. It highlighted the need for young people to be included in the heart of regeneration, including formal decision making structures. Street Vibe was formed to co-ordinate youth provision within this framework.

Street Vibe uses outreach and detached work to contact and build relationships with young people. Street Vibe youth inclusion strategy has been developed to provide an opportunity for young people to become involved at different levels in line with the ladder of participation. It uses a peer education approach enabling young people to pass on their skills to new generations of young people.

The youth affairs strand aims to engage young people in regeneration activity, promote equality and provide training and support to help young people be more involved in decisions that affect their lives. The youth panel allows young people's views to be heard on developments in Braunstone, the city of Leicester and throughout Leicestershire. After the youth panel raised concerns about the lack of provision for children aged between 8 and 13 on the estate, the City Council has included this issue on its strategic plans. The panel feed into Leicester City Youth Council and one member sits on the UK Youth Parliament.

The youth action fund administered by the youth panel makes grants of between £50 and £500 for activities which will benefit young people and the community, to young people (individuals or groups) aged 13 to 25 for the NDC area.

Young people are involved in all aspects of the design, delivery, and evaluation of service provision through representation on the street vibe steering group. The youth inclusion training programme provides personal and social development opportunities for all local young people. Those who take a more active role in the projects are offered opportunities to develop skills in areas such as negotiation, decision making and leadership and improve knowledge on issues such as equal opportunities and sexual health.

The partnership has promoted a joined up approach to youth provision in line with Leicester City Council strategic plan, through joint training development of a detached youth work strategy and city council youth workers involvement in outreach provision.