



Young People's Newsletter

Young people went to see Jack Straw MP in his surgery at Little Harwood Centre and asked him some questions regarding the issues which young people are concerned about.

Please turn to page 2 and read more about our meeting with Jack Straw.



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St Thomas School working in
partnership with young people**

VISIT OUR WEB SITE



www.accyrdyouthclub.org.uk

Jack Straw Surgery

**EVERY CHILD MATTERS LEARNING OUTCOMES
BEING HEALTHY, STAY SAFE, ENJOY & ACHIEVE,
ACHIEVING CONOMIC WELL-BEING,
MAKING A POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION,
ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP & COMMUNITY COHESION**



We went to see Jack straw at his surgery in Little Harwood Community Centre. We wanted to ask him a few questions regarding our youth centre. We asked him, “ what is the future of our youth centre, is it going to close down or not?” “Is there any funding available for this centre, and if there is then why is no one spending any money on this building?”

We also wanted to know if the community centre does get closed down then where will all the young people go. Will they be provided with an alternative building because at the moment young people are being blamed for committing street crimes. If they end up with no place to go to then they will have less opportunity to take part in positive activities and the community will lose the opportunity to interact with young people.

Jack Straw told us that “at the moment the centre is going to stay open”, and he will look into the centre having some funding so the building can be upgraded as it has been neglected over the past few years.

Neighbourhood Voices

EVERY CHILD MATTERS LEARNING OUTCOMES



MAKING
A
POSITIVE
CONTRIBUTION

STAY SAFE

ENJOY
&
ACHIEVE

ACTIVE
CITIZENSHIP
&
COMMUNITY
COHESION

Young people were invited to the Neighbourhood Voices meeting at Blakewater College to discuss the issues of south east area.

Everyone took part in table top discussions about the issues which were raised last year in the meeting and how many improvements the council had made since then. They also talked about any concerns which young people raised, and about the new improvements to be made and what needs to be looked at.

The ideas emerging from the workshops will strengthen the next Neighbourhood Plan and will influence decision making regarding Neighbourhood Board funding and priority setting.

So hopefully the issues raised by the young people will be acted upon so improving the provision of services and amenities for young people which will make the efforts of our young people worthwhile.

Youth Bank Panel

Cash 4 U



EVERY CHILD MATTERS LEARNING OUTCOMES

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The Young Women's Forum who are based at Accrington Road Community Centre have successfully achieved the status of a Youth Bank.

This involved a lot of preparatory work in ensuring that all the paperwork and procedures were in place to ensure the smooth running if the youth bank.

The group received £5000 to distribute in the South East area to projects which they considered met the criteria which they had set. This involved a day long session assessing the many applications and deciding which one's would receive the funding.

This is a complex process that ensures the group distribute the money equitably and ensures the process is transparent.

12 groups were awarded up to £500 for a variety of projects. Well Done everyone.

Community Cohesion Activity

ECM LEARNING OUTCOMES

BEING HEALTHY, ENJOY & ACHIEVE,
ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP & COMMUNITY COHESION



Little Harwood Youth Centre and Kaleidoscope Youth Project are taking part in a project to raise awareness on different communities by working together as a group. The aim is for both groups to visit the centres which the groups attend, to take part in healthy cooking, and also cooking food from different countries which they have never made before.

The groups are also taking part in physical activities such as 5 a side mini football games and indoor games to help them with building relationships and to promote community cohesion between the two areas where young people come from.

This project will help to break down stereotypes and any judgemental views or opinions which both groups might have about each other and hopefully enjoy themselves and make new friends.



Benitez tactics working



Having fun on the grass on a sunny day



Group photo of both youth centres



All dietary requirements catered for

Young people and staff from Little Harwood would like to say a BIG THANK YOU to the young people and staff from Kaleidoscope for the various trips and projects that have been happening in the last year

Boys Mental Health Project Residential



EVERY CHILD MATTERS LEARNING OUTCOMES
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CONTRIBUTION,
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Learning Outcomes

By
Young People



POSITIVES

- Young people and staff worked together
- Young people expressing some of their personal experiences around problems with mental well being
- Doing the outdoor activities I.e. Abseling, rock climbing and night/day line
- No fighting or bullying between different young people over the weekend
- Group work done in a simple and easy to understand way
- Young people being able to find out more on staff's personal lives
- Good to get out of Blackburn with our friends
- Everybody taking part in the indoor and outdoor activities
- Staying up most of the night and having fun
- When doing group work around mental well being nice to share some of staff's past experiences
- No young people getting told of by centre staff people for being noisy and disruptive
- Knowing some of the role models and superstars have had problems with their mental health I.e. Around depression, death of a loved one, anorexia and how the big names did not cope

WHAT WE LEARNT

Learnt different ways how to help somebody Who is suffering from mental health problem

Learning new indoor and outdoor skills

Also learnt different types of depression that people suffer from

Learnt how to except people with mental health problems and how to not make them an outcast

Learnt more about staff and our friends who Have suffered with problems around mental health

Learnt were and who to get help from when your suffering from mental health problems

We also learnt how legal and illegal drugs can be linked with your mental well being

Learnt about Carl Rogers and personal centered counselling

We learnt the difference between self harm and suicide

Learnt what terminology not to use to who are suffering from mental health issues

We learnt about independent living

We learnt how to work as a group

SHABS CORNER

**DON'T MAKE PROMISE WHEN YOUR'E IN JOY..
DON'T REPLY WHEN YOU ARE SAD..
DON'T TAKE DECISIONS WHEN YOU ARE ANGRY..
THINK TWICE, ACT WISE.**

INFORMATION CORNER

Blackburn with Darwen Young People's
Service

Tel: (01254) 694643

YOUTHORG www.youth.org.uk

DRUGSCOPE www.drugscope.org.uk

BULLYING www.scre.ac.uk/bully

SEXUAL HEALTH
www.likeitis.org.uk

BROOK ADVISORY CENTRE
www.brook.org.uk

BLACKBURN with DARWEN YOUTH
FORUM
www.bwdyouthforum.com

BwD HEALTHY LIVING
www.bwdhealthyliving.co.uk

Accrington Road Community Centre
Accrington Road
Blackburn
BB1 2AF

Tel No: (01254) 56120

MONDAY 6-9.30pm Open Youth Club

WEDNESDAY 6-9.30pm Open Youth Club

THURSDAY 5-8.30pm Young Women's
Forum

FRIDAY 2-4pm NEET project (job search)

FRIDAY 6-9.30pm Boys Group/Mental Health
Project

JOB SEEKING AT THE YOUTH CLUB
EVERY MONDAY AND WEDNESDAY
WITH STAFF.

THANKS TO SHABS, MOHAMMED AND KIRAN FOR DESIGNING AND THE
YOUNG PEOPLE FOR CONTRIBUTING TO THIS NEWSLETTER

St Thomas's School

Pupil Referral Unit

Working in partnership with Young People's Service

Young people's service and PRU work in partnership in providing informal education to young people every Wednesday and Thursday from 12.30pm till 3.30pm.

Shabs and Anne work with the group on Wednesday providing a variety of topics.

The unit, which has 120 pupils aged from 11 to 16, teaches children who have short term medical needs, mental health needs, those who have been excluded from school, pregnant teenagers and teenage mothers.

It also provides daily education to children in Royal Blackburn Hospital.

The latest Ofsted report said that "St Thomas's is a good centre with many strengths and where pupils with a wide range of needs are well catered for. "It has a good and well deserved reputation in the local authority for its flexible, fast and positive response to vulnerable, disaffected and challenging pupils.

"Pupils' enjoyment of, and participation in, the opportunities available to them contrast sharply with their previous negative responses and poor attendance."

Grade 2 scores were given in all four categories which are the overall effectiveness of the school, its achievement and standards, personal development and well-being, and the quality of the school.

"Parents and carers readily acknowledge the impact of the centre on improving youngsters' behaviour, attitudes and achievements."



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Hajj and Mosque

Young people from St Thomas School visited Jamia Mosque as part of a project to have a look at why Muslims go to the mosque to pray and what a mosque looks like from the inside.

The group saw the leader do the ablution (wudhu) before they entered into the main part of the mosque, they were then given a tour of the mosque, the group saw where the Imam stands when he reads out the call to prayer (azaan), and the room where they read the namaaz daily five times a day.

The group also saw the room where young people go in the evening to do their prayers and what equipment they use to sit down and the bench where they put the Holy Quran on to read.

The group enjoyed themselves as it was their first time in a mosque and had no idea to what it would be like or what they are allowed to do or not in a mosque.

Active Citizenship & Community Cohesion & Staying Safe



We are took part in group work activity around hajj, the pilgrimage to Mecca in Saudia Arabia, which Muslims have to go on at least once in their lifetime if they can afford to go.



Part of our group work was also visiting a mosque, so we all went together and had a tour and looked at how people have to enter a mosque when they go to do their prayers.



It was very interesting to see the mosque because we have never been in a mosque before and it was nice to see what it looks like in the inside.





Ofsted Inspections

6 ECM LEARNING OUTCOMES

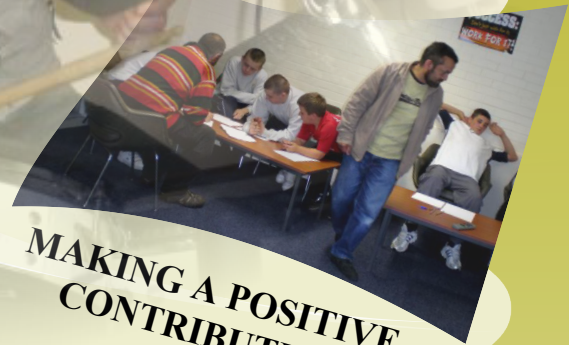
BEING HEALTHY, STAY SAFE, ENJOY & ACHIEVE, ACHIEVING ECONOMIC WELL-BEING, MAKING A POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION, ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP & COMMUNITY COHESION

St Thomas School young people's service provision was inspected by Ofsted who look at how the activities are young people led and how young people participate in the sessions.

Young people showed the inspectors the wide range of activities and topics that they have been involved with. The activities included healthy cooking, group work topics on sexual health and other various subjects which the group took part in.



**STAY
SAFE**



**MAKING A POSITIVE
CONTRIBUTION**



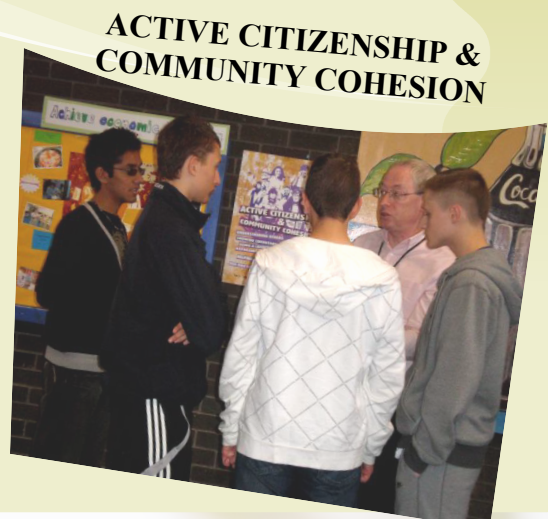
**BEING
HEALTHY
&
ECONOMIC
WELL BEING**



Young people and inspectors taking part in group discussions on activities which have taken place



**ENJOY
&
ACHIEVE**



**ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP &
COMMUNITY COHESION**



Group work

Auction game around the difference between a need and a want

Young people taking part in an activity around making decisions on what they think is right and wrong and what they look at when they say they need something and want something.

The group read out statements and had to differentiate between a need and a want, many young people find this difficult because they have not learnt to differ gratification.

Dealing with this issue is difficult for young people and they have to learn how to look forward to pleasures rather than have them satisfied straight away.

The group found it difficult to work with the two words, need and want as they have never been challenged to think about what is the difference between the two.



**What do you think is
the difference
between a
Need and a Want?**



St Thomas School Girls

Young girls from St Thomas school are participating in different activities during the session they do with youth workers once a week.

The girls have an opportunity to choose what they are interested in doing and they also learn, at the same time, that they also have to apply for funding for these things to happen.

The girls have difficulties in attending mainstream schools and they aim of the sessions is to give them a wider range of interests and develop responsibility for their actions.



**ENJOY
&
ACHIEVE**



LEARNING NEW SKILLS



**STAY
SAFE**



Girls enjoying themselves in different activities



**MAKING
A
POSITIVE
CONTRIBUTION**



**BEING
HEALTHY**



ECM LEARNING OUTCOMES

BEING HEALTHY, STAY SAFE, ENJOY & ACHIEVE, ACHIEVING ECONOMIC WELL-BEING, MAKING A POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION, ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP & COMMUNITY COHESION



BEING HEALTHY & STAYING SAFE



Most of the young people have never cooked for themselves before so they were shown how to make samosas and pizzas.

The group made the samosas from the basic ingredients making the pastry from scratch, rolling out and cutting out the strips. They then filled them with the meat and vegetable filling which they had also made.

They found the whole process of making samosas very fascinating and have asked to make them again.

The group also made pizzas from basic ingredients using a variety of toppings. Many of the young people have never been in a kitchen before and had no idea how to prepare basic food.

One of them had never cut an onion and did not know how it was peeled and making pastry was a completely new experience for them.

St Thomas School young people (PRU) working with staff from Young People's Service Shabs and Ann. The ice skating trip was a good learning activity where it built young people's self esteem and confidence. It also showed young people supporting one another before starting the activity, during the activity on the ice and after when it finished.



MAKING A POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION & ENJOY & ACHIEVE



Sexual health awareness activity

Young people are taking part in an activity on risk taking behaviour. They had to try and use a condom, opening it and checking the date whilst wearing beer glasses (which distort your vision),they then had to try and fit the condom onto a model.

This was all aimed at showing them how difficult it can be to perform these tasks whilst under the influence of drink or drugs. The group had a discussion about how illegal substances can effect your judgement and lead you into making wrong choices.



**Making a
Positive
contribution**



**Enjoy
&
Achieve**



**Active Citizenship &
Community Cohesion**



**Being
Healthy**



**Staying
Safe**

ST THOMAS SCHOOL YOUNG PEOPLE

Working in partnership with Shabs and Ann from Young People's service



Young People would like to say a Big Thank You to Shabs and Ann who have made informal education fun for us and giving us one to one support