

## Ideas for next steps

- Consult young people in your area for their views
- Look for potential volunteers to help out
- Identify suitable spaces in your area
- Source any necessary funding

From our Needs Assessments we found that it is desirable to involve young people in the recruitment of volunteers as they will then be more receptive to helping make the project a success. This will also help when trying to provide personal and social education opportunities for the young people as they will have more respect for the person communicating the messages.

Consideration should be given to how you raise awareness of existing and new services for young people as this will encourage greater levels of participation. Transport to and from activities remains an issue particularly in many rural communities. Is there a community solution to take the young people to the activity or could you bring the activity to the young people?

## Further case studies

If you have something to celebrate from your community please contact us on the email address below.

## Contacts

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# Guide to Local Action for Children and Young People



## Introduction & background

### **Needs Assessments are a process of understanding and measuring the needs of people.**

The Something to Do and Rural Isolation Needs Assessments looked at providing activities for young people. We spoke to over 100 young people and many professionals to find out the best ways to give teenagers positive and enjoyable things to do.

This guide is intended as a starting point for local communities who want to take action in helping provide for young people in their areas, based on our findings and the experiences of community groups, both locally and nationally. We hope to give you inspiration and ideas for your projects, along with contacts who can give you the benefit of their experience in providing successful youth provision within their communities.

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## Case studies

### **Harbury BMX Track and Skate Ramp**

Volunteers in Harbury, led by a Parish Councillor, consulted young people via on-the-spot interviews. Young people were involved in designing the BMX track and skate ramp throughout the process and, along with the volunteers, raised funds from all available sources. Volunteers commissioned plans and sought planning permission for the track and ramp. They were able to secure a guarantee from the Parish Council to maintain the equipment after the project finished. Through village dedication, young people were provided with sustainable solutions within their community.

Please contact Councillor Janet Thornley on 01926 612688 if you would like to know more.

### **Hurley Project**

Young people in Hurley made a request to the Local Community Association for youth provision. Young people were assisted by the Integrated Youth Support Service (IYSS) in obtaining a grant which was used by the IYSS along with local volunteers to provide a programme based on the young people's needs. As a result a six month positive activities programme was provided every Friday evening. The programme is now continuing with street-based youth work provision on Monday evenings and residential, one of which took place in April 2011. Friday night provision is currently offered by the Rural Mobile project & North Warwickshire Borough Council.

For more information contact Cheryl Jones, IYSS 01926 413936

### **North Warwickshire NEETS & Pre- NEETS Intervention for Transport (Not in Education, Employment or Training)**

A partnership programme was set up to provide information, advice and guidance on transport issues. Transport costs had been raised as a key issue for 16+. A joint bid was made for £6,000 to support young people and families and a grant was received from the Sustainable Community Strategy fund for £1,500 per Area Forum to support young people's transport costs for post 16 education. This now means that young people can access post 16 education without having to worry about transport costs, which would not have been possible without this grant.

For more information contact Cheryl Jones, IYSS 01926 413936

## Case studies

### Castle Farm Skate Park in Kenilworth

A group of young people from Kenilworth Youth & Community Centre approached youth workers about the disrepair of the skate-park and lack of lighting. The young people wrote a funding application to the Youth Opportunity Fund and delivered a presentation to the Community Forum. The forum awarded a grant of £5,000 to help towards the cost of installing lighting in the area. In September 2010 the skaters approached the Youth & Community Centre's management committee asking for financial assistance to fund a calendar picturing themselves in different locations around Kenilworth. They received support from a local professional photographer and the money raised was put towards their cause. After 18 months of campaigning and fundraising, the skaters are beginning to realise their dream. Work has started on repairs and adjustments to the park and planning permission has been granted to install the lights, giving them a place to go all year round.

Anna Stowe - (01926) 498088  
IYSS Locality Coordinator for Warwick, Kenilworth & Rural West

### Monday Night Project

Nuneaton & Bedworth Leisure Trust's Youth Contact Team consulted with the young people in their area. After securing funds from key partners, Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council, Warwickshire Respect Yourself Campaign, Learning Skills Council, Warwickshire Youth Offending Service, Nuneaton and Bedworth Safer Communities Partnership, Serious Organized Crime Agency (S.O.C.A.) and Connexions the team started the project in March 2010. Workshops are delivered on subjects such as substance misuse, relationships and sexual education, anti-social behaviour. Young people are now fully integrated into the management of the project and are being encouraged to become a voice in their community by attending resident group forums and neighbourhood watch meetings. This project in its first year assisted in reducing anti-social behaviour by 23.9%.

Stuart Gealy - Youth, Community & Schools Manager  
Nuneaton & Bedworth Leisure Trust - Tel: 02476 400593

## Aims

**From consultation and research we identified a number of aims which we feel youth provision should seek to achieve:**

- Bring together different age groups within the community
- Involve young people in talking about what is best for them
- Provide role models to young people
- Communicate with young people creatively, using technology
- Include young people in worker recruitment
- Involve young people in fundraising
- Provide better access to services
- Raise awareness of services
- Repair existing equipment
- Provide personal and social education opportunities
- Create or develop neutral spaces to socialise in a positive way
- Bid for funding jointly as a community
- Provide transport, in rural areas
- Provide sustainable solutions
- Tackle anti-social behaviour
- Reach those most in need

## Ideas to consider

### Neutral spaces

We found from speaking to people in communities that it is important to use an area which is not seen as being owned by any group, younger or older, to avoid disturbing residents and to avoid any sense that there is a dispute in ownership of areas.

### Youth Shelters

One way of developing a neutral space is to commission a youth shelter. From our needs assessments we have come up with some suggestions on desirable features of a youth shelter:

- Should provide coverage against weather from all sides
- Can be customised with young people's designs
- Can be equipped with solar-powered radios to provide entertainment
- Should be located where they are accessible to young people, in a neutral space where there is ambient lighting
- Should be resistant to cutting and burning
- Are best placed on tarmac for stability
- Should be positioned near a waste bin
- Be maintained throughout their lifetime

Please refer to your planning department for further guidance.

There are lots of things to consider if you want to start a local children, youth or community group in your area. This includes setting up your group, recruiting and training volunteers, keeping children and young people safe, fund-raising and linking into other groups for help and support. For further information and help in developing projects please contact: Warwickshire Children and Voluntary Youth Services 01926 413611 ; [wcvys@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:wcvys@warwickshire.gov.uk) ; [www.warkscvys.org.uk](http://www.warkscvys.org.uk) or Warwickshire Community and Voluntary Action; [www.wcava.org.uk](http://www.wcava.org.uk); [information@wcava.org.uk](mailto:information@wcava.org.uk)



## Case studies

### Bishops Itchington Bluebell Café and Youth Club

Residents in Bishops Itchington addressed issues of anti-social behaviour, including vandalism, by forming a community youth project. They consulted with young people in the village and identified the need for activities with a youth club. The volunteers negotiated with the Royal Legion to use their building as a venue for the club. This provided a place for young people to gather without disturbing other residents in two age groups, 11-13 and 14-18. Many activities are provided at the club, including DJing sessions, jewellery sessions, pottery and cooking lessons and football sessions for 13 to 18 year olds. Volunteers also liaised with local businesses who donated goods to facilitate this provision.

Adults who volunteer in the youth club are able to act as role models to young people by providing positive examples of behaviour.

Funds were raised with help from young people and matched funding from the Parish Council, along with grants and the Bluebell Café. The café is staffed mainly by volunteers, but also employs a paid worker and a cleaner and maintenance worker.

Please contact Councillor Michelle Tuerena on 01926 613117 for more details.

### Polesworth Neighbourhood Watch

Increased levels of anti social behaviour, including underage drinking, rowdy nuisance behaviour and setting small fires in Polesworth led residents to take action. Local people formed a Neighbourhood Watch group to work in partnership with the Community Safety Project and Warwickshire Police. In Polesworth East from March 2009 to March 2011, reported anti social behaviour incidents involving young people reduced by 42%.

For more information on the Community Safety Project please contact Nadine Dransfield, Project Team Leader on 02476 483163.