**Southside Report: October 2014**

We remain grateful for the involvement of local people and other agencies in the Friends of Southside group and the support that they offer to the Youth Hub. The following is a report of activities at the hub over the last 6 months:

**Summer Activities:** As well as activities away from the hub like: trips to the seaside, fishing trip, 5 aside tournament, kayaking and numerous BBQ’s with the City Farm etc., we also managed to keep the hub for universal services on two nights a week throughout the summer. It is estimated that over 50 young people took part in organised summer activities and well over 70 different young people continued to use our universal services throughout the summer.

**Partnering Bath Rugby:** We really value this partnership as it enables us to keep our gym open 3 nights a week and the recent ‘door steps programme’ also means that young people are able to try out a range of fitness/outdoor activities that they might otherwise miss. The Hitz programme was a great help in the summer when they hosted a urban sports event.

**Partnering Sporting families:** This enables us to introduce drama and sporting activities to local families throughout the summer. There was limited take up but the basis for a good future working partnership.

**Universal Services:** In line with B&NES strategic direction we continue to provide 2 nights a week of Youth activities for 11-19’s from 7-9 pm. These are popular nights (especially in the winter) and attract between 30 – 60 young people a week. The nature of these evenings is that they are open to all and young people are engaging with us on a voluntary basis – this is invaluable when it comes to engaging in more targeted work with individuals over issues and concerns that they face.

**Targeted work:** This includes small group work (like our Thursday night Project) as well as one to one work. Local schools and other agencies are referring into this work and I estimate that we are working with at least 30-40 young people in this way. This work requires careful assessment and may also lead to work with other agencies.

**The Hub Café:** This is going from strength to strength with a range of new menus and increased use by local people – particularly young mums. Café staff are also supporting us in our project night and are providing party deals for local people. The café are also recruiting vulnerable young people through apprentice and school placements.

**Training volunteers:** We have organised a residential training weekend for young leaders in Devon which was funded by the police and was very successful – report available on request. We have also run 2 B&NES wide volunteer training sessions on Saturday mornings – 12 people attended each session and we have covered: understanding youth work, challenging behaviour and communication theory. These will continue on a quarterly basis.

**Music Project:** Through a partnership with Bath Festival we have secured a worker for 2 days a week to build on our work with local young people (particularly those with challenging needs/issues) in terms of the use of music. Take up and referral from other agencies is very high.

**Outreach/Detached youth work:** Using funding from CURO and in partnership with the YMCA we now have 2 youth workers engaging with young people on the streets. They are forming relationships, responding to concerns and sign posting young people into local services.

**Bath City:** We have just secured a partnership with Bath City to provide ‘Mash it up’ a fun based football activity at Southside on Wednesday evenings.

**B.Creative:** This is a recent partnership that has led to 4 young apprentices being based at Southside to promote art in the locality. My ambition is that this partnership will lead to the redecoration of Southside with local artistic talent!

**BAPP family night:** We are open one night a week for local parents and children to use the hub. Very grateful to BAPP for this and we have managed to link up with Bath Spa Uni to recruit youth work trainee volunteers and B.Creative. About 30-50 people are using this group activity.

**Homework Club:** This is growing by the week! About 20 young people are working with Hayesfield teachers 2 nights a week on their homework.

**Community events:** We have helped other agencies to hold two community events recently with over 100-200 local people being involved. These have been highly successful and have led to good press coverage.

**Other uses of the hub:** First Steps continue to run a nursery one morning a week at Southside, social care use the premises for play therapy and a large number of other professionals visit the hub regularly. Seeds (an organisation with young people who have experienced domestic violence) are also based at the hub. Connecting families use our gym one evening a week. A Hindu group are about to start using the hub on Sundays. A large number of other agencies are booking and using the hub.

As you can see we have had a busy 6 months – all made possible because of the great efforts of staff, local people and partner agencies.

Dave Wiles (Integrated Youth Team Leader for Bath) 6.10.14