

## Stourbridge Area Committee

### Report of the Director of Children's Services

#### Youth Report

#### Purpose of Report

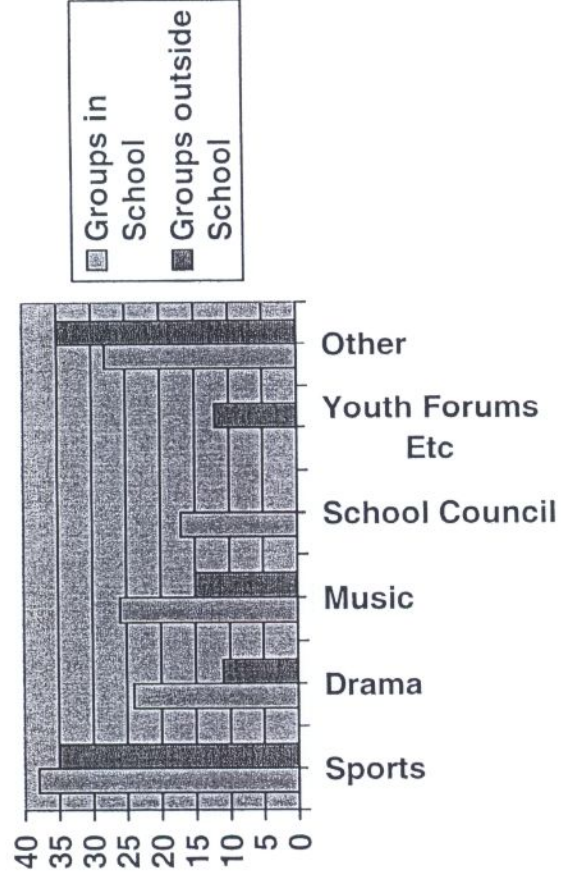
1. To update the Committee on Stourbridge Area Youth Forum known as "Young people for Stourbridge (Y.P.4.S)" and the Youth provision for the Stourbridge Area.

#### Background

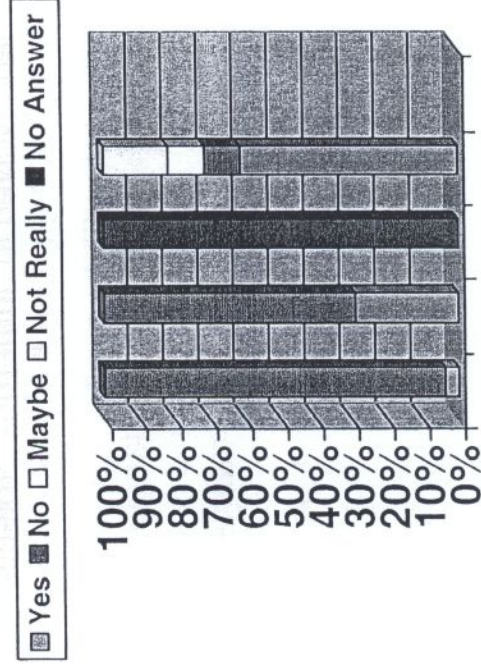
2. Y.P.4.S (Stourbridge Area Youth Forum) has been running for the past number of years and have been involved in numerous projects and events within Stourbridge and across the borough. The group is involved with the NHS "Kick Ash" programme which aims to prevent young people from smoking and alerting them to the dangers of smoking; YP4S bid for funding to implement creative and interactive workshops for young people to be made aware of the dangers of smoking which they where successful in receiving. The interactive workshops looked at 'what's in a cigarette, the effects of smoking and an informative quiz on facts around smoking'. The group implemented this programme along with animation work within 2 Stourbridge schools (Redhill & Thorns) with around 120 young people taken part which feedback from both the students and school was seen as positive where they stated the workshops where "well presented" and the students "had learnt something" on this area.

3. Y.P.4.S also received funding from the Youth Opportunities Fund to run a free music event for young people which was to celebrate their musical talents as well as a questionnaire to ascertain views from young people – see below;

## Leisure Activities



## Health & Information - Smoking



Able To Access Support to Quit

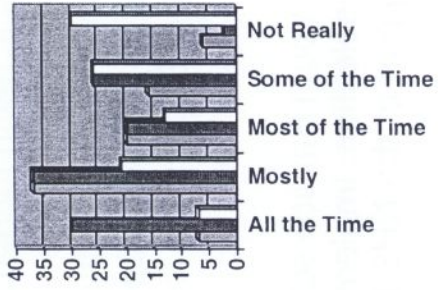
Number of Cigarettes Smoked

Friend Who Smoke

Smoker

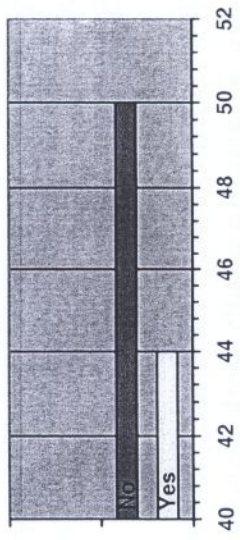
### Feeling Safe

In Stourbridge  At School  At Night



### Worried About Gangs in Stourbridge

Yes  No

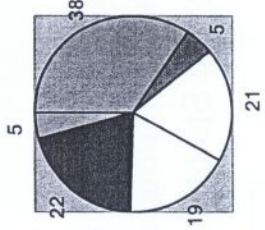
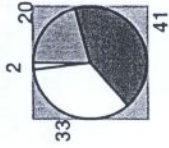


### Heard of These Groups?

- Dudley Youth Council
- Dudley Kick Ash
- United Kingdom youth Parliament
- Y.P.4.S
- The Stourbridge Educational Trust
- Youth Opportunities Fund

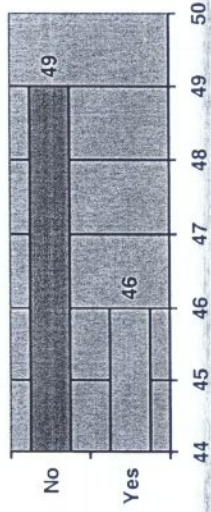
### Are There Enough Street Lights In Stourbridge?

Yes Plenty  Quite A Few  Not Enough  None



### Bullying at School

Yes  No

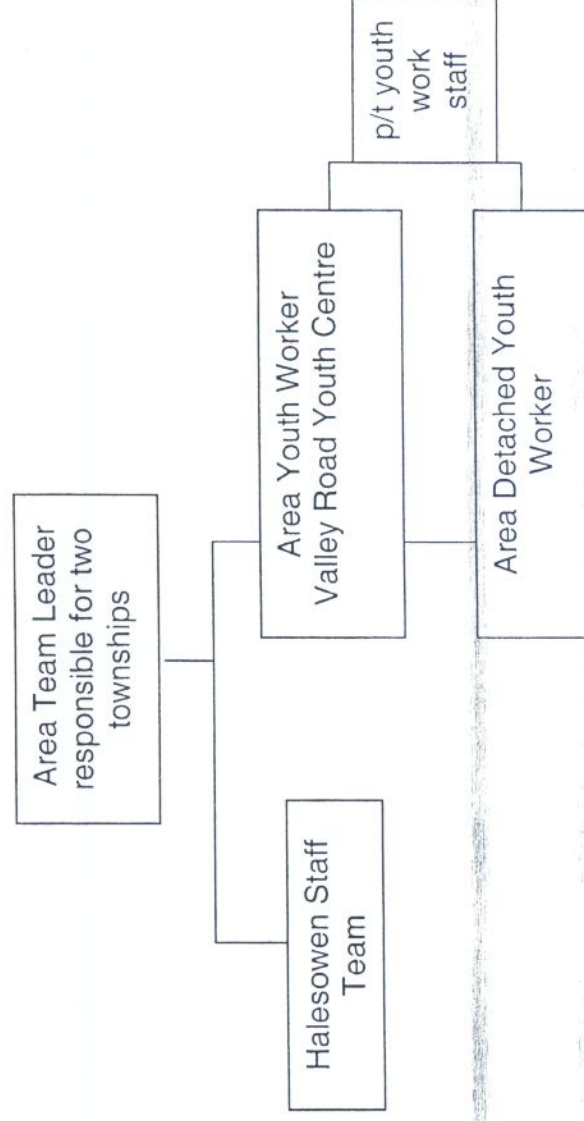


4. Following the success of this event and feedback from the young people who participated the group have now arranged another event which will take place during the October Half Term. This is being funded by Dudley Kick Ash and additional funding from O2 to advertise the event online but also to engage young people to become involved within their area. The group was also involved when the House of Commons Speaker came to Dudley where they put questions to the Speaker on issues that affect young people today.

5. Future plans for the group is to be part of the Youth Service self inspections process along with recruitment & selection. Implement a web design for NHS Dudley on alcohol, being part of the NHS Dudley "Stourbridge has Talent".

6. The Youth Service continues to deliver activities within the Stourbridge Area where the youth work delivery supports young people's personal and social development. Through the provision of a range of interventions including targeted support, signposting, strong social support networks that develop and strengthen resilience and access to safe and supportive environments to challenge and be challenged, young people are able to raise aspirations and to contribute to decision making amongst peers and the wider community. "... involvement in activities of this nature is having a significant impact on the confidence and self esteem of young people" Dudley Inspection of Safeguarding and looked after children January 2012.

7. Support to targeted groups of young people remains a priority as is provision to vulnerable groups. The following is the current youth service staff structure for the Stourbridge Area;



8. The current weekly youth service programme within the Stourbridge Area is:

Day	Time	Centre/Project/Club
Monday	6.30-9.30pm	Valley Road Youth Centre
Tuesday	6.00-9.00pm	Detached Youth Work
Wednesday	6.30-9.30pm	Valley Road Youth Centre (Disability session)
	6.00-9.00pm	Detached Youth Work
Thursday	6.30-9.30pm	Valley Road Youth Centre
	6.00-9.00pm	Detached Youth Work
Friday	6.30-9.30pm	Valley Road Youth Centre
	6.00-9.00pm	Detached Youth Work

9. Valley Road youth centre supports organisations such as KIDS Orchard, Barnardos, AZCN Group, Effective Play, APNA Group, Free time Care Services, Dudley MBC Social Services and Connexions to deliver their provision. At present Valley Road is working on around 70% occupancy rate which is over seven days;

10. A full time youth worker and some part time staff are trained to deliver workshops and run drop in sessions around sexual health and relationship education. The service and NHS Dudley co-manage the CCard system, a programme providing advice and condom distribution in none clinical settings. Through youth centres and alternative drop ins the service is the largest single agency operating the system. Stourbridge team is operating the C Card system at Valley Road Youth Centre and on detached sessions as well as a drop in at Mary Stevens Healthy Hub on a Friday evening with future plans for work at Lye Library.

11. The Stourbridge team has also implemented a work plan for the year and aims to be responsive to local need, in particular working closely with the Police in order to combat Anti Social Behaviour through detached youth work. It will be possible for young people and key partners to continue to contribute to the development of the identified actions. Other new work that the team will be undertaking is a music project with the Libraries – pilot project at Lye Library, Project work with the Arts Council & Dudley MBC Arts Development for a project called “Arts in the Void”.

14. In order to respond to Anti Social Behaviour within the area the Detached team attend PACT Meetings in order to inform the members of what the Youth Service is doing within the area but also to gather up to date information and identify current “Hot Spot” areas to work within.
15. The Youth Service has a long established commitment to youth participation including co-ordinating and supporting the United Kingdom Youth Parliament project and Dudley Youth Council. The Stourbridge Area Youth Forum (Y.P.4.S) feeds in to both as well as accessing other opportunities to develop democracy and campaigning skills.
16. Young people within the Area contributed to the 2012-14 borough wide Youth Survey. The results fed into the future planning of the contributing stakeholders which included West Midlands Police, Dudley Council for Voluntary Services, young people and NHS Dudley.

The survey results can be found at:

[www.dudley.gov.uk/education-and-learning/youth-service](http://www.dudley.gov.uk/education-and-learning/youth-service).

17. As the Service moves forward the priority is to continue to develop ‘teen’ centres that act as a hub for a combination of targeted, open access, health and other support services for young people. Young people will continue to be actively involved in shaping the services delivered. In addition, the Service will continue to facilitate the capacity building of the voluntary youth sector in order that they are enabled to deliver the majority of universal provision.

### **Finance**

18. The Youth Service Offer within the Stourbridge Area is achievable within the allocated budget.

### **Law**

19. The proposed actions will enable the Area Team within the Youth Service to meet its duties under the Aiming High for Young People – a ten year strategy ‘to promote the well being of persons aged 13-19 by securing access to educational and recreational activities and facilities’, the Education and Inspections Act 2006.

**Equality Impact**

20. The offer will continue to provide facilities with regard to disadvantaged young people and all young peoples' needs.

The work carried out by the team promotes and ensures that young people are actively involved in developing and improving services that are provided for them.

**Recommendation**

21. That the Committee note for comment the contents of the Youth Service **Stourbridge Area Report**.



.....

**Jane Porter**  
**Director of Children's Services**

Contact Officer: Dominic Tipping, Area Team Leader  
Telephone: 01384 81 3956 / 3955  
Email: **[dominic.tipping@dudley.gov.uk](mailto:dominic.tipping@dudley.gov.uk)**