



## ***Youth Opportunities Fund / Youth Capital Fund***

### ***Case Study: Dorset***

#### **Summary**

Learning is being achieved by young people and [Dorset Youth & Community Service](#) through the Youth Opportunity Fund and Youth Capital fund, and there are plans to build on the current achievements and train more young people as 'grant givers'.

#### **What young people have been engaged?**

DYCE (Dorset Youth Council Enables) was responsible for the design and development of the assessment criteria and bid application for YOF & YCF. The guidance is simple and accessible to all young people.

They were concerned as to how representative of Dorset they were and were keen to reach and engage other young people to act as 'grant givers'. Services were targeted who work with young people in specific geographical areas or with disadvantaged backgrounds to establish representatives to be trained for their roles.

#### **Role and involvement of young people**

A residential training weekend was held with a diverse group of young people, which was an opportunity to work with young people who are not usually involved with Youth Service. Links were made to the Youth Service Plan, Children and Young People Plan, and outcomes of Every Child Matters. Young people were informed of the demographics and transport links, to increase their understanding of Dorset as a County and to inform their decision making. Existing and proposed projects were mapped to ensure no duplication, and a geographical spread.

The wide distribution of guidelines and applications saw equal bids being received from youth groups supported by voluntary and local authority youth workers, school groups, and Parish Councils, which were of a high standard including in-depth information and photographic evidence. New projects were also established with young people making links with their Parish Council to make application

Young people are able to evidence their involvement and development of skills and knowledge. They learnt from the process and had fun as a team. There are now plans for the 'grant givers' to be involved in training. *Simon Fraiz-Brown Democracy & Participation Youth Worker sees "The aspiration for Dorset Youth Service is for the whole process to be young person led. This will spread the opportunity to build on the achievement of young people who will be using their knowledge and experience with peers and delivering the training".* Those young people who gained grants will be asked to become 'grant givers' to achieve a rolling programme of involvement and learning.

## **Changes to public service delivery and lessons learnt**

The learning achieved has increased the publicity and credibility of young people and [Dorset Youth & Community Service](#) and positioned the youth participation agenda within the community.

Kate Hall, Youth Officer states that *"the process we applied commits to the values of youth work - We are all learning, and Youth Opportunity Fund and Youth Capital Fund are acting as a catalyst".* It is early days to understand how this will influence the Children's Trust participation strategy, but the processes used by Dorset and the involvement of young people will give confidence and ambition to decision makers. *"The task for youth officers is to share the credibility of the involvement of young people as 'grant givers' with Elected Members at County, District, Town and Parish levels to achieve their understanding of how young people exceeded expectation with decisions being made that demonstrated how responsible young people are".*

## **Benefits and outcomes**

- New partnership between DYCE (Dorset Youth Council Enables), Voluntary Youth Organisations and Colleagues in Dorset County Council
- Fifteen Young people aged 14-17 recruited as 'grant givers' on a geographic spread with different life experience and backgrounds
- Young people gaining understanding of the needs of Dorset as a County
- Increased knowledge of needs of young people by young people and adults

"Learning things that will help in the future" : a young person on evaluation of training for 'grant givers'.

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5,422 surveys given out; 2,866 returned!

### We did a Survey of Young People in 2005, and this is what we found....

- Yp. are often portrayed as perpetrators of crime and yet 40% stated they were victims of crime
- Yp. generally turn to friends + family for help first, but knew who else to contact if they needed further help.
- 88% of yp that access Youth Service provision, stated high levels of satisfaction
- 64% said they would like more Sports/physical activity
- 59% said they would like more help in finding a job and training

- The rate of conceptions of 18yrs from Weymouth it is above
- In terms of has the Se Teen Preg Dorset has
- Dorset, general transport, where it is

