



Youth Opportunities Fund / Youth Capital Fund

Case Study: Wiltshire

Summary

Wiltshire Youth Development Service supports the delivery of Youth Opportunities Fund and Capital Fund through Locality Young People's Issues Groups (LYPIGs). Considerable efforts have been put into promoting the funds to young people who are not currently involved in youth activities

What young people have been engaged?

The existing 8 LYPIGs (2 in each District Council area) consist of young people drawn from youth organisations across their area. They receive all applications for their area and make recommendations to the County Board, made up of young people from Wiltshire Assembly of Youth, which decides on county wide bids and acts on the recommendations from LYPIGs

Role and involvement of young people

The fund is known as WYPOF (Wiltshire Young People's Opportunity Fund) and is marketed using posters designed by young people and credit card sized flyers, 8,000 of which have been distributed. The Youth Development Service has good links with the local radio station, which has promoted the funds through a 30 second advertising slot 4 or 5 times each evening during a music show aimed at a youth audience. The Wiltshire youth magazine DB8 and the young people's web-site (www.sparksite.co.uk) has also promoted the funds, and young people can download application packs from the site. As a result of this promotion, £95,000 was allocated in the first round.

In addition to decision making about the grants, young people are involved through the Young Assessors Team, who investigate a random sample of applications, to check that money is being well spent and that the quality of provision is high.

Changes to public service delivery and lessons learnt

Responsibility for the Fund has given the LYPIGs a new lease of life by enhancing their value to young people and local decision makers, and therefore increased young people's power at local level. Young people from the County Board are also part of the 'County Challenge Board' for Children and Young People which brings together the Lead Member for Children and Young People, senior officers and young people's representatives to review progress on the development of integrated services for young people.

Benefits and outcomes

The funds have helped the Youth Development Service build links with young people from diverse groups, who had not previously accessed services. In one example, a group of traveller young people who had made a bid to the fund for laptops have now got involved with wider youth work activity, including participating in a training session about equality and diversity.

