

working for us





Leeds Positive Futures

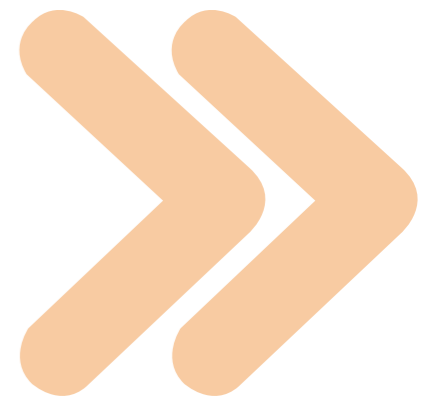
Throughout this report young people's artwork from the Positive Futures national postcard competition is showcased. Young people were asked to create a piece of art that responded to the statement **Positive Futures makes a difference.** On the front cover of the report is the winning entry of the competition from Stockton Positive Futures.



Lambeth Positive Futures

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Foreword



Ask young people what Positive Futures – the country’s leading social inclusion activities programme – means to them and more often than not they will talk about the journey they have been on: how things used to be, what they are doing now and where they hope to get to in the future. The journeys they describe involve discovering new interests and the satisfaction they have found in being part of something rewarding and fulfilling. Critically at this time of recession these journeys are leading to achievement and qualifications, volunteering and routes into work or further training.

This report tells the story of these journeys through statistics, real life accounts and through young people’s artwork produced for the Positive Futures national postcard competition. It brings alive the widespread benefits, not just for participants but for families, communities, partners, funders and the public and reveals how Positive Futures is leading the way in supporting many important Government initiatives including the Youth Crime Action Plan, the Drug Strategy and the ten year Youth Strategy.

The programme shows what can be achieved by reaching young people wherever they are, building relationships of trust and respect, being there for the long-term and helping young people shape and achieve their ambitions.

I would like to congratulate the programme, and Catch22 as programme managers, on another year of strong performance with more participants than ever taking part, more positive outcomes recorded, more qualifications gained and more jobs and other opportunities accessed. All the projects across the programme should be proud of the outcomes that they have achieved and I would like to thank them for all their hard work and their unceasing energy and commitment to the programme.

Building on its very strong foundations, I am confident that the programme will continue to grow, reaching yet more young people and help build safer, stronger and more prosperous communities in the year ahead.

Alan Campbell, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Crime Reduction.

Introduction

Positive Futures is the national activity-based social inclusion programme for young people aged 10-19. Delivered through 116 partnership projects across England and Wales, the programme takes a developmental approach to helping young people living in some of our most deprived communities steer clear of crime, drugs and alcohol misuse and move forward in their lives.

At its heart is a strong shared commitment to reaching young people *where they are* through energetic outreach and activities that meet young people’s needs; building relationships of respect and trust; and supporting young people to succeed.

Launched in 2001, the programme has built up a wealth of experience, also training up new generations of community youth leaders. The programme’s monitoring and evaluation framework, developed by social research specialists Substance in 2006, provides a range of tools to capture not just the numbers and backgrounds of young people taking part and activities delivered but also young people’s levels of ‘engagement’ and how these shift over time; and how projects are supporting young people to succeed across the range of Every Child Matters (ECM) outcomes (see appendix one).

Figures drawn from the Substance Project Reporting System (SPRS) for 2008-09 show the programme as going from strength to strength, supporting even more achievement by young people, even through the depths of a recession.

- 59,348 young people took part in one or more of the programme’s activities, compared with 57,946 who were involved in the year ending 31 March 2008.
- Projects recorded 653,870 attendances at 148,628 hours of activity sessions, adding up to nearly one and a half million contact hours with young people.

Each piece of evidence gathered in the year to 31 March 2009 was tagged, or given keywords, to describe its contribution to different elements of the ECM outcomes framework. When presented as a ‘tag cloud’, where the size of the phrase reflects the number of times it has been used to describe associated evidence, a striking visual snapshot emerges of the outcomes supported by the programme.

Access to transport and material goods **Achieve personal and social development and enjoy recreation** Achieve stretching national educational standards at secondary school Attend and enjoy school **Choose not to take illegal drugs** **Develop positive relationships and choose not to bully or discriminate** **Develop self-confidence and successfully deal with significant life changes and challenges** **Engage in decision making and support the community and environment** Engage in further education, employment or training on leaving **Engage in law-abiding and positive behaviour in and out of school** Enterprising behaviour Have security, stability and are cared for **Healthy Lifestyles** Live in decent homes and sustainable communities Live in households free from low income **Mentally and Emotionally Healthy Physically Healthy** Ready for employment Ready for school **Safe from accidental injury and death** **Safe from bullying and discrimination** **Safe from crime and anti-social behaviour in and out of school** **Safe from maltreatment** Sexually Healthy

Positive Futures Tag cloud.

Positive Futures has young people at its heart. During 2009 we brought together 16 young people from across the programme to act as youth advisors. We asked them what the programme did best and why and what it could do more of, or better, highlighting the most important issues the programme should address. So join us in the following pages to take a look at what the youth advisors said about how the programme is working for them and how they would like to see it work for them in future.

Working for us

Getting ahead

Adrian Bontham. Now 19, I have been part of the Leyton Orient Positive Futures Community Sports Programme since I was ten and am now proud to be a Positive Futures youth advisor.

At our first youth advisors day employment came up over and over again as the biggest worry for all of us.



Money - unemployment - recession

The problem is that there are too few jobs available, leaving many young people, even those with qualifications, unemployed.

It is even harder for young people who have had a bad start at school. When you grow up watching drug dealers driving around in expensive cars, it's easy to want a piece of the action

and staying on the right path is difficult. I see many young people where I live in flash clothes: it's obvious they haven't got those things legally.

So how is Positive Futures working to tackle this issue? It gives young people positive role models, someone who talks to young people as a friend and in ways they can relate to, and who can also show them the right way to go without forcing it. I now see myself as a role model. The young participants at Leyton Orient Positive Futures look up to me, so it is my duty to keep them socially engaged and help them stay on the right path.

Positive Futures takes you on a journey and raises your aspirations. It put me in the right place at the right time, and gave me the skills to make the most of these opportunities.

I have gained valuable experience including working at the BBC, Channel 4, the Football Association and also writing for the Voice newspaper. I have just been offered a place at the University of East London (UEL) to study a sports journalism degree. Whilst I didn't have all the qualifications, my professional experience enabled me to go on the course.

“I would not have been able to do all this without Positive Futures.”

When it comes to what more the programme should be doing, I think Positive Futures needs to work with younger people, before they get sucked into another life. Seven or eight years old is ideal.

It also needs to offer young people more work experience opportunities because once you are at work or in the office you are open to other aspirations and get the buzz of working in a team, which is what happened to me.

I also think Positive Futures could give more support to the 18-24 year olds. The issue is that after all these great work placements and volunteering young people are still often faced with seeking employment or financial support for further education.

I presented these recommendations with another youth advisor, Kerry Baxter, at a Home Office strategic meeting - the first stage of development of a young people's action plan.



Young people's action plan

The Positive Futures young people's action plan puts forward recommendations for future youth-related policy and ways to improve the programme and will be finalised and re-presented to the Home Office in the New Year. Key issues identified include:

- Money linked to employment
- Negative perceptions of young people
- Drug-related violence and crime

Changing perceptions

Kerry Baxter. I joined Sutton Positive Futures when I was struggling at school in 2005, and haven't looked back since. I was involved in a streetdance group that achieved international success, and was employed by Positive Futures on an apprenticeship programme.

At our youth advisors meeting another important issue was highlighted:

Negative perceptions of young people

The media is powerful. People's judgements and views are based on what messages they receive. The negative portrayal of young people in the media has a direct effect on how local people perceive youth. This makes it so difficult for those who are achieving and doing well to be recognised.

Positive Futures helps by putting young people in the spotlight so they are seen by the public doing positive things. For example, as part of National Tackling Drugs Week I co-ordinated and performed a streetdance about young people celebrating turning their back on drugs. We performed in Leicester Square Gardens to Children's minister Baroness Morgan and the general public.

It would be great if Positive Futures could build better ties with the police, and involve them in our activities to help break down barriers and encourage positive labelling of young people with the police and in the community.

Another thing we need is more Friday and Saturday night activities. At Sutton, we ran a project called Friday Night Street League, it was for young people aged between 13-19 to play 5-a-side football tournaments for six weeks at a time. It was hugely successful with up to 75 young people in one evening. It worked because young people feel safe, trusted and can enjoy themselves freely, in the company of youth workers. If we do not give young people activities during these times then they are more likely to be pulled into risky situations and be seen by local people as getting into trouble.

To hear more about young people's Positive Futures stories download 'Take it from us' at: www.posfutures.org.uk.

Headlines and highlights

Engagement

- Positive Futures tracks young people's movements through different levels of 'engagement', from being 'disengaged' to 'curious' to 'involved' to 'achieving' to becoming 'autonomous', with movements shown in both directions. 7,153 (67%) of the 10,725 young people whose engagement level movements were recorded, showed movements in a positive direction.

Engagement Levels		
Moved up one level	5,327	49.66%
Moved up two levels	1,491	13.90%
Moved up three levels	319	2.97%
Moved up four levels	16	0.15%
Moved down one level	2,451	22.85%
Moved down two levels	1,022	9.53%
Moved down three levels	95	0.89%
Moved down four levels	7	0.07%

Source: Substance

The programme saw a significant increase in positive health and self-esteem related outcomes:

- 1,180 young people were recorded as achieving improved confidence and self-esteem compared to 391 for the same period in 2007-2008.
- 1,819 young people were recorded as achieving improved health and fitness compared to 178 for the same period in 2007-2008.

Across the country young people have been influencing others to ensure positive change for young people including:

- One member of the BBC Your Blast Youth Panel.
- Two young people chosen to be 2012 BBC Your Game Champions.
- A meeting with Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, Ed Balls to share young people's views of Positive Futures.
- Young people from Leyton Orient Positive Futures visited by Olympic champions to be consulted about the Olympic legacy and the best way to make use of the buildings and facilities for local communities leading up to and after the Olympics.

Projects have continued to expand the range of activities on offer to appeal to more young people, develop vocational skills and lead to qualifications and positive life choices.

Developments include:

- 64 Positive Futures staff trained as arts award advisors, supporting young people to gain qualifications.
- Over 1,080 different activities provided at over 60,000 sessions, ranging from circus skills and salsa to road safety and laughology and including a wide range of educational and vocational activities.
- Positive Futures National Girls Get Moving Week was launched to inspire more girls into physical activity, increase girls' participation in the programme and support the Government's drive to reduce the number of girls getting involved in crime. Activities included summer camps, beach sports days, yoga, ice skating and knife awareness workshops.

Who we are

- 41,033 (90%) of the participants whose age was recorded were 10-19 year olds, with 11,452 (25%) being 10-12 year olds, 16,911 (37%) being 13-15 year olds and 12,670 (28%) being 16-19 year olds.
- 14,072 (24%) of participants recorded were female and 45,002 (76%) were male.

Working for young people from diverse ethnic backgrounds:

- More than 600 different self-defined ethnic categories were recorded in the year to 31 March 2009, with 14,741 (25%) of participants who declared their ethnicity describing themselves as non white.
- Statistics show the programme's growing appeal to young people from Asian or Asian British backgrounds, with a rise of 793 (22%) in the number of young people recorded in these categories compared to 2007-2008.
- Honouring cultural traditions – the growing popularity of single sex swimming, introduced by Gloucester Positive Futures to a group of Muslim girls in a way that honoured their cultural traditions, has led to 12 young women qualifying as lifeguards or assistant swimming instructors.
- Drawing from others' cultural traditions – effective use of handball by Leyton Orient Positive Futures has appealed to the many young people who are turned off by traditional sports and to young people from the new Eastern European communities that have established themselves in East London. This has led to the young people involved competing internationally in Sweden and Berlin.



Working for families

A mother's journey

I am the mother of one of the Positive Futures Youth Advisors, Elliot Halt. Elliot is my youngest son.

My husband and eldest son are both serving time for drugs and other offences. Because of this I have spent many years in and out of police stations and I have struggled to get a decent income. Our standard of living has definitely suffered as a result.

Elliot was also heading towards a criminal career when he became involved with Positive Futures. I am proud to say that he has now become one of the local role models for young people, also addressing national conferences on issues of youth engagement.

This has helped me too by giving me freedom, spare time and peace of mind to be able to pursue my own interests. I enrolled in some vocational training at the local College and have just completed NVQ Beauty Therapy and Hairdressing. I hope to establish my own business in the area.

Without Positive Futures, life would have been very different and far from the pleasure it is today. I thank Coventry Positive Futures for not only giving my son a life, but for also giving mine back.



“Positive Futures is a place where young people feel safe, where they belong – a community hub and like a home.

We have young people from large families of up to eight siblings all attending and engaging with the programme.”

Project Manager, Sunderland Positive Futures

Headlines and highlights

Positive reputation

Liverpool North Positive Futures were approached by a group of local gang members to ask if the project could work with their younger siblings before they got trapped into the negative consequences of being involved in a gang. A number of siblings are now involved with the project and some have gone on to mentor other young people and to train as sports coaches.

The project is also now engaging with the parents to offer support and help them address the complex issues relating to gang culture.

“It is great to see young people go home with a smile on their face. I know that feeling ‘cause it happened to me. To be able to go home and tell your mum something positive you have done that day and make her proud is the best.”

Young person, Nottingham Positive Futures

Giving families quality time together

Projects increasingly work with families, supporting parents in their role as parents and advising on issues such as binge drinking which can have a major impact on family health and wellbeing.

Examples include Wirral Positive Futures' family night which runs every Thursday in partnership with a local school giving young people and their parents space to do something fun together away from the pressures of everyday life. Over 20 families have been involved in activities including boxercise, trampolining and gymnastics.

Protecting young people

The protective factors provided for young people by Positive Futures can be mapped against the family risk factors identified by the Youth Justice Board (YJB) Risk and Protective Factors report. The table below uses evidence from the 2008-2009 annual reporting period.

YJB family risk factors	Evidence of protection by Positive Futures in 2008-2009
Poor parental supervision and discipline	Almost 1.5 million hours of supervised participant contact and 1,200 pieces of recorded evidence of projects helping participants to have 'security, stability and be cared for'.
Conflict	More than 2,000 pieces of recorded evidence indicating that projects are providing 'safety from bullying and discrimination'.
	More than 2,300 pieces of recorded evidence of participants 'developing self confidence and successfully dealing with significant life changes and challenges'.
	More than 18,000 attendances at over 2,000 boxing and self defence sessions.
History of criminal activity	Almost 1,500 referrals from criminal justice agencies and 215 examples of positive testimony from different criminal justice agencies and 56 from substance misuse agencies.
Parental attitudes that condone anti-social and criminal behaviour	More than 2,500 pieces of recorded evidence indicating how projects have provided participants with 'safety from crime and anti-social behaviour'.
	More than 2,000 pieces of evidence of participants 'engaging in law abiding and positive behaviour'.
Low income	More than 148,802 hours of free activity delivered.
Poor housing	Almost 60,000 sessions delivered in a range of alternative venues.
	460 pieces of recorded evidence of projects helping people to 'live in decent homes and sustainable communities'.

Working for communities

Reclaiming our community

Where I lived used to be full of crime and drug dealing. Everywhere you looked it was going on, right on your doorstep. As a mum with small children at the time I couldn't sleep at night and just had to do something about it. We needed to get our community back.

At first it was by doing leaflet drops, building up support with the police, youth agencies, involving local residents and raising awareness using the media. It was hard work. We managed to set up a youth group, but it had little impact.

Positive Futures was different because it gave us the right structure to deliver good services to the young people who most need our help. From the moment a young person sets foot in the youth centre you are working to give that young person positive outcomes.

Positive Futures also works because it uses positive role models who are from the same areas and backgrounds as the young people we are looking to support. They have an understanding and a connection with the young people and the problems they face day-to-day, growing up in their community.

Today, we have a good community spirit and people feel safe walking the streets. Positive Futures has a lot of respect in the community and the young people we work with are going on to do great things. I mean, two young people are going to go to University from Bristol Southmead. That doesn't happen to young people in my area. It does now, thanks to Positive Futures.



“Positive Futures has a lot of respect in the community and the young people we work with are going on to do great things.”

Headlines and highlights

Positive contribution

- The number of young people recorded as making a positive contribution (including through peer mentoring) increased from 1,850 in the year ending 31 March 2008 to 6,084 in the year ending 31 March 2009, representing a rise of almost 230%.

Hotspot times in hotspot areas

Positive Futures has been working in areas identified as having a high level of crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB) with a focus on Friday and Saturday night provision. Many areas have since reported reductions in crime and anti-social behaviour.

Examples include:

- A 64% reduction in first time entrants to the criminal justice system in the Barnstaple area in 2008 where targeted work from North Devon Positive Futures has been taking place.
- Since Wirral Positive Futures Friday night work has been in action, a 32% reduction in anti-social behaviour calls to the local police has been recorded.
- Since Suffolk Positive Futures holiday programme in Ipswich has been in action Suffolk police have recorded a 50% reduction in crime from 2007-2008 committed by 10-16 year olds and a 38% reduction in crime by 10-19 year olds. The project was awarded the Office for Criminal Justice Reform's Justice Award for 'engaging communities' for their Thursday night work in Stowmarket where a 25% reduction in anti-social behaviour has been recorded.

“Delivering targeted programmes, supporting young people at risk of crime and anti-social behaviour, providing outreach, developing what local kids really want to do - overall the programme delivers a balanced provision that really gets to the heart of what communities need for their kids.”

West Midlands Police

- Portsmouth Positive Futures has been working in the Milton and Eastney area, which has seen a 20% reduction in youth crime and a 60% reduction in anti-social behaviour.
- Alcohol hotspots – Friday night outreach by Doncaster Darts Positive Futures engaging young people in activities including circus skills and graffiti art and explaining issues around drinking and drug taking. The project works very closely with the police, fire service, safer neighbourhood teams, drug and sexual health workers. This multi-agency outreach approach, known locally as Neighbourhood Alliance, has been identified by the fire service as contributing to ASB fire incidents dropping from 20 to zero in a three week period in one area when the project was active.
- Football streetcage tackles gangs – a football project by Leeds Positive Futures is tackling gang culture by engaging young people identified by the local police who had not previously taken part in positive activities. As one outcome of the project, two young people are now training to be football coaches in the community.

“The open access nature of the cage - being outside, on the street, where young people hang out - attracts those young people who wouldn't come to a Positive Futures session.”

It makes it less of a big deal to join in. Engaging these young people in activities is the first step to getting them on the right path again.”

Project worker, Leeds Positive Futures

Working for partners

Doing more positive futures

Lincolnshire County Council is proud to be on board as the first local authority to take up Positive Futures under the new Membership Model. Funded by the Council's Crime & Disorder Reduction Team, services will be developed for 8 to 24 year olds in Lincoln City, Boston, Grantham and Sleaford.

The interest in adopting the Positive Futures brand came about initially when I saw the success of Positive Futures North East Lincolnshire in reducing crime and raising public confidence in the area. Through their work with Humberside Police the project was contributing to some staggering statistics. Over a ten month period from 8 December 2007 to 31 September 2008 overall anti-social behaviour (ASB) decreased by 24% and overall criminal damage by 39%.

I then looked more closely into the Positive Futures model to find that there were many advantages to being part of the national Positive Futures programme. In particular the national coverage and profile, national evaluation and access to additional training and support.

A big factor was the contribution of the Positive Futures model to Public Service Agreements and to a number of National Indicators selected for Lincolnshire County Council's Local Area Agreement. The project will improve the community's perception of crime and alcohol misuse and the way they are being addressed by Lincolnshire County Council. We will have a strong focus on volunteering, accreditation and leadership in order to create a number of local role models who will in turn help support more young people towards positive outcomes. This will also support a reduction in the number of young people who are not in education, employment or training.

David Sampher, Sports Development Manager, Lincolnshire County Council



Over a ten month period from 8 December 2007 to 31 September 2008 overall anti-social behaviour (ASB) decreased by 24% and overall criminal damage by 39%.

Humberside Police

Headlines and highlights

A diverse range of partners

There were 215 examples of positive testimony recorded in SPRS from different criminal justice agencies, a further 56 from substance misuse agencies and 217 from different educational partners.

“ Working closely with Arsenal Positive Futures has enabled us to promote positive and safe sexual health messages to young people from all across Islington. Especially important is being able to work with a large number of young men as it is important in helping them to feel comfortable in talking about relationships and sexual health.”

Pulse Sexual Health Outreach Education

Supporting young people on the path to success

Young people supported to achieve over 16,000 positive outcomes and 9,677 qualifications, with recorded positive outcomes (shown below) ranging from improved behaviour to joining a sports club to positive participation to increased self-esteem. Over 8,000 referrals were received from educational agencies and over 1,000 pieces of evidence provided for participants now attending and enjoying school.

	Number 2008-09	Number 2007-08
Accredited outcome	364	170
Behavioural improvement	952	783
(Re)engaging with education/training and educational achievement	1,226	1,337
Gained employment	574	421
Improved confidence/self esteem	1,180	391
Improved health/fitness	1,819	178
Joined sports club	341	167
Positive participation	6,084	1,850
Received substance misuse treatment/education/support	722	179
Volunteering	1,808	1,404
Received social/personal development education	955	N/A

• Reducing the harm caused by drugs

Nearly 1,500 pieces of recorded evidence of participants 'choosing not to take illegal drugs'.

• More young people playing and enjoying sport

Over 3,000 young women from minority and low income backgrounds engaged in sport and physical activity over 18 months through the Fit4Girls programme run across four London boroughs in partnership with Nike, London Active Communities and the Football Foundation.

• Great art for everyone

New partnerships formed with Youth Dance, Youth Music, Trinity Guildhall and others and a new arts resource publication, Getting off the StARTing Blocks launched to help give young people new opportunities through arts.

The programme's relationship with Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRP) and Community Safety Partnerships (CSP) continues to develop to:

1. Contribute to tackling crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB) in the community

For example Coventry Positive Futures works closely with the CSP to deliver on a number of ASB, substance misuse and alcohol awareness programmes. Recognised as providing young people with credible alternatives to nuisance behaviour and for supporting young people to have a voice in their communities, the project is commissioned to deliver an intensive programme for young people in deprived areas of the city, with an emphasis on Friday and Saturday night provision. In three months alone 338 young people took part in the project's Friday and Saturday night activities, with 1,878 attendances recorded.

2. Increase public confidence

Residents and businesses need to feel assured that crime and ASB are being dealt with effectively and not getting out of hand. Positive Futures has helped to increase public confidence, not just through its impacts on crime and ASB but also by supporting young people to talk about, and act on, their concerns and through a host of good news stories about how young people are helping change communities for the better. Examples include Leeds Positive Futures streetcage project, whose work to tackle gang culture attracted national coverage from BBC Breakfast to Sky News and Society Guardian to consumer title Football Punk.

Working for the economy

Into a job

I was one of the many young people described as a NEET (Not in Employment, Education or Training). I knew that it was difficult to find work and Swindon was one of the worst places to be to find work, which had put me off trying altogether.

All that changed when Swindon Positive Futures took me and 13 other NEET young people to a residential to Dartmoor in April. The idea was to help us with life skills, and get us to think about ways into work and further education but you were not made to feel pressurised into doing anything. The staff were like mates and talked to you about anything and everything and only when you were ready.

We were given a budget for living and luxury expenses, which included activities, food, drink, travel and electricity, which made us really think about how much work goes into living on your own and the cost of living before getting to the luxuries. For the first time I saw how difficult it is without money or a way of making money, so when we were given CV and interview skills workshops I really listened and learnt.

I decided as soon as I got home to use the skills to get a job and I did just that. I am now working as a sales assistant, and I am not the only one to put my skills to good use. Another lad who had been out of education and employment for a few years contacted the college as soon as he got home to arrange to go back to do a literacy course. We are all now either in further training, education or employment and meet regularly with the project workers to support each other with life choices and ideas for the future.

Personally I am a very different person to a year ago. I am more confident and sure of myself and the future which feels great.



“ Personally I am a very different person to a year ago. I am more confident and sure of myself and the future which feels great. ”

Headlines and highlights

Back on track and into work

- 1,808 young people recorded as becoming volunteers, a 29% increase compared to the 1,404 recorded in 2007-2008.
- 574 young people recorded as gaining employment through Positive Futures, representing a 36% increase compared to the 421 recorded in 2007-2008.
- 9,677 young people recorded as gaining awards and qualifications, including 6,221 sports awards or qualifications and 1,058 vocational qualifications or certificates – an increase of almost 65% compared to the 5,876 recorded in 2007-2008.

Making the link – from volunteering to work

At Newport Positive Futures alone 16 of the project's 36 volunteers gained employment as a result of volunteering. 18 young people from the project were recruited as volunteers at UK School Games, a multi-sport event for elite school age athletes designed to replicate the Olympic and Paralympics Games. The volunteers took on responsibility including supervising table tennis tournaments and ticket credit control. Four young people were put in charge of the starter gates for cycling races on the Newport Olympic velodrome. The English and Welsh cycling authority were so impressed with the young people that they have provided them with further training gearing them up for employment for future professional tournaments and potentially even the Olympics.

Moving on – learning skills in prison

Dartford and Gravesham Positive Futures has been working with young and adult offenders delivering numeracy and literacy support, health and fitness, employment schemes, coach education and also offering post-release support to help reduce re-offending. The young offenders have achieved FA Level One qualifications and AQA Accredited awards in various multi-sports.

Seeing is believing

Innovative schemes such as Portsmouth's Positive Futures visit and learning scheme have helped to familiarise young people with workplace settings. Alongside workplace opportunities, through a partnership between Diageo GB and Positive Futures 12 projects hosted employee volunteering opportunities, helping give employees fresh perspectives and young people get a sense of what they can achieve.

Employee volunteering has ranged from helping with the refurbishment of project sites, to directly helping develop young people's personal skills.

For example, guidance on messaging, presentation and media interview skills.

“ I am delighted that Diageo GB has agreed a partnership with Positive Futures forming the basis of our community engagement programme. Through this partnership we aim to give young people living in the most deprived communities in the UK the opportunity to engage in positive activities that will help them make the most of their lives. Employees will continue to undertake a number of fundraising activities, as well as have more opportunities to volunteer at a Positive Futures project. ”

Simon Litherland, Managing Director, Diageo Great Britain

Promoting enterprise

• Bike enterprise

North Liverpool bike enterprise is one of a number of examples of projects developing social enterprises, benefitting young people, the community and helping make projects more sustainable. Groups of young people have been restoring used bikes to sell back to the community and as low cash options for parents for Christmas. In an 'apprentice' style format the young people are challenged to demonstrate their business skills with the reward of choosing how 50% of the takings are spent. The other 50% goes back into the upkeep of the project.

• Money management

Projects including Penzance (Treyla) Positive Futures have been supporting young people to take part in 'participatory budgeting,' making decisions about what local money should be spent on through research and consultation with local community members. Opportunities to visit an ice-skating rink outside the county and art materials were proposed by the young people as a way to broaden young people's horizons and to support their personal and social development.

Looking forward

Eight years on from the launch of Positive Futures, and many local projects are now firmly rooted in communities, with well-established partnerships and a wealth of expertise that remains highly relevant today. This track record has stood the programme in good stead through the tightening economic climate. However, we are far from resting on our laurels. Aspirations set for the programme looking forward are that it should continue to develop and evolve, acting as the market leader in activity-based social inclusion for young people and succeeding in being both mature and vibrant, mainstream but 'edgy'.

Our other ambitions include:

- Growing Positive Futures in both breadth and depth - extending into new areas, responding to new issues such as the increase in violence involving girls and reaching even more young people from diverse communities.
- Combining the best of local and national – being locally 'owned' and resourced while retaining the strong brand, direction and consistency of approach that are the hallmarks of a national programme.
- Making a tangible contribution to securing the Olympic legacy.

The next generation of monitoring and evaluation tools, Substance Views, to be piloted by Substance with a number of Positive Futures projects and others in 2010 will help projects to more easily capture and visualise the impacts the programme is achieving.

Driving innovation and nurturing and responding to the ideas of young people will continue to play an important role in shaping the direction of the programme and keeping its content fresh and relevant.



Appendix One: Substance Project Reporting System (SPRS)

In September 2006, following a six month period of trials, Positive Futures rolled out use of the Substance Project Reporting System (SPRS). This system provides all projects with a comprehensive online monitoring, evaluation and reporting framework that neatly combines the collection and representation of quantitative and qualitative data. Projects now routinely use the SPRS to help manage contacts and their achievements and outcomes; work delivery and caseloads; qualitative multi-media evidence and resources; and to access, analyse and report on real time data which can be mapped against government outcome frameworks.

Evidence of work and the completion of participant profiles is built up over time as relationships with young people develop. This is reflected in the variable recording of some data categories although the embedding of monitoring and evaluation functions within a fuller suite of project management tools has generated an unprecedented level of engagement by projects, borne out by the high degree of compliance with reporting requirements. As well as maintaining ongoing records which are accessible by projects and, in aggregate form by programme administrators, the SPRS is used by projects to submit an annual report which is pre-populated by data recorded in the system through the course of the year. Each of these reports is reviewed and assessed by the programme's monitoring and evaluation team from Sheffield Hallam University and Substance, with evidence and case examples then being fed into the programme's annual report.

Gallery

Congratulations!

Displayed here are the shortlisted entries from the Positive Futures national postcard competition. Young people were asked to create a piece of art that responded to the statement **Positive Futures makes a difference.**



Stockton Positive Futures



Leeds Positive Futures



Lambeth Positive Futures



Coventry Positive Futures



Birmingham Kings Norton Positive Futures



Manchester & Halton Positive Futures



Coventry Positive Futures



Project list

Home Office projects

Barking and Dagenham
Bassetlaw
Bexley
Birmingham Aston
Birmingham Handsworth
Birmingham Kings Norton
Birmingham Sparkbrook
Blackburn
Bolton
Bradford Keighley
Bradford South
Brent
Bridgend
Brighton & Hove
Bristol Central
Bristol Knowle & Filwood
Bristol Southmead
Calderdale
Camden
Corby
County Durham (6)
Coventry
Dartford & Gravesham
Derby
Doncaster
Doncaster Darts
Ealing
East Lancashire
East Riding
Gateshead
Gloucester
Great Yarmouth
Hackney
Hammersmith & Fulham
Haringey (2)
Hastings
Hull
Islington
Lambeth
Leeds
Leicester
Lewisham
Lichfield
Liverpool North
Liverpool Toxteth
Manchester

Mansfield & Ashfield
Newham
Newport
North Devon
North East Lincolnshire
North West Leicestershire
Northumberland (2)
Nottingham Aspley
Nottingham Radford & Hyson Green
Oxford
Penzance
Plymouth
Portsmouth
Preston
Reading
Rochdale
Rugby
Salford
Sandwell
Sefton
Sheffield
Solihull
Southampton
South Bedfordshire
Southend & Basildon
South Tyneside
Southwark
Stockton
Suffolk
Sunderland
Sutton
Swindon
Teesside
Tendring
Tower Hamlets
Walsall
Waltham Forest
Wandsworth (2)
Warrington
West Middlesbrough
Westminster
Wirral
Wolverhampton

Football Foundation projects

Bassetlaw
Braintree
Bromley
Croydon
Halton
Hounslow
Lambeth
Leeds
Liverpool
Manchester East
Milton Keynes
Newcastle East
North Tyneside
Sheffield
Slough
Thurrock
Wakefield
Wandsworth South
Watford

Positive Futures Strategic Group

We would like to extend our thanks to the strategic group listed below for their support.

Arts Council

Catch22

Department for Children, Schools and Families

Department of Communities and Local Government

Department for Culture, Media and Sport

Football Foundation

Home Office

London Active Communities

Local Government Association

Skills Active

Skills for Justice

Substance

Substance

Substance is an experienced social research co-operative specialist in the areas of sport, youth inclusion and community regeneration. Members hail from backgrounds in leading university research institutes, social enterprise and IT.

Substance helps make connections between people and organisations at the grass roots and policy makers, funders, government, commercial corporations and charitable foundations. It works with them in order to demonstrate impact and value, influence policy and effect social change and provides the people, experience, technologies and networks to make this happen.

Substance leads on the monitoring and evaluation of the Positive Futures Programme.

Catch22

Catch22 have been appointed by the Home Office to manage the programme for 2009/10 and 2010/11 following an EU-wide tendering exercise.

Catch22 works with 34,000 young people in more than 100 places in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. It helps young people find ways out of seemingly no-win situations by building strong relationships with them and tackling the problems they face through specialist projects.

positive futures 



substance.



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