

# Leeds

youth  
offending  
service



Issue Fifteen

Winter 2009/2010

## Putting your hand up for Leeds in 2010!

BY JIM HOPKINSON, HEAD OF SERVICE

2010 is the 'Year of the Volunteer' and Leeds City Council are planning to use this as an opportunity to celebrate and promote volunteering in the city. Leeds City Council has stated that their main aim is to engage every Leeds citizen in a volunteering project by the end of 2010.

It is no exaggeration to say that Leeds Youth Offending Service is seen as a beacon of good practice when it comes to offering high quality and high impact volunteering opportunities.

**We now have more than 120 active volunteers undertaking vital services for young people.**

In 2009 they attended around 850 Appropriate Adult call outs, around 1000 referral orders panels, as well as providing individual mentoring and ISSP support. We know that volunteers add to the public confidence in youth justice services. In 2010 our aim is to develop additional volunteering opportunities within Leeds YOS.

Volunteers who work with Leeds YOS are special: they make a difference to the lives of young people, their families and their victims. Furthermore, the support we offer to volunteers in Leeds YOS is second to none - our Investors in Volunteers (IIV) status is evidence of this. Volunteering can be a really positive experience for those who take part and can help them to gain new skills and experiences that they can transfer into the workplace.

**Our workforce reflects this, a large number of our staff have gained some of their social care experience in volunteer roles.**



**The biggest volunteer workforce in Leeds is school governors.**

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We know how crucial education is to increasing protective factors and reducing the risks of young people becoming involved in the youth justice system. We also know that some young people have complex needs, and schools need support in meeting these needs. There is much that YOS staff can offer to schools. Most schools ask their governors for advice and support around pupil support and inclusion. YOS staff are uniquely placed to take a balanced view in these important decisions. Being a school governor usually means a time commitment of around 6 hours a term, and there are opportunities for paid time off where these responsibilities fall in work time.

If you are thinking of doing something extra for Leeds in 2010 and think that being a school governor is something for you please put your hand up!

For Further details on volunteering opportunities with Leeds Youth Offending Service, please contact Karol Thornton on 0113 2144989

# Programmes Team Update

BY ALEX VARKARY, YJW

Having presented at October's YOS briefing it was great to have the chance to let our colleagues know what we've been up to – and hopefully answer some questions! We're now looking forward to presenting in the same format at the Magistrates' training in March.

We've been really busy for the last two months developing three new programmes and taking forward some of the excellent programmes already in place to offer the courts, and the young people, a wide array of successful interventions.

Some of the biggest developments we've made so far are the

introductions of the structured pre and post-programme interviews which include a communications screening, offending behaviour assessment, and a learning styles questionnaire.

**“The recognition of young people's learning styles is hot on the YJB agenda and can make a real difference to the engagement of young people”**

This questionnaire is already being piloted at the North Leeds Youth Offending Team.

We've also developed colourful flyers for each programme to let professionals, the young people, and their parents/carers get a feel for what is expected prior to the start date.

We've been working alongside the YOS Nurses, Substance Use Workers, the Fire Service, Safer Leeds, Ecotech, and in conjunction with the Royal Armouries to ensure that wherever possible the programmes are based on the specialised knowledge and skills of the relevant agencies to develop a menu of effective interventions available for a diverse array of young people.

## Juvenile Enhanced Thinking Skills (JETS)

BY ALEX VARKARY, YJW

The introduction of the YRO has been a brilliant opportunity to expand the scope of provision offered by JETS to fully engage the young people involved. Early next year we'll be running JETS as two hour sessions, three mornings a week, for nine weeks to address young people's thinking skills. In addition to this we've developed an extensive package of support and provision

for those young people accepted. JETS is really taking off within the YOS and thanks to some wonderful input from the YOS Volunteers Team, YOS Parenting Officer and the NEET team at Park Lane College a comprehensive provision of support and opportunity is being developed to make it a success for all involved.

On a national level the psychometric research of the national pilot is now coming through and

initial reports look really encouraging. When compared to a sample group in custody young people who have completed the JETS programme are shown to demonstrate a notable decrease in aggressive behaviour and a marked increase in social anxiety which indicate improvements in the six targeted cognitive developments.

## Scaled Approach - Stakeholders' Event

BY KAREN FAWCETT, OPERATIONAL MANAGER IRS & PROGRAMMES

On the 14<sup>th</sup> of September more than 150 key stakeholders attended a briefing on the scaled approach and YRO, at the Civic Hall. We were very fortunate that the Council's Chief Executive, Paul Rogerson introduced the event and Frances Done, Chair of the YJB gave the keynote speech.

Frances Done praised Leeds YOS' achievements in relation to performance and resettlement. The other speakers were Mike Richardson, Jim Hopkinson, Bob Baird and Karen Fawcett. Jim introduced the scaled approach and discussed its implications for the YOS. Bob spoke about the scaled approach and the courts and Karen gave a presentation about the programmes team.



# Good Luck Catherine!

BY MAGGIE SMITH,  
DEPUTY HEAD OF SERVICE

Back in June, the YOS said a fond farewell to Catherine O'Melia, Operational Manager of the East team, as she moved to take up a new post in Wakefield.

Catherine joined the service over 5 years ago initially as a practice manager. She soon moved to the position of Operational Manager and was responsible for leading on a number of strategic areas for the service—not least Education, Training and Employment where she made a significant

contribution to improving our targets in relation to numbers of young people receiving ETE. Catherine also took a lead role in preparing for our inspection in 2007 and worked closely with the inspectorate during their visit.

Following this, and the Joint Area Review in Social Care, Catherine developed and has taken forward an action plan for reducing offending by looked after children. This is a long-term piece of work which will continue to be implemented in the coming years—and could perhaps be seen as Catherine's

legacy to Leeds.

Catherine is still greatly missed by her colleagues across the service but is thriving in her new post managing the Wakefield Family Intervention Project. She is also expecting a new addition to the family very soon so we wish her all the best!

To mark Catherine's departure, a donation was made to Oxfam by the management team.



## From RAP to IRS

BY BRIAN PUPLETT, PRACTICE  
MANAGER IRS

Leeds RAP Team has now been re-branded as IRS (Integrated Resettlement Support) by the YJB. The service provided by IRS remains voluntary and is essentially the same as that provided by RAP: we will continue to work with young people to assist resettlement in the community, act as advocates and provide support to make positive changes for young people.

The main difference is that IRS will be offered to all young people receiving a custodial sentence without the need for a substance misuse score of two or more on ASSET.

This is a move that we have welcomed as it will enable us to target our interventions to those young people needing most support. Community referrals will still be accepted but our main priority will be with custody leavers. We are endeavouring to ensure a greater level of communication between case managers, IRS workers and young people especially as regards plans for release into the community. We look forward to working with you all!

## Reparation at ISSP

BY ANDREW BRIERLY, YJW ISS

Over the summer holiday, a number of young people on ISSP dedicated every Monday to managing the regeneration of the grounds surrounding the Old Cockburn Sports Hall in Beeston. The young people completed a number of reparation hours by clearing the site and restoring the crazy golf-course by chopping down the excess trees and grass.

All young people engaged really well and benefited from all aspects of the reparation project. We received great feedback from all of our young people and some of our bail cases also wanted to be involved on a voluntary basis.



Ashley Noon getting stuck in!

Leeds YOS,

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## The Road to England

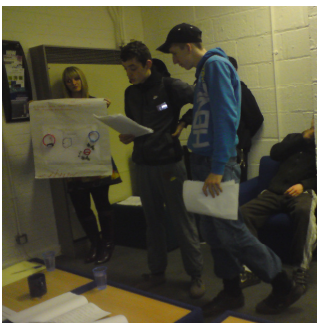
SUBMITTED BY JERRY  
HOLLINGS, YJW  
(ON BEHALF OF A YOUNG  
PERSON ON ISS)

*"There once was a road as  
bright as the sun,*

*And at the other end  
England begun,*

*As soon as you entered  
the birds tweet and sung,*

*Welcome to England  
everyone"*



Tejay Walton and Chris Hart  
enter the Dragons' Den!

## IOM Arts Award

BY MERLE BENTLEY, YJW IRS

West Yorkshire's Integrated Offender Management (IOM) programme and agencies such as West Yorkshire Police, Probation Service, Youth Offending teams and third Sector partners actively promote opportunities to encourage female offenders to stop offending. One of the most important processes in the rehabilitation of an offender is the building of self-esteem and self-worth. Arts based activities of practitioners and art therapists working with offenders and those at risk of offending in West Yorkshire has produced some truly inspirational work. As a result the 'Real Women Real Changes' competition was initiated to showcase the excellent work produced.

The entries was judged by art professionals with the top three entries receiving a substantial prize and a certificate. Prizes were tailored towards the individual: for example a young person applying for a photography course could receive a camera or clothes for her college interview. The prizes were designed to enable the young person to make further positive changes in her life, enabling her to do something she was initially struggling with.

Two young people who successfully completed the arts course at the discovery centre were asked to submit their work and both entries came in the top three! This is a fantastic achievement as the competition was open to all agencies in west Yorkshire and there was a high number of entries.

Merle Bentley attended an awards ceremony on behalf of the young people, and collected their prizes and certificates. ***Congratulations ladies!***

## Celebrating Participation at ISSP

BY JEN LOW, YJW ISS

### *Into the Dragon's Den...*

Our young people showed exceptional teamwork skills on "Dragons' Den Day", where they designed and made unique products and presented their business plans to a panel of expert judges! Ideas included a self-esteem boosting magic mirror and a new lightweight electronic tag...look out Bill Gates, our young entrepreneurs are hot on your heels!

### *Sisters are doing it for themselves...*

Before successfully completed ISS, Tamsyn Barker took the lead on designing a scheme of work based around the Holloway Documentaries. Her enthusiasm and commitment to the project have produced in an excellent programme of work, significantly improving the resources available for work with young females!

### *As part of the winter programme at ISS...*

... our young people have been getting involved in improving the service provided by the team and we have welcomed their input with open arms!

Operational manager Denis Lewis chaired a 'young people's forum' where our post-16 cohort helped to write a brand new behaviour contract for young people starting the programme.

### **New Starters...** *the YOS would like to welcome the following new staff members:*

- Paul Judkins, (YJW, ISS)

- Catherine Nicholls, (Seconded PO, South)

- Kath Hemmingway, (YJW, ISS)

- Nicky Clarke, (Housing Support Worker, IRS)

*Thank you to all contributors and to the editorial team. If you have any comments or ideas for the next edition, please contact us by email: [jennifer.low@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:jennifer.low@leeds.gov.uk), [dawn.foker@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:dawn.foker@leeds.gov.uk), [denis.lewis@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:denis.lewis@leeds.gov.uk)*