



MBE FOR YOUTH JUSTICE WORKER

Lynda Campbell, Youth Justice Worker in the West Team, has been awarded the MBE for her work with the Youth Offending Service.

Lynda has worked for Leeds YOS for over six years, during which time she has helped countless young people and impressed her colleagues with her dedication and willingness to 'go the extra mile'. She was nominated for the award by YOS colleagues and Police with whom she works, and the nomination was supported by Head of Service Jim Hopkinson and a Leeds Local Councillor.

Making a nomination is not an easy process which takes many months and vast amounts of paperwork. Simon Tollemache, former YOS Police Officer and Lynda's colleague, described why they decided to make the effort: "I have never met anyone with such a high level of commitment. Lynda holds the view that every young person's behaviour can improve; she works positively with some who many believe are a lost cause."

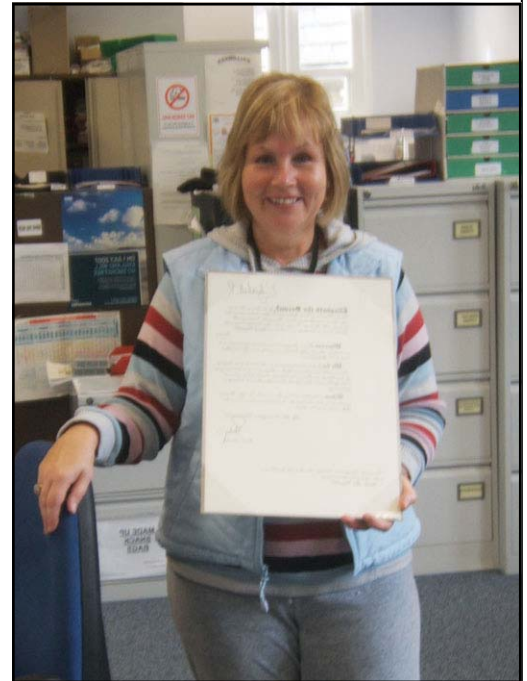
However, colleagues are not the only people who believe that Lynda deserves the award. When asked if receiving the MBE has made a difference to her daily working life, Lynda replied, "My young people are thrilled – and the parents. One of the young people who found out even mentioned it to other members of staff!"

The award was announced in the Queen's Birthday Honours List on 16 June, but hasn't yet been officially presented. Lynda has received a Summons from Buckingham Palace, signed by the Queen and Prince Philip, and will be presented with the medal in a few weeks' time. I asked Lynda how she felt about being given the MBE. "Honored – privileged that someone thought enough to nominate me, and for the support from others in the YOS... my only sadness is that Jane Foreman is not around to see it happen. She was involved in nominating me and as my manager was instrumental in the good work for which the MBE was awarded".

The honours system in England has existed for centuries, but it has only been possible for the public to make nominations since 1993. The MBE recognises people who have 'made a difference in their field of work or community - they have gone the extra mile'. This is proof, if proof were needed, that YOS staff make an extraordinary commitment to their responsibilities towards the young people of Leeds.

Despite her newfound fame, Lynda has no intentions of leaving the YOS. "The MBE reflects the team and the way we work – we all support each other and I wouldn't have got it without the team I work in. I have the award but it's a record of the achievement of multi-agency working here at Leeds YOS. It's not in isolation."

Catherine Morrissey (Admin Officer, North Team)



YJB Arts Award winner

Eileen Rogerson from the Rap team was awarded the prestigious award for 'best arts project from a non-arts professional' at the annual arts award ceremony that took place in September. This was for the making of the RAP Banner.

Eileen goes on to tell us the story behind it...

'We decided it would be a nice idea to get some of the the young people to create a banner that represented what Rap has meant to them in their lives and some of the issues that they face. It took some persuasion but soon enough the ideas were flowing and many of the depictions are personal.'

The owls and blocks of flats represented Leeds and their environments

Drugs, police, crime and custody told of some of their experiences.



One young woman drew an enormous dog and a cup of hot chocolate, This represented comfort for her and the time spent dog walking with her Rap worker

Friends ,family and music were some of the things that were most important to them.

'The project took a team effort from all concerned and overall I think they did a splendid job and expressed very visually what RAP means to them'

Eileen Rogerson (Youth Justice Worker)

Mighty Lions roar on to the end

After weeks of football training that involved plenty of, sweat, tears, scuffed trainers, moaning and creative planning at Leeds Thomas Danby College's Community Sports Centre, nine young people from the Leeds Youth Offending Service travelled over to Grimsby on Saturday 8th September 2007 to take part in an organised 5-a-side football tournament against other Youth Offending Teams (YOT's) from across the region.

They worked together to create their own football name and logo which was put on to t-shirts for the day. And so the 'Mighty Lions' were ready to pounce.

The day turned out to be a resounding success and the final was refereed by Graham Poll (World Cup and FA Premiership Referee). Grimsby and Leeds battled it out and played a valiant game to draw which took the game into extra time and then penalties. Despite losing 2-1 on penalties it was agreed that the trophy would be shared 6 months each to reflect the fact that both teams deserved recognition for the fantastic football that they played.

The medals were presented to all players by Graham Poll after the match and re-match is currently being discussed- watch this space!

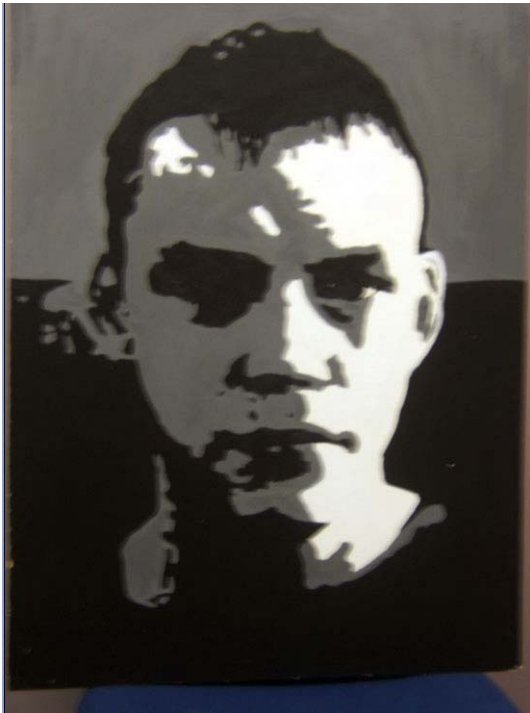
Glenn Richards

Leeds Thomas Danby Football Coach



Graham Poll dishes out medals to YOS players

Art in the playhouse



The winning entry (from Wetherby)

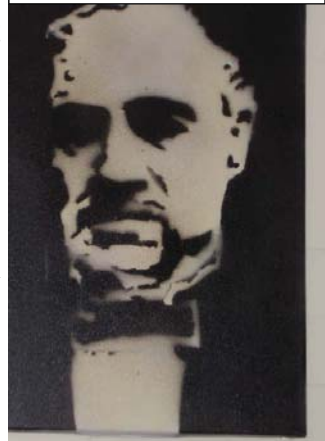
West Yorkshire Playhouse hosted a fantastic exhibition of artwork and sculpture submitted by Leeds YOS, Wetherby Secure College of Learning and Eastmoor Secure Unit. The project was set up by Leeds YOS in partnership with the secure estate to get the work of the young people recognised and they certainly did not let us down.

The exhibition was well attended by many agencies, professionals and members of the public. All spectators were invited to vote for their favourite piece of art.

The young people displayed what a wonderful array of creative talent they possess and should all be very proud of themselves. The winner of the competition and the runner up will be presented with High street vouchers. Well done to all the young people who took part.

Rosaline Morley
(Practice Manager)

Runner up (Eastmoor)



Slavery in the dock

To commemorate the 200th anniversary of the abolition of the slave trade and its territories, myself and Mark Cooper facilitated a session on 23rd of August. This date is the official international day for the remembrance of the slave trade.

We explored some of the bloody history of slavery which saw over 20 million African men, women and children taken from their homeland and dispersed around the world from the Caribbean to South America.

We also asked "Does slavery exist today?" Followed by presentation regarding bonded labour, early and forced marriage, forced labour, slavery by descent, trafficking and different forms of child labour.

The session was well received by the young people who all participated well and further sessions are planned to enhance their understanding of this sensitive, but important topic.

Stedroy Williams (Youth Justice Worker)

Summer at ISSP

During the six week's of summer ISSP provided a wide range of activities and day trips to cover the period when their young people are not in education. This was tremendously successful and culminated in a three day sports event at Thomas Danby college.

A coach was on hand to teach the young people 5 different sports-tag rugby; quick cricket; basketball; football and netball. In total 20 young people joined in.

The final day was August 23rd and we commemorated international slavery day with international food.

The day finished with a sports day for staff and young people and medals and certificates were presented to all those who took part.

We now hope to build on this good work and some young people gained Youth Achievement Awards. We look forward to continuing this in the October half term.

Jenny Bright (practice manger) and Louise Taffinder (Youth Justice worker)

Art Attack Discovery

The discovery centre is a new and exciting development close to the Royal Armouries in Leeds. It holds the open storage unit for the vast social history collections for all the Leeds Museums. Items range from ceremonial African Masks to dinosaur footprints and stuffed polar bears.

In Partnership with the YOS the discovery centre hosts an arts project which runs every Monday for YOS Young people. Eileen Rogerson and Merle Bentley facilitate the sessions with the museum staff to give young people an insight into life in days gone by and the experiences of growing up in different cultures. Stimulating ideas and conversations come out of looking at the objects as diverse as old TV's and ancient spears. Feed back from those young people who have

attended has been overwhelmingly positive and the majority can't wait to come back the next week.

Completed art work is on display in the Marshall Street office so be sure to look out for it when you are visiting the office. If you have any young people who are interested then contact Eileen or Merle for further details.

Emma Falk(RAP Manager)

Teenage pregnancy group

Leeds ISSP has completed an 8 week project which included working alongside Leeds Women's Theatre. The majority of the work was completed at the Host Media Centre.

It involved 6 young people developing a DVD which looks at attitudes towards teenage pregnancy. The girl's looked at many different emotional responses from different perspectives including family and community and various outcomes positive and negative.

The completed DVD will be available as a resource after it has been edited.

Amanda Hart (Education Worker)

Orienteering

On 16th August we took 8 young people to Bolton Abbey for a day of orienteering. The whole group was split into three teams and sent off to navigate their way around the countryside.

We set them tasks to collect things such as brass rubbings on the course. We met during the day for a picnic where we all enjoyed the sunshine together.

Despite having to send out a search party all the teams came back in one piece having acquired new skills and experience of team work.

Gary Collins and Mark Cooper (Youth Justice Workers)

IN BRIEF

- Two young people from ISSP successfully completed Level 1 Bronze Arts Award. This was in conjunction with LIFEFORCE PRODUCTIONS.
- Well done to Adam Harris for winning award for the writing competition run by BBC Radio Leeds.
- Investors in people review is due in Late November some staff will be interviewed by the assessors.
- The YOS is developing a training database this will update your training records electronically .
- E-training in safeguarding is now available, all staff will be receiving a password shortly and will be able to log on from their desktop.
- Enterprise House move has now partially taken place. Restorative Justice and Bail Support are there to be followed by the North Team.

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Thank you to all contributors and to the editorial team. If you have any comments or ideas for the next edition, please contact Brendan Clarke (0113 214 5678) or Rosaline Morley (0113 214 5284).