



Youth Work delivered by Mahdlo in Shaw

Report

January 2015

1.0 Service Update:

Mahdlo are proud to announce the district youth work sessions will continue post March 2016. Therefore, Mahdlo will continue to deliver out of the six districts they are currently operating in. Key steps moving forward include further developing partnerships across the borough, identifying further gaps in provision through an updated mapping exercise, reviewing current sessions and exploring barriers to young people engaging in youth services. Mahdlo will also be applying for Big Lottery funding in the near future and part of that process will ensure stakeholders, young people and partners are consulted.

1.1 Council Secondment Update:

Six youth development officers were seconded to Mahdlo from the council for the 15/16 financial year. These posts have now been through consultation and a review. Moving forward there will be two positions for the 16/17 financial year and both will continue to be seconded to Mahdlo. There will be a Youth Development Officer and a Youth Training Officer working across the borough of Oldham. The Youth Development Officer will continue to build capacity of individuals, groups and providers to deliver youth activities. The Youth Training Officer will develop training programmes to offer youth work training to new or existing providers and also develop training for Mahdlo staff.

The Detached team have also been through a review and actions are currently being formalised. An update will be available for the next report in February

2.0 Detached Team

The Detached team have been continuing to deliver work in the Shaw and the High Crompton area on a weekly basis –every Friday and Saturday unless emergency response calls are received which is a priority.

Young People:

The number of young people the team engages with on the streets on a weekly basis is an average of 65 young people - this is made up of several different groups including young people from the core Shaw group and the skater group.

- The ages of the young people vary from 11 - 23 (The older end of the age range are predominantly the skater group).
- The core of the group the team engages is made up of young people from Shaw however; the team also engages several young people from across the borough that travel into Shaw.

Activities:

The activities delivered with young people include:

- Challenge 4 Change with the core group in Shaw - Challenge 4 Change is a charity run organisation in which young people can gain the skills to fulfil their true potential and build stronger communities - This is done through team building exercises to gain knowledge and understanding of both themselves and others. (The detached team applied for part funding for this through FOREVER MANCHESTER - The community Foundation for Greater Manchester).
- The team have also delivered work with young people based upon keeping themselves safe
- "Making Every Contact Count" - this was delivered over the Christmas and New Year Period – as it is a time where young people are generally on holidays and historically taking part in risk taking behaviour increases.
- The team delivered key health messages to young people and signposted them to the appropriate services.
- Joint work with the Mahdlo District Team, visiting sessions and supporting the team to build rapport and challenge behaviour of young people.

2.1 Lead Youth Worker

Current Session

Throughout November and December the teams aim was to continue to build relationships with the young people attending the sessions at Shaw United Reformed Church, offering a variety of activities and support where needed. The attendance since the last report has been as follows:

Date	No of Young people that attended the session	Date	No of Young people that attended the session
9 th November	14	16 th November	16
23 rd November	12	30 th November	16
7 th December	15	14 th December	17
21 st December	15	28 th December	Young people offsite activity to Mahdlo to visit senior zone session. No young people turned up on the night
4 th January	17	11 th January	22

**all young people attending the session are aged 13-19. The majority of young people are from Shaw and Crompton. 1 young person attending from Derker, 1 from Saddleworth and Lees and 1 from Royton*

Activities

The Lead Worker has continued with the coffee bar feel to the sessions, offering hot food and drinks for the young people to buy – this is popular, as is the offer to young people for them to help in the kitchen and develop their life skills. A number of universal activities have been on offer and the more

popular activities include Xbox, table tennis, crafts, card games, monopoly and malteaser football! On the last session before Christmas a DJ was hired to deliver a workshop to young people which really increased engagement from young people.

This universal offer has allowed the team to build rapport and begin to concentrate on issues relevant to the young people – staffs have delivered issue based work on the following topics:

- Drug and alcohol awareness.
- The law around drugs.
- Personal safety.
- Sexual health.

The Young People

The group remain fairly consistent with some attending every week and others coming now and then. Staffs have noticed that they are not necessarily all out at the same time and coming as a group each week, but some are coming on their own straight from home. This shows that whilst some young people are not out every night, they see the session as something worth coming out for.

Behaviour continues to be a challenge, with some young people continuing to push the boundaries. The staff team has remained consistent in their approach to this, working together to minimise the disruption of negative behaviour. This is achieved through 1-1 discussions with young people and the use of warnings and timeouts where necessary. With some young people we have seen an improvement with this and we believe that as relationships continue to grow this will improve further.

There are a number of the older young people attending who are not in employment, education or training. We have successfully referred one young person to the job club at Mahdlo, which she is regularly attending, and we look to promote this and Mahdlo's Employability programme with more of the young people. As well as this we will look to increase young people's aspirations, and motivation to gain employment/education during weekly sessions.

The future

We would like to do further work such as:

- More intensive work with the young people around drug and alcohol use, including inviting a worker from Oasis to attend.
- We will also look at other issues including managing behaviour.
- Anti-bullying & positive relationships and raising aspirations.
- Continuing to build relationships is key and we will continue to offer positive activities in order to do this.
- We will continue to refer young people to partner agencies where it is required and build rapport with schools and police have a much more coordinated approach to work with young people.
- Continued operational links with the detached team.

2.2 Youth Development Officer

The Youth Development Officer has continued to focus upon building capacity in the district and supporting the District Team with local priorities conducting the following:

Key activities include:

- Funding information sent to Uniformed Organisations.
- Visiting schools and promoting the Mahdlo Offer
- Contacted local charity groups /and supported in removal of furniture from Shaw Youth Club
- Re-visiting the mapping document researching youth and leisure organisations in the district and updating it
- Information re Princes trust sent to partners
- Support Shaw Christmas light switch on with the Mahdlo Team
- Lead on Remembrance day in Shaw
- Assessing venues for Slimmin without women course in Shaw
- Supporting Age uk with publicity /venue for slimmin without women

3.0 Capacity

Currently Mahdlo do not have the capacity to deliver any further sessions in the district, this is due to funding and staff capacity. Also, the main strategic aim for Mahdlo for the coming 12 months is to focus on improving the quality of the offer and not growing provision or projects. However, we have offered support to young people in the area through active recruitment onto the Mahdlo Get a Job course and if needed referring them to Mentoring, Counselling and 1-2-1 Key work services as well as using the Mahdlo Hub on Egerton St.

4.0 Facility (United Reformed Church)

Our Youth Development Officer spent several months searching for a building in Shaw between Arpil and August. Many buildings were unavailable or did not have adequate space for youth provision. Due to the lack of available facilities in Shaw and Compton we began delivering out of the United Reformed Church. This was the only option and having reviewed the session, the type of young people we are engaging, and their needs we feel the venue is inappropriate for what we would like to deliver taking into account the needs/issues young people present. It also lacks space to do sports activities, which we believe the young people would enjoy.

The Church is also close to local resident's properties and therefore any noise or negative behaviour from the young people can cause concern for those residents (although staff are and will continue to work to minimise any disruption). We are in the process of looking for an alternative, more appropriate venue for this provision within Shaw so that we can continue to meet the needs of the young people. Should we not be able to find a suitable, available venue, then we have the option of working with the young people in a street-based setting, and certainly for the summer months this is potentially a positive option which includes joint work with the Detached Team.

The ideal option would be to find a building which is appropriate to the needs of young people. This would ensure they have focused universal and targeted activities; a safe space for themselves and the Detached team could also refer young people to the session and focus upon young people

presenting higher needs/issues in a street-based setting thus ensuring there is a coordinated quality offer meeting needs of the majority of young people in shaw.