

KEY (Kent Estuary Youth)

PROGRESS REPORT FROM THE TRUSTEES

October 2015-September 2016



Our Vision

KEY came into being to engage with the young people around the Kent Estuary area of South Lakeland.

We aim to enable young people to 'Unlock Their Potential' by fostering their personal, physical, social and spiritual development and helping them to make a positive contribution to the local community and to society.

Our programme of work is designed to provide creative learning experiences that appeal to and engage with a wide range of young people within the community. We also seek to support community cohesion through building stronger links across generations through project work and the sharing of skills and interests.

Our Progress

KEY became operational in the summer of 2015. The Trustees are pleased to report that the project has made a great start in delivering youth work and in building relationships and connections in the Kent Estuary area.

We appointed Emma Banks as our first full-time Youth Worker in October 2015. In the following report she describes how she is putting the core ideals of **KEY** into practice.

She gives examples of the various groups she has been involved with and then gives a realistic appraisal of the successes and the difficulties she has encountered during her first year.

She also lists statistics about the number of young people that have been reached through **KEY**.

Our Support Base

We are fortunate in that **KEY** benefits from a growing network of community interest and support.

KEY was established by local Christian churches and our regular circulation of an 'Update' newsletter is intended to help members of these congregations grow in their understanding of the challenges young people face and the changing social context across generations.

Our Thanks

The Trustees acknowledge with gratitude the funding that has helped to bring **KEY** from a concept into a valued and appreciated enabler of services alongside young people in the Kent Estuary area.

Chair of KEY Trustees: Peter Clarke,
contact: peter@heversham.com

Year End Report from Emma Banks

1. YOUTH WORK

AsAP (Arnside Senior Activity Project)

In October 2015 we were approached by AsAP's youth committee as they were in need of support to enable their youth club to continue. An agreement was made between the AsAP Youth Committee and the **KEY** Trustees for **KEY** to support the youth group's continuation with the active and ongoing input of a professional youth worker.

“KEY has really helped AsAP after the threat of being closed down. Without them I doubt we'd still be running”. Mia C (AsAP Youth Committee member)

Activities

We support the young people as they decide upon their own programme, which is made as diverse as possible. The activities have been based around generic curriculum themes; see examples below:

- Fun team challenges which address the skills needed to work with others.
- Independent living – ‘can't cook won't cook’ challenges where the group is set a budget and then has to plan and cook an item. I hope to develop this further into a ‘three course meal on a budget’.
- Healthy living – ‘sporting activities and games’ is one of the young people's favourites. One young person stated “I've done more exercise here than I have ever have done in PE”



Youth Committee



The Youth Committee has worked extremely hard with support from **KEY** to fundraise to ensure that the group is financially stable. Raising £422 through fundraising activities and a donation from Cumbria County Council of £500 has enabled AsAP to secure rent for the next academic year. **KEY** has also supported the group financially, paying rent and workers' wages to ensure the group continues on a regular basis.

The youth committee has seen a few new members join and the older committee members are training up the new. With their youth worker's support this group consults with the young people who attend the youth club and plan the programme, makes decisions about their finances and runs a small tuck shop. Our next aim is to develop a small adult committee to work alongside the young people in an advisory capacity.

Dallam School

KEY has worked in partnership with Dallam School through one to one work with young people who need additional support, lunch time drop-in sessions, ‘get crafty’ and a youth work project with year 7 and 8 pupils.

Youth Work Project

The school identified a need for additional support for a number of their young people around developing friendships, managing conflict and being able to explore bullying. From this, a programme was developed to deliver fun learning activities to support the young people in these areas. The young people explored complex issues from their own identity, to bullying, racism and discrimination. As an outcome of this project, the young people have decided that they would like to deliver a lesson for other young people during 'life skills' sessions around bullying, racism, discrimination etc. and to look at prevention and support. The group has started the initial planning stages of this project and pitched their idea to the school. It was given approval and this peer learning project is set to start in September.

*"The work **KEY** is doing within Dallam is a real asset to the school and the young people look forward to the workshops, one to ones and Friday drop-ins. We have received positive comments from both young people and their parents who feel the work taking place is relevant to them, as well as learning taking place in a fun way.*

Emma has also supported with signposting our young people to the appropriate services and sharing her experience and knowledge to support our young people to the best of her abilities".

Jo Rice (Year 7 Co-ordinator)

Dallam Borders

The work with Dallam Borders has focussed on a social action project working with 10 young people from year 7 and 8. Initially they took part in learning based activities around the development of a team; working with others, managing conflict, communication skills etc. We then moved onto discussing and researching charities the young people would like to support. They found this a difficult task as there were so many to choose from; through a



voting system they chose their preferred charity. Unfortunately, the charity was unable to work with them as there were no facilities set up for them to be involved in. Eventually they decided upon Oasis Wildlife Park which was affected by the December floods.

The young people liaised with Oasis and set about creating enrichment equipment for the animals. The young people had to develop skills in speaking to people in positions of power and authority, being creative, researching skills when looking into the needs of each animal type and much more. In the evaluation the young people stated:

"I have learnt; how to properly work together with people"

"I have learnt; to be patient and co-operate"

The group loved seeing the results of their hard work and their items being a success with the animals. They are already starting to talk about the next project and charity they would like to support.

2. LOGO COMPETITION

KEY mounted a competition amongst young people for the design of a new logo. The Trustees set a specification and then identified a short list from the entries. Young People were then invited to select a winner. Marnie, who designed the winning entry, will now be working with a graphic designer to develop her idea into a form that can be used in a variety of media.



3. DEVELOPMENT WORK

Support behind the scenes has been taking place with Levens Youth Club, discussing best practice within youth work, safeguarding and youth participation. From September onwards **KEY** will be looking to support Levens to develop their own Youth Committee.

We are working on developing our volunteers and a steering group for the Milnthorpe Youth Provision. This has not been an easy journey and we did have to re-evaluate our approaches along the way. **KEY** has attended various community spaces, volunteer evenings and churches to promote our work and discuss the volunteer rôles needed. This process has been effective in raising interest in supporting the organisation and increasing interest from potential volunteers.

*“It has been a joy volunteering alongside the **KEY** Project. It benefits the young people in so many ways; challenging them to reach their potential and supporting them to grow in confidence and self-esteem. Also I enjoy how involved it allows me to be and improves my experience and skills”.*

Becky Evans (ASAP Volunteer)

We are also forming links with M:HUB in Milnthorpe who are developing a church building into a community space. From September **KEY** hopes to be able to use some office space within the building to enable our Youth Worker to have a base and also to continue to build links with the community.

4. FUTURE PLANS

Our key areas of focus for the next year are:

- Development of a youth provision in Milnthorpe
- Increased youth voice in their own groups and in their community
- Focus on securing funding for curriculum based projects around emotional well-being, risk and resilience.
- Intergenerational project – we would like to look at bridging the gap between the older and younger generations through the forum of the arts. We are currently developing a steering group to help push this project forward. This idea came about from our many visits promoting **KEY**, where a number of community members expressed the concern that they had nothing to offer the young. This is not our belief and we see that there is a benefit for both age groups in coming together.

5. THANK YOU TO OUR FUNDERS AND SUPPORTERS

We would like to express our profound gratitude to our funders and supporters for all their ongoing support to enable our project to become established in the Kent Estuary area. We are seeing the growth of our project, which is starting to take shape and we are seeing the positive difference our work is having on the young people and the communities we work with. We feel that the project has just begun, that there is still a long way to go and lots of possibilities. However, without the community support and our funders this would be almost impossible.

6. SUCCESSES & DIFFICULTIES

Successes

- Dallam School – Positive relationship built with the school and the pastoral team.
- Dallam Boarders – Positive relationship built with the staff and young people.
- AsAP – fundraising and the high levels of participation that the youth committee have within their youth group. I will continue to build on this.
- Communities' views of **KEY** – during consultations, visits and presentations regarding **KEY**

I have only ever come across positive comments, offers of help and good wishes for our future success.

Difficulties

- Work base – the absence of any clear base - with the mix of commuting, proved difficult long term. However, a solution has now been found. KEY in partnership with M:HUB in Milnthorpe will be sharing an office space.
- Levens Youth Group – being unable to support them fully due to the clash of the evening clubs with AsAP. Discussions have taken place with those who support this group around safeguarding, volunteers and youth voice. Our aim is to have a part time worker to enable me to support Levens on a regular basis. In September they plan to establish a youth committee and I am discussing how I can support its development.
- Development of volunteers – Although we had lots of support we found people were reluctant to commit. Taking some time to re-evaluate and get out into the community, building relationships and talking about our work, has helped a new plan to be formed and more interest from potential volunteers to be generated. This area is looking much more hopeful with a volunteer evening taking place in early September and then a focussed meeting for volunteers planned for late September.

7. FUTURE NEEDS

- Additional youth worker input
- Development of a **KEY** sub-committee in order to identify sustainable core funding sources
- Funding for specific activities and programmes
- Development of a bank of volunteers both for delivery and for strategic roles

8. STATISTICS

Youth group	Numbers reached	Contact hours
AsAP (Arnside senior Activity Project)	23	57
Dallam Boarders	10	30
Dallam One to Ones	6	36
Dallam Drop in	26	22
Dallam Youth Project Workshops	12	16
Blackpool Pleasure Beach Trip	8 new young people <i>Total attended = 15</i>	9
Arnside Church School	60	2
Levens Primary School Visit	8	2
NCS	30	5
YOUNG PEOPLE WORKED WITH ON A REGULAR BASIS	Total = 77	
	Overall Total = 185	Total = 179hrs

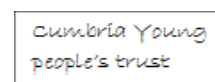
Agencies we have developed a relationship with so far:

SAFA (self-harm awareness for all)
 MiPAD (Milnthorpe community recreational group)
 NiSCU (Northern Inter Schools Christian Union)
 CYA (Cumbria Youth Alliance)
 Young Cumbria

Partnership agencies:

CVS (Cumbria Voluntary Services)
 Dallam School
 Dallam Boarders
 Early Help (Cumbria County Council)
 M:HUB (Milnthorpe community space)
 Levens Youth Club
 Local Churches
 Inspira – NCS (National Citizenship Scheme)
 Oasis Wildlife Park

9. OUR FUNDERS INCLUDE:



Diocese of Lancaster
 Catholic Parish of
 Arnside and
 Milnthorpe



CARLISLE
 DIOCESE

