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INFORMATION & OPPORTUNITES

POSITIVE ACTIVITIES UPDATE

Activities Oxfordshire (www.activitiesoxfordshire.info) has undergone a number of improvements in the last few months. We've also seen improvements in site capabilities (did you know we can now do home page features and news articles? To get featured contact jeremy.day@oxfordshire.gov.uk) and also in site use:

Local offer: The database has steadily grown both in terms of size and in terms of data quality.

88% of activities include disability access information (up from 86%)

Website usage: website has shown a punctuated increase in pages read. The peaks correspond to:

- The Facebook Marketing Campaign push in March
- The May redesign, which significantly improved site usability/stability



Social networking: The Facebook marketing campaign was successful at creating new contacts.

50-100 views of our Activities Oxfordshire page on Facebook every day the campaign was running

157 fans plus increased footfall to main website

The new Activities Oxfordshire website aims to list all organisations offering positive activities to young people in Oxfordshire. Groups can upload fliers, pictures, posters and more. Clients can leave comments and ratings. Why not find out if your favourite activities are listed yet? Also, check out the Positive Activities DVD made by young people at Wolvercote and Cutteslowe Youth Clubs—five Years Time can be viewed on [YouTube](#).

VINSPIRED NATIONAL AWARDS

vinspired believe in giving amazing young volunteers the recognition they deserve. So, if you know a great volunteer **NOMINATE THEM NOW** for one of the vinspired national awards for 2010.



INFORMATION & OPPORTUNITIES

TAKEOVER DAY—12TH NOV

Takeover Day is on 12th November this year. It is "a national event offering children and young people across the country the chance to work alongside adults and get involved in decision-making in a wide range of organisations." We are hoping that as many staff and organisations can get involved in this as possible.

The Decision Making and Young People Workers (Rosie Boyes, Georgina Grayling and Francesca Heffernan) will be going round the county on the day to see all the activities taking place, and publicising the activities organised. Your input can be anything, no matter how small!

Case studies and suggestions for activities which are available on the P drive for the youth service, under "General Youth / Takeover Day 2010", on the S drive under 'Takeover Day' for Connexions staff and on the S drive under 'Takeover Day' for YOS staff."

Francesca Heffernan will be the IYSS lead on this, so any questions or queries please contact francesca.heffernan@oxfordshire.gov.uk. When you have decided on your activity, please let your line managers know so that all activities can be recorded.



Criminal Records Bureau

NEW CRB FORMS

Please see guidance on use of the new CRB forms on the [intranet](#).

EXTENDING CHILD BENEFIT

The Child Benefit Office can often extend Child Benefit for up to 20 weeks if a young person has left education or training and they're still under 18.

If you discuss ext. Child benefit with a young person when they register with us, record this on profile as a claim under event and select extended child benefit from the drop down box and enter the date of claim as the date discussed. We do sometimes get contact from the child benefit agency to check this information. For full information go to the HMRC [website](#).

OXON DADS

Information and support for fathers especially young fathers can be found at www.oxondads.co.uk.

OXFORD UNITED FOUNDATION LEARNING PROGRAMME

Foundation Leve1, NVQs and Apprenticeships based around football. See the [flyer](#) and contact ed.duckham@oxfordshire.gov.uk for more information.



INFORMATION & OPPORTUNITIES

OXFORDSHIRE YOS 2009/10 DATA

- The total number of offences for 08/09 was 1,626. This was a reduction of 18.79% on 07/08 and 36.53% on 2000.
- The total number of offences for 09/10 is 1,245 which is a 23.43% reduction on 08/09 and a 51.40% reduction on 2000.
- The total number of offenders for 08/09 was 949. This was a reduction of 30.11% on 07/08. This is a rate of 1.5% of the 10-17 population in Oxfordshire offending compared with 2.15% in 07/08.
- The total number of offenders for 09/10 is 589. This is a 37.93% reduction on 08/09 and equates to 0.94% of the 10-17 population in Oxfordshire. The proportion of female to male offenders is decreasing slightly from 23.6% for 07/08 to 19.2% for 2009/10. Specific programmes for young women are developed within the YOS.
- Theft and violence remain the highest levels of offending, but only five young people at any time are subject to MAPPA, i.e. considered to be a very high risk and need additional management and supervision on a multi-agency basis to protect the public.
- 272 new entrants which is a 50% reduction on 2008/09 from 523.
- 46% victims received support; 37% in restorative process; 15% face to face; 18% indirect; 53% Referral Order victims engaged in restorative approach.
- Engagement in Education, Training and Employment while on an order and following the end of their order is 72.21% which is 1% lower than the previous year.
- Custody rates are 5.01% for the year i.e. 0.01% above the 5% target with a continued downtrend in the last two quarters at 3.67 for Q3 and 3.09 for Q4. this would indicate that the measures outlined in the Board's Report Card have had a positive effect and improved outcomes over the year.



'ARE YOU OK?'

Pete Wallis' book on young victims of crime has now been published. 'ARE YOU OKAY?' By Pete Wallis, YOS Senior Practitioner has been published. The book provides a simple and user-friendly information, approaches and practical guidance on working with young people on issues such as crime and victimisation. It is a very useful book for those interested in Protective Behaviours, Restorative Approaches, crime and victimisation and youth justice. For more information contact Peter.Wallis@Oxfordshire.gov.uk.

USING THE RIVERSIDE CENTRE

From this year IYSS services wanting to bring a group to Riverside outdoor learning centre will be able to book high quality youth work through outdoor learning at cost. See [flyer](#) for more information.



INFORMATION & OPPORTUNITES

BARRIERS TO PARTICIPATION IN EDUCATION & TRAINING

This [study](#) published in June 2010 by the Department Of Education (commissioned by DCSF) highlights these key issues:

- 86% of young people completing Year 11 do not experience any barriers that stop them from participating in their choice of learning post-16.
- However, 14% are prevented from doing what they want to do, while 63% report experiencing at least 1 barrier or constraint.
- The main barriers and constraints experienced by young people relate to finance, transport, availability of provision and their knowledge and awareness of the post-16 options available to them.
- Young people who live in rural areas have significantly increased odds of experiencing transport as a barrier or constraint than similar young people who do not live in rural areas.
- Finance is significantly more likely to be experienced as a barrier or constraint by young people who are NEET, those in a Job Without Training and teenage parents.
- The study suggests that there is an issue around the amount and nature of IAG available to some young people. A substantial minority of young people, particularly those with LDD, teenage parents, and young people in a Job Without Training or who are NEET feel that they have not received enough support and information, and do not feel prepared for their future when completing Year 11.

'TIME FOR A FRESH START'

The Independent Commission on Youth Crime and Antisocial Behaviour has conducted a fundamental re-examination of the way that society responds to troublesome behaviour by children and young people.

[Time for a fresh start](#), the Commission's report was published on 15th July 2010, bringing forward strategic proposals for sustainable reform of relevant services for children and young people, including the youth justice system.

APPRENTICESHIPS

Did you know that Britain has a long history of Apprenticeships?

Apprenticeships stretch back to the guilds of the Middle Ages. In those days to test if someone had successfully completed their apprenticeship they were asked to make a finished piece of work up to the standard of their master. Hence the term 'masterpiece'.

There are lots of free downloads on the apprenticeships.org.uk website, [click here](#) to listen to Tony Robinson at the Apprenticeships through the Ages event.



NORTHERN AREA UPDATES

STAFF CHANGES

Tracey Will will be returning to her role as Team Leader at Banbury Connexions next month, while **Simon Mathers** returns to his PA role between Bicester and Banbury.

SUPPORT FOR YOUNG MOTHERS

Banbury Connexions have been targeting young mums with home visits over June and July and helping to look at learning opportunities that coincide with college starts supported child care via care to learn and shorter learning opportunities such as:

- Busymummy (www.busymummy.co.uk) Home study Entry Level course for 13-19 year old parents/to be. 7 Units "Me & My Education, Employment & Training"
- Include (ABC2) * Banbury-based only * Intensive Course for young mums

If any IYSS colleagues have a young parent that wishes to discuss training options contact Banbury Connexions Jill Burton 01865 32 8443 or email Jill.Burton@connexionsoxfordshire.com.

READY FOR WORK PROGRAMME

A new Ready for Work programme in Banbury will be running in early August for NEET young people interested in construction. Please contact Banbury Connexions for the details.

SUMMER ACTIVITIES

A wide range of activities for young people are available over the summer period. Please see the links below for details.

[Bicester Courtyard Arts Centre—holiday What's on](#)

[The Mill Arts Centre](#)

[West Oxon DC Summer Activity Programme](#)

[Cherwell DC Summer Activities](#)

If you haven't passed on details of your centre's summer programme to Jeremy Day, please do so ASAP so she can put them on www.spired.com.

FREE POOL TABLE

FREE Pool Table available for good cause. Typical pub pool table but without coin slot. Excellent condition. Full set of balls, cues and chalk. Must be collected - a van and 2 strong people will be required for this.

Marsh Gibbon, near Bicester. Phone or Text Dave on 0789 1522 789 for more information or email deltasierra@live.co.uk.



SOUTHERN AREA UPDATES

STAFF CHANGES

Ketlin Varkki has now left OCC and Chiltern Edge Youth Centre and her post is currently vacant. The centre continues to run as normal but if you have any queries please contact Steve Curran.

Kim Howe, YOS Officer based at Wantage, is now called **Kim Munday**.

CONNEXIONS DROP-INS

Connexions are holding drop-ins at Sonning Common (10am-12:30pm) and Henley Youth Centre (1pm –3pm) on 28th July, 4th August, 11th August, 18th August, 25th August, 1st September. (N.B. Not 28th July at Sonning Common).

The Drop-Ins are targeted at school leavers looking for work or training. For more information contact the Didcot Connexions Centre on 01865 328480.

SUMMER ACTIVITIES

The district Councils in the South have information on their websites about activities happening over the summer, please have a look and pass on the details to young people.

[VWHDC Arts A La Carte](#)

[VWHDC Leisure & Fitness](#)



CENTRAL AREA UPDATES

SUMMER PROGRAMMES

IYSS Summer Programmes are almost all now available on www.spired.com and www.activitiesoxfordshire.info. If you have not given Jeremy Day your centre's programme yet, please do so ASAP so we can make it available to young people on our websites.

Oxford City Council have an Events section on their [website](#) where you can find other activities for young people to get involved in too.



'BUSY MUMMY'

16 places are available for mothers or pregnant women aged 14-19 and who are NEET on the Busymummy programme. Busymummy gives teenage parents the tools that they need to be able to engage with local education and employment opportunities and to equip them to play a full and active part in the labour market. As part of achieving this outcome it will offer support in parenting, emotional support, practical advice and basic skills. For more information or to refer a young woman please contact Terri on 07813042550 or terri-loupilgrim@busymummy.co.uk

UPDATES FROM SUPPORTING CHOICES TEAM

SURVIVAL GUIDE

Please keep sending your photos, articles and pieces of work to Karin Cook for the Survival Guide. Karin is working on the guide already but can still accept your items. If any work by young people is submitted, this can be accredited. Email items for inclusion to karin.cook@oxfordshire.gov.uk or call 07796 993340 for more information .

EXTERNAL ADVERTISING

OCC are now working with Penna Barkers for all advertising. They already have the contract for recruitment and public notice advertising and this contract has now been extended to cover all advertising. If you are planning any advertising you now need to go through the OCC Communications team to get a quote from Penna Barkers.

Don't forget that the Supporting Choices Team can help you with marketing for your programmes and events as well as general publicity to raise the profile of your work. We can also support IYSS staff in working with the press and local media.

STAFF BULLETIN

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EXTERNAL VACANCIES

THOMLEY ACTIVITY CENTRE MANAGER

Thomley has extended the deadline for the application for the post of Activity Centre Manager. Please forward the attached job description to anyone who you think might be interested.

Thomley Activity Centre is a recreational facility for disabled children, their families and friends. (Worminghall is 9 miles from Oxford and 3 miles from M40 junctions 8 and 8a).

ACTIVITY CENTRE MANAGER (Full-time, £25,000 - 28,000)

As a competent service manager with significant experience of working with young disabled people and their families, you will ensure availability of a wide range of inclusive activities, manage the daily operations and staffing of the centre, and elaborate strategies for future services.

Closing date: 26.07.10. Full job descriptions and application form available at www.thomleyactivitycentre.org/about-us/staff-vacancies or contact Claire on 01844 338380

We're on the Web
www.spired.com/co-nnexions/staff