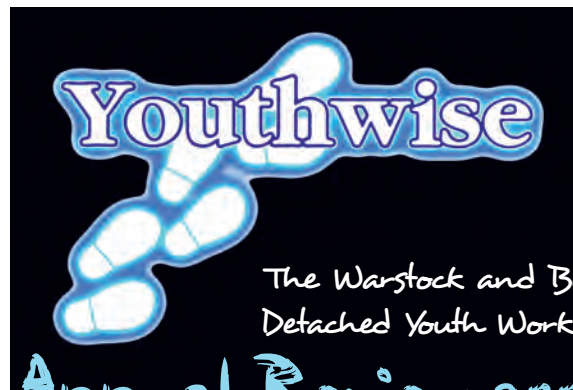


YOUTH



Annual Review 2006/07

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Our History

Youthwise is a detached youth work project, one of the first in Birmingham, established in 1985 as a result of an initiative by the B3 Police and community Consultative Committee.

In the early 1980's there were constant complaints to the Police and local Councillors about the anti-social and intimidating behaviour of groups of young people congregating on the streets of Warstock and Billesley. As they were seldom involved in criminal activity, no existing agency could offer an effective response. In 1984 the B3 Police Consultative Committee had the idea of employing a team of skilled workers who would go out onto the streets, befriend these young people and try to channel their energies into constructive activities.

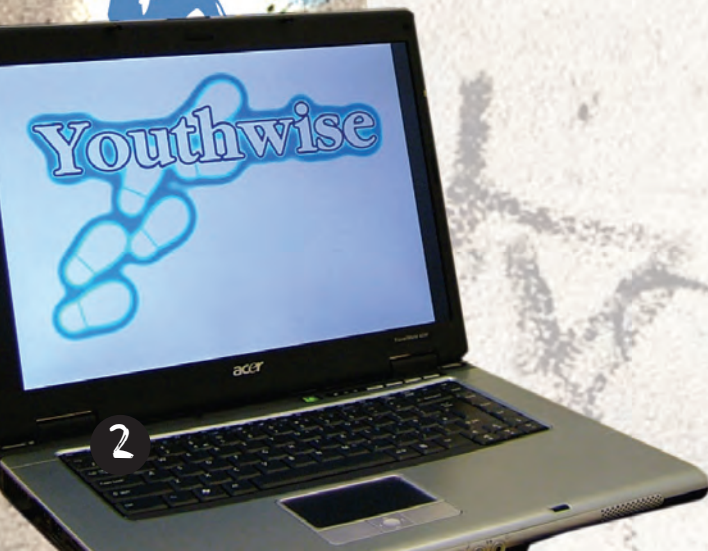
With a lot of hard work and fund-raising, this idea led in 1985 to the establishment of the Warstock and Billesley Detached Youth Work Project (now Youthwise) and the provision of a service which previously did not exist in this area.

Over the years Youthwise grew from a team of one full-time and two part-time staff to a team of three full time staff and five part time staff on permanent contracts.

By the beginning of 2006 Youthwise had been making an excellent and positive contribution to the lives of young people in Warstock and Billesley for 21 years. The time was right for a period of review and reorganisation. Many of the original staff team had left or moved on to new positions.

In August of 2006 a new project leader and a full time administrator were appointed. With generous funding from the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund work began on updating the administrative processes and updating the project's offices and IT systems. In February of 2007 a new team of 5 detached youth workers was appointed and at the time of writing they are once again going out onto the streets and engaging with young people. Building professional relationships and planning for a busy summer of activity and fun, Youthwise is now in an excellent position to continue its valuable work into the future.

Youthwise is a voluntary organisation with charitable status. It has a voluntary management committee. Its funding comes from charitable sources and Birmingham City Council's Youth Service.



Chairs Report

Reading the rest of this Annual Review you will realise that it has been quite a year for Youthwise. A newly appointed project leader, new staff and a refurbished office are just some of the things that have been happening over the last twelve months. All of the Management Committee and the staff have been working hard to get the project on track. New faces, new ideas, new office all ready to face the future and a new phase in the life of Youthwise.

The 'detached' nature of the project means that most of the work is done on the streets or wherever young people gather. This is challenging work! It takes time to build relationships and to gain the trust of young people. Youth workers require great skills and patience to channel the negative energies of young people into positive and constructive activity. Over the last year the Management Committee has spent a considerable amount of time putting the team together, to take on this important work in our community. We believe that Youthwise now has the right team fully equipped and ready to take up the challenge!

I would like to finish by thanking all those Charitable Trusts and Foundations who have so generously financed the project, also the City Council for the funding and support they provide, and members of the Management Committee who have given considerable time and commitment over the last twelve months. We look forward to an exciting and challenging year.

Rev. John Richards

Youthwise



All about detached

Young people often find themselves the focus of attention and criticism as they gather in a highly visible way. Their desire to hang around together, along with the fact that the activities they enjoy often involve a degree of noise and boisterousness, can bring them into conflict with the adults in the community.

They may lack any legitimate means to afford the use of leisure facilities, the costs of which are often prohibitive to young people. Plus, for various reasons they may feel that organised youth provision is not for them.

Not all of these young people are involved in criminal activity, although their raucous behaviour may encourage residents to seek support from the Police. However, some are involved in crime and anti-social behaviour which can have serious repercussions for themselves and those around them.

It is the job of Youthwise to discover the truth behind the complex behaviour of young people who hang about on the streets, parks and wastelands of this community. Our role is to offer support and guidance, to challenge negative attitudes and enable them to make positive choices in their lives.

What is detached Youth Work

Going out onto the streets to meet young people wherever they are, and offer them support and guidance as they face the difficult transitional years into adulthood.

Why is it necessary

Young people who 'hang about' on the streets are often not being reached by any other youth support agencies, but still have the same needs as any young person. So we take our resources and expertise to them rather than waiting for them to come to us.

The process in brief

1st stage

- A pair of workers walk around the area, visiting known haunts, looking for young people
- They identify groups and areas where these groups meet
- They approach the group, make introductions, and try to find out when and where else the group usually meet
- After a short time the workers leave saying they hope to meet the group again

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2nd stage

- The workers deliberately 'bump into' the group regularly over the next few weeks
- They gradually build professional relationships
- They introduce activities for fun and to provide more contact time
- They build up a picture of the group and individual needs

3rd stage

- They introduce projects specifically related to the needs, e.g. advice workshops, confidence building exercises, and activities designed to widen young people's horizons and provide them with exiting alternatives to aimlessly hanging around
- They may refer young people with serious issues to other specialist agencies if necessary
- They continue to develop a programme of work and maintain contacts for as long as they are needed or wanted by the young people



YOUTHWISE

Past Years Development

March – July 2006

Project work with existing groups of young people wound down. Youthwise staff completed their contracts, left for pastures new and the project began a period of contraction, reflection, and review.

August 2006

In August a new project leader and project administrator were appointed and a new staff structure for Youthwise was set up. A new project strategy was written, the decision was taken to return to detached work as the main focus. The Neighbourhood Renewal Fund (NRF) bid was resubmitted and approved. A new payroll for Youthwise staff was set up.

September 2006

In addition to clearing out some of the old files new contracts for staff were written and job descriptions finalised. The project leader and senior youth worker began going out on detached sessions and meeting new groups of young people.

October 2006

In October a new staff handbook was written and our senior youth worker began NVQ assessor training. The project leader and administrator also attended training on the management and administration of voluntary sector projects. We donated to other projects some of our unused equipment. Interviews for part time workers were held after which one new worker was appointed.

you+wise

November 2006

The new part time worker took up her post and began going out to get a feel for the area. Also a volunteer youth worker joined our growing team.

December 2006

Our administrator began development of a new financial system for the project. A second round of interviews was held, and staff continued to go out on street, attend tasking meetings, join local partnership groups and plan for introduction of new staff.



January 2007

Four new staff members were appointed following interview. The team was now back up to full strength and ready to take Youthwise to young people in our community. Our new financial system was trialled and the offices cleared ready for renovation. Our NRF application for 2007-2008 was submitted.

February 2007

Now began the task of having our offices renovated and a new computer network installed. NRF funds were approved for 2007-2008. The project leader began attending Billesley Extended Schools cluster meetings.

March 2007

A month of upheaval ended and the renovation of the offices was completed.

April 2007

April saw the process of reorganisation coming to an end. By now the project was in a strong position to continue its successful work into the future. We had good administrative processes in place, we were well funded in the short term and we had a full staff team and a base that was up to date and fit for purpose. By the end of the month our workers were already back out on our streets in numbers and preparing to make a real positive difference to young peoples' lives once more.



Where are we now?

The new Youthwise

This last year has seen lots of change for Youthwise. After 21 years of making a real difference the time was right to breathe in, take stock and spend time renewing all aspects of our work.

Inevitably this has meant that some of our work with young people has had to take a back seat for a while. However many of the groups Youthwise had been working with had come to a natural end and many of the young people we were working with were moving on into adulthood. The time was right to return to our roots and begin again the task of taking youth work out onto the streets to a whole new generation of young people. We are pleased to say that at the time of writing this review, our team is already after only a short period in post, regularly meeting 100 young people and planning for a whole summer of fun and learning. Once again they

are giving the next generation the opportunity to develop learn and have fun in new and exiting ways.

The needs of young people do change but the need for a service that empowers, challenges, stretches their imagination and supports them through what for some can be a confusing, challenging and at times difficult period in their lives remains, Youthwise is ready once again to meet that challenge and make a real positive difference.

Youthwise is a project for all young people who do not access existing youth provision. This may be because they feel uncomfortable with those that do, or they may just simply not want to be part of a very organised club. Any young person hanging about has the potential to become a perpetrator or victim of crime. As a team we do not work only with those perceived by others as a problem in the community but we offer a service to those who might want to get involved in the activities the youth service offers but feel unable to for whatever reason.

**Youthwise is the
positive alternative!**



esomaytmooy youthwise

Where are we going?

So where will the next twelve months takes us?

We hope to engage with 11-20 year olds to increase the opportunity for this age group to take part in constructive, positive, life enhancing activities, provided by both Youthwise and partner organisations. Diverting young people from negative patterns of activity such as disruptive and anti social behaviour, and potential criminal activity before this behaviour becomes entrenched. We aim to prevent young peoples' lives becoming difficult rather than simply trying to pick up the pieces once they have done so.

To engage young people in activity leading to recognised accreditation, thus improving their employability and raising their own confidence and self esteem. We aim to foster a culture of achievement and success rather than disengagement and failure.

In order to increase opportunity for young people to access positive activities, our workers will bridge the gap between young people and existing services.

We will encourage those in the 11-15 age groups in particular, to move away from involvement in behaviour harmful to their future and the lives of others. By engaging these young people we will have an impact on levels of anti social behaviour, alcohol and substance misuse, increase their life opportunities and help them develop more positive relationships with their community and other adults. We will work with the Youth Service and other decision making bodies to enable young peoples' voices to be heard on issues of concern to them. We will help to promote a more positive image of young people in the community seeking to foster respect and tolerance.

Youthwise staff are meeting our young people and are developing our strategy in line with their requests. Often they tell us that they would like more activities to be available to tackle the boredom and aimlessness which they feel. Many of the young people we have spoken to are keen to see more services for them taking place within the area.

We are confident that our work will continue to address some of the very real needs felt by young people and the community and we are excited and looking forward to building on the past reputation of Youthwise and taking the project forward in the years to come.



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Partnerships

In order to ensure young people are engaged positively we work with

- Our colleagues in the Youth Service and voluntary sector
- Local schools
- The Connexions Service
- Health Services
- Other youth activity providers
- Specialist agencies for drug and alcohol work with young people
- Adult education
- The Police neighbourhood teams

Youthwise has always believed in partnership power. Our strength is in building positive relationships with young people who are not being reached by other agencies. But we are only one link in the chain. We work hard to develop partnerships with agencies who can offer expertise in other areas which ultimately result in a joined up service for young people. Detached youth work is most effective when it is a supplement to or supplemented by other methods of service delivery. To that end we have a vested interest in seeing our partner organisations thrive and develop. If they are strong we are strong, and we feel very much that Youthwise needs to be part of and should give time to a wider development of services for young people in the area. Together we can offer more to young people than if we try to go it alone.

Birmingham City Council Youth Service

Youthwise offices are situated on the same site as a Birmingham City Council youth centre called The Annexe. Youthwise staff work closely with the Annexe youth centre and staff, sharing resources and facilities. This is a very fruitful partnership offering an important source of support to both organisations. It also means that working together we can offer the young people we meet on the streets, a much wider range of activities and opportunities. The Youth Service also provides support to Youthwise seconding a qualified senior worker in the role of project leader, and offers training and staff development to Youthwise staff.

Billesley Extended Schools Cluster

Another important development in the last twelve months has been Youthwise involvement in the planning group of the local extended schools cluster. An extended school cluster is a network of schools and other providers of services to children and young people working together to enable children and young people to achieve their potential. They bring together young people and their families, other agencies, organisations and members of community. Youthwise has always believed in partnership work and participation in this new development has enabled us to widen our networks and link with many more agencies in our area who share our passion for seeing young people develop and achieve.

Adult Education

We are very lucky that there is an Adult Education Centre based in the same building as us. Over the years we have worked closely with them to offer a variety of experiences for young people who are not attending school for one reason or another, or who have left school with no qualification and don't have the confidence to attend college.

The Police

Youthwise grew out of the consultation by the B3 Police Consultative Committee. In the last twelve months the police have begun a neighbourhood policing strategy. Many of the officers recognise that enforcement is only one method of dealing with the anti social behaviour of some young people. They have been working with colleagues in the Youth Service and with our staff here at Youthwise to develop diversionary projects and activities for young people, offering them an alternative. It is very encouraging to see the police engaged in this way and recognising that we all have a role to play in improving young people's lives and the lives of all the members of our community.

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Police Comments

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Youthwise team for their efforts in the Billesley area. In the five months since I became the local Sector Inspector my officers have worked in tandem with the Youthwise team to reduce issues of anti-social behaviour and youth disaffection.

The enthusiasm and commitment of those involved with Youthwise is clear for all to see. It is a worthy project that is delivering tangible results. From my perspective of recorded crime I will let the figures speak for themselves – reported crime shows a reduction in the area from a figure consistently approaching sixty offences per month to one closer to thirty-five offences per month. Youthwise is active in preventing young people from committing crime as well as becoming potential victims by giving them worthwhile focus and purpose.

Inspector Paul Minor
Billesley Police Station August 2nd 2007



Committee and Staff

Management Committee

Trustees:

Revd John Richards (Chairperson)
Sandra Jenkinson (Vice Chair)
Fiona Adams (Secretary)
Kath Davies (Treasurer)
Marsha Blake (until 16/7/07)
Alan H Bridge
Alison Leask (until 24/2/07)

Ex Officio Committee Members:

Philip SmiglarSKI – Area Youth Officer
Cllr Susan Burfoot
Glynis Spiller - Adult Education
Inspector Paul Minor
Revd. Sue Shewring
Martin Nash
Arkle Bell

Staff

Nick Cleaver (Full-Time Project Leader)
Jacqueline Gordon-Martin
(Full-Time Senior Youth Worker)
Lisa Barcroft (Full-Time Project Administrator)
Shanaz Begum (Part-Time Detached Youth Worker)
Wayne Daniel-Degannes
(Part-Time Detached Youth Worker)
Alasdair McCarrick
(Part-Time Detached Youth Worker)
Caprice Thompson
(Part-Time Detached Youth Worker)
Jacqueline Cochrane
(Part-Time Detached Youth Worker)
Jane Eden (Part-Time Admin Worker)
Rosemary Beeston (Part-Time Admin Worker)

Volunteer Youth worker

Rachel Pready

Money, Money, Money

Summary Financial Information Income and Expenditure 2006-2007

Income	£
Donations	33,219
Birmingham City Council	28,242
Neighbourhood Renewal Fund	55,451
Interest receivable	1,185
TOTAL INCOME	118,097

Expenditure	£
Salaries training and expenses	81,049
Premises	8,099
Activities	451
Management & Administration	8,397
Equipment depreciation	3,819
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	101,815

Net Incoming Resources	16,282
Balance Brought Forward	72,264

TOTAL FUNDS Carried Forward	88,546
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Made up of:

Designated Reserve Fund	21,654
Restricted Fund	33,416
Unrestricted Fund	33,476
88,546	

Statement on behalf of Trustees:

The above summary of financial information has been extracted from the full annual report and accounts to explain our financial position at 31 March 2007. The accounts have been independently examined by J E Elliott, Chartered Accountant and a full copy, including the Trustees' Report and Independent Examiner's Report can be obtained from the Secretary, Fiona Adams, 36 Grove Avenue, Moseley, Birmingham B13 9RY.

**The Warstock and Billesley
Detached Youth Work Project
would like to thank the
following for their support
during the last year:**

**Birmingham City Council
Neighbourhood Renewal Fund
Friends Hall Farm Street Trust
Mary Kinross Charitable Trust
The Douglas Turner Trust.**

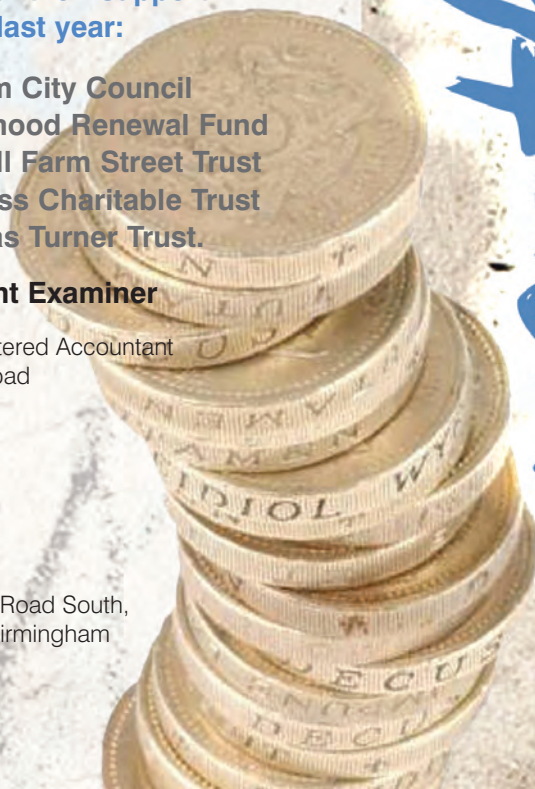
Independent Examiner

JE Elliott, Chartered Accountant
63 Greenhill Road
Moseley
Birmingham
B13 9SU

Bankers

Lloyds TSB
25-29 Alcester Road South,
Kings Heath, Birmingham
B14 7JQ

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