

PLATT BRIDGE

YOUNG WOMENS GROUP

Mr T Wynn
European Office MEP
105 Corporation St
ST HELENS

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I am writing to you to ask if you can help. For the past three and a half years I have been working in Platt Bridge as an outreach worker for girls and young women including young mothers, with Wigan Youth Service. As you are aware Platt Bridge is a priority area, the young women coming from a working class background.

Over the past three years the young women have been involved in a wide range of opportunities:- from women and Health courses, parenting, to awareness around areas such as disability and racism. There have also been residentials at Deltws cottage in Mid Wales.

Like other young peoples groups the young women would like to have the opportunity of visiting another country. But because any such venture would have to include children, they are not viewed as an "exchange" or "expedition", which excludes them from asking for grants from bodies that are there to help young people to be involved in an international experience.

To date their involvement in this project has had a number of spin-offs. The young women have contacted other individuals and groups whom they think could help us, eg. Natalee Chebe, ambassador to Wigan from Angers. All the young women have signed up for beginners French at Wigan Technological College. This is a major step for some and hopefully will be a first step in furthering their education and life opportunities.

Because our trip includes children this also doubles the cost. We need a safe and welcoming place for children, but always at a price.

The cost of such a trip would be £1,800 to £2,000. The young women have raised £500 and hope to raise £1,000. As you can imagine their is difficulty in raising money in an area like Platt Bridge where there is very little money.

Can you offer advice, support or any monies, grants that would help in this exciting adventure. We would be happy to meet with you to give you further information at your convenience.

M BROOKFIELD