

TAMESIDE OUTREACH TRAINING

OR HOW TO GET OUT ON THE STREETS AND KEEP SANE

WEEK ONE

- 1 Split into two's introduce ourselves - how we came into youth work and where we are up to know.
Feed back in big group.

Out of this we soon realized that we already had skills as women, standing chatting outside with other women, getting involved in play groups, mother and toddler groups.

- 2 Perfect Youth Worker

Write three words to describe skills needed to be a youth worker.

Patty volunteered herself while we all stuck our labels on her.

It soon became clear that it would be impossible for individual youth workers to have all the skills we highlighted.

eg friendly, fun to be with, good listeners, talking 48 hours in a day, how to approach young people, trustworthy, confidential, manage time effectively, interest in young people, supportive, contortionist, understand issues facing young people, understanding, approachable, welcoming, none judgemental, sense of humour, listening skills, enthusiastic and empathetic, make a good cup of tea, organized, strong in what you believe, flexible, honest, enjoy and want to do the work, no prejudice, build relationships easy, help and advise, work from your instincts, motivating others, read between the lines, know how to do everything, find information about everything under the sun.

- 3 We then attempted to define the difference between Outreach and detached. The conclusion being for each individual to make for themselves.

Outreach

Bring young people information, encourage to come to Centre's. Support outreach centre to make buildings accessible to young woman, build relationships, access to resources, worker is the resource.

Detached

Working with young people in their own settings, worker is the resource, responding to needs, push adult support.

- 4 The final activity - we broke into small groups to look at the situation (see attached 1 and 2)

Because we had run out of time it was agreed we would continue the following session with the findings from the situation

TAMESIDE OUTREACH TRAINING
=====

OR HOW TO GET OUT ON THE STREETS AND KEEP SANE
=====

WEEK TWO

After checking out how we all were, the session began with information from the previous week.

WHY AND HOW TO CONTACT GIRLS AND YOUNG WOMEN INCLUDING YOUNG MOTHERS
(from situations)

Talk to girls we already know, friends of friends, school, local cafe, church group, housing, health visitor, local nurseries, in their own home, keep in contact not one of.

HAVE SOMETHING TO OFFER
(from situations)

Free meal, trips out, social, keep fit, crafts coaching, sports, netball, football, video music, workshops, canoeing, hill walking, positive images, projects, courses, girls days.

We read the headings for our starting point of the session and explored a number of issues important in bringing both together.

Know who you are
Communication skills
Relationships
Support

Know who you are (See programme)

TAMESIDE OUTREACH TRAINING

OR HOW TO GET OUT ON THE STREETS AND KEEP SANE

KNOW WHO YOU ARE

- (i) Accept who you are and not be squeezed into pre-conceived ideas of what a youth worker is
- (ii) Take a minute to think of who you are
Shy, Outgoing, bossy.
- (iii) Split into two's
Describe yourself - be positive
Describe it as a strength and how you can use it
- (iv) Return to group

COMMUNICATION SKILLS

Break into pairs - practice what you should not be doing

Staring

Don't look

Interrupting

Repeating last few words

Rush through words to get it all out

Bring back - brief outline of good Communication Skills

TAMESIDE OUTREACH TRAINING

OR HOW TO GET OUT ON THE STREETS AND KEEP SANE

RELATIONSHIPS

Hand out - brief discussion

We think relationships are a big part of youth work. Young people will not jump through your hoops if you don't have some sort of relationship with them.

- 1 There is no set pattern
- 2 It may take a week or a year
- 3 It needs to be consistent
- 4 Some may come every week
- 5 Some may just take what they want
- 6 Some may never come, but still want contact with you.

IMPORTANT

BE CLEAR WHAT YOU CAN OFFER - DON'T SET YOURSELF UP AS THE PERSON WHO HAS ALL THE ANSWERS - ACCEPT DIFFERENT LEVELS

* * * * *

SUPPORT

Where do we find support - and what kind?

Identify what support would be useful

Immediate support

Where from?

What kind?

Wider picture

Management Committee

Time to organize

Personal

How do you unwind?

Time for yourself

* * * * *

TAMESIDE OUTREACH TRAINING

OR HOW TO GET OUT ON THE STREETS AND KEEP SANE

WEEK THREE

We were very aware that because of lack of time the discussion around support had to be cut short, therefore we felt it would be more supportive if more time could be put aside to continue this discussion, consequently the last session didn't have as much content as the previous two.

The session started with a quick warm up game - name, favourite meal, T.V., place to visit, woman we admire.

We then moved on to look at what we termed "tricks of the trade" we did this by splitting into two's sharing ideas, suggestions that we had tried out with girls and young women. Useful discussion took place in small groups. This was then fed back into the group, to name a few:-

Invite fifth form girls to watch Neighbours

- * Say you have to run a course because you are a boss and can they give you support
- * Say you have been asked to pilot some material and you would value their opinion
- * Say you have prepared to put your head on the block for them.

We then took fifteen minutes to talk about the process of youth work in Platt Bridge (see summary attached)

The last half of the session was then left in your own hands to discuss how to organize continued support for yourself and the practical job of organizing a visit to Wigan.

Hope these notes will serve to jolt your memories in remembering the many issues that were discussed.

Finally hope the session helped in building your confidences and realizing your skills in undertaking outreach work. We would appreciate any comments positive or negative about the three sessions, please forward through Sue Crabtree.

SEE YOU IN MARCH 1990
MARIE, SUE, CHRIS, MARY, PATTY AND SUE.
26 February 1990