



Health Development Agency

Boys' and Young Men's Health

Practice examples

An interim report

Carried out by Working With Men (Neil Davidson and Trefor Lloyd)

on behalf of

the Health Development Agency

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This report, which accompanies the Literature and Practice Review, comprises the first stage of this piece of work. Stage 2 will identify key learning points from a range of different young men's projects in terms of 'what works and why'. At least 15 projects will be involved, drawn from those identified in this mapping exercise, and will include projects from both the voluntary and statutory sectors.

The learning from Stage 2 will be disseminated in Autumn 2002, via an evidence-based resource, to be written by Working With Men. This will provide guidance on how to establish an effective young men's project, whether it be based in the voluntary or statutory sector.

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Alive & Kicking

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Aims

To raise awareness about health and healthy lifestyles among young men.

Context

Football clubs – Sunday leagues.

Target groups

Working class younger men aged 16–35. The men are reached initially through club secretaries or coaches. Teams are selected on the basis of their level of fitness. The scheme is advertised in the local press, on the sports pages.

Main health issues dealt with

Registration with GPs, risk-taking, sexual health, diet, cancer awareness, general health checks.

Methodologies

The project runs an incentive scheme in which individuals collect points on behalf of the club. Once the total has reached a certain threshold, the club is rewarded with a first-aid kit, new strip, etc. Some activities, such as registration with a GP, are carried out by the individual; others in groups as part of club activities.

Main working assumptions with regard to young men

That for many young men, fitness equals health, and that this is a dangerous assumption. That young men do not make

use of traditional existing health services, so alternative access points need to be found.

Published information

A manual on the project will be published (funded by the Department of Health) in Spring 2001.

Evaluation

The project has been evaluated internally.

Main sources of funding

Department of Health

How was the project set up and when?

Set up in 1996 by the CEDC as a way of targeting young men with health messages.

Any major gaps in service?

Football authorities need to be involved from the beginning for the project to be sustainable.

Future development

The work of the project (in five different sites) has been written up and will be disseminated this year. It is hoped that football authorities will pick up on the scheme and introduce it in another areas throughout country.

Support needs

Above all, staff need to be able to relate to young men as young men. Given that health services have traditionally been female-oriented, staff need training and support in understanding and working with young men.

African Families Support Service

Contact

Sophie Kafeero

53 Canbury Park Road, Kingston, Surrey KT2 6LQ

Tel 0208 541 3668 **Fax** 0208 247 9515

Email afss@lineone.net

Aims

The relief of poverty, sickness and social exclusion of Africans living in London, partially those affected by HIV/AIDS.

Promotion of care for African children through information, advice and practical support.

Context

Schools, colleges, community settings – barber's shops, clubs, children's homes, recreation centres.

Target groups

Black Africans (adults and children). There is targeted work with young men aged 14–30. Young men are targeted primarily through sports activities and music.

Main health issues dealt with

HIV/AIDS and sexual health, alcohol/drug abuse, homelessness, stress, education and training.

Methodologies

Primarily work is done through peer-led health-promotion seminars, and ongoing groups and residential activities.

Health- and welfare-related work is also carried out as part of sports activities (eg, football), and through music tuition.

Individual young men are often offered mentors.

Main working assumptions with regard to young men

Young men's problems are rarely addressed by mainstream services. Women are much better at accessing services.

Young men tend to leave home early, and as a consequence can face social isolation. Their mental health is affected by lack of skills for work and through difficulties in accessing education.

Published information

Leaflets available.

Evaluation

None externally as yet.

Main sources of funding

Health Authority and charitable trusts.

How was the project set up and when?

Set up by Sophie Kafeero in 1998.

Any major gaps in service?

Would like funding to run a drop-in service.

Future development

To employ an outreach worker for football club work. Also for work in community settings.

Support needs

Training, particularly around mentoring.

Barnardos Young Men's Project

Contact

Mark Lee
52 Weston Street, London Bridge, London SE1 3QJ
Tel 020 7378 8797

Aims

To provide information and support to young men vulnerable to sexual abuse and/or working in prostitution.

Context

Outreach, community settings, schools, youth settings.

Main target groups

Young men under 18 in the London area.

Main health issues dealt with

Sexual health, safety issues, sexuality, alcohol/drugs

Methodologies

Individual advice and counselling, sex education groups, staff training.

How do you target work at young men?

Referrals from other agencies, partnership work with other agencies working with young men, eg, CLASH, Centrepoint.

Main working assumptions with regard to young men

Young men have difficulties with communication and

accessing services. Work with young men needs to be active and more informal than work with young women.

Published information

N/A

Evaluation

None as yet.

Main sources of funding

Barnardos currently, but other funding strategies will be sought for the future.

How was the project set up and when?

Established in 1999. Barnardos had a history of work with young women in this area and recognised that parallel work with young men was also needed.

Any major gaps in service?

N/A

Future development

To find better ways to access young men.

Support needs

Internal supervision provided, and support from wider Barnardos organisation. Participation in inter-agency support groups.

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Blackpool Young Gay Men's Group

Contact

Clive Taylor

Health Promotion Unit, Sharoe Green Hospital, Sharoe Green Lane, Fulwood, Preston PR2 8DU

Tel 01772 711796 **Fax** 01722 711113

Email clive@nwlhpu-preston.demon.co.uk

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Aims

To reach young gay men in the community. To provide information, recreational and educational opportunities so that they may make informed choices on a variety of issues.

Context

Schools, youth and community service; police provide referrals.

Target groups

Main target group is young gay men under 25, but primarily in the 16–19 age range. Professionals in contact with young men are a secondary audience. Young men were targeted through a poster campaign, and through work with teachers and other professionals.

Main health issues dealt with

Mental health issues, eg, isolation, depression, coming out, alcohol/drug use. Also self-esteem, sexual health issues. Social and recreational activities away from the commercial gay scene.

Methodologies

Group discussion, individual support, social activities. The emphasis is on providing a positive environment and avoiding the 'problematism' of young gay men's lives.

Main working assumptions with regard to young men

That young gay men in this age group have to be very

independent, and often socialising is limited to specifically gay bars and clubs where there are casual sex, alcohol and drugs. This can limit young gay men's view of being gay, excluding relationship-forming, love and affection, and other social activities. This can lead to depression and lack of self-confidence.

Published information

Annual reports.

Evaluation

None yet formally.

Main sources of funding

Youth and Community Service, Health Authority.

How was the project set up and when?

Set up in 1998 as a result of an alliance of Youth and Community Service, North West Lancashire Community NHS Trust, and other services in Blackpool, Wyre and Fylde areas.

Any major gaps in service?

Need for increased funding to allow workers both preparation and contact time. Greater understanding of project's remit by other agencies. There has been a tendency to see the project as simply a place to refer on any young man who might be gay, without properly considering their wider health needs.

Future development

To be re-launched on appointment of new worker.

Support needs

Close contact with other professionals. Enough time for contact work and raising profile of project.

Boys and Young Men's Sexual Health Team

Contact

Justin Hancock, Sean Wooley
Derby Youth House, Derby City Council, Mill Street, Derby
DE1 1DY
Tel 01332 206027

Aims

To give young men the opportunity to engage with sexual health issues by providing them with real and relevant sex and relationships education, and access to male-focused sexual health services.

Context

'THE SPACEMAN' and 'GET YOUR KIT ON!' – Sexual health sessions in Derby city centre and surrounding areas for young men aged 12–25. Delivering sex and relationships education for young men at schools, further education colleges, hostels, youth clubs, training providers and night clubs; also through sports projects and midnight basketball programme.

Target groups

Main target age is 14–19. Areas with high rates of teenage pregnancy are targeted through programmes in schools and youth clubs. We try to work with 'hard-to-reach young men' through hostels, midnight basketball and referrals from the Youth Offending Team. Also developing services and programmes for black and Asian young men.

Main health issues dealt with

The demand by young men for sex education that is relevant to them and not imposed by adults. This includes talking about condoms, safer sex, foreplay, pornography, testicular cancer, relationships. Young men are frustrated by the lack of easy availability of condoms. Many young men wish to be responsible, but won't travel to inner-city agencies to get condoms, preferring condoms to be available in schools.

Methodologies

Male-only sexual health sessions with wide range of free and 'exciting' condoms with little or no waiting time, and opportunity for young men to check out issues in a safe confidential atmosphere. Also participation-based sex and relationships education (quizzes, questionnaires, drama, art, discussion games, etc) with an emphasis on young men

setting the programme where possible. Also, use of sport and activities to promote male health.

Main working assumptions with regard to young men

Young men need to be listened to, and project workers try to react to their needs. Young men definitely want to be responsible, but see many barriers. The project is trying to respond by as far as possible removing these barriers, both practically and in terms of listening to young men's attitudes and feelings. A sense of humour is a good starting point. Male workers are particularly able to empathise with young men's experience, and this helps them open up and talk.

Published information

Team annual report.

Evaluation

The work is evaluated internally.

Main sources of funding

Youth Service, Teenage Pregnancy Funds.

How was the project set up and when?

Set up in 1998 by Youth Service and Community Health Service because young men were slipping through the net of services. The project has been expanded since June 2000 with further workers.

Any major gaps in service?

More settings need to be identified in which to work with young African/Caribbean men in the daytime. More outreach sexual health services are badly needed – eg, the project has a long-term goal of condoms being made available in schools.

Future development

Condoms in schools. More of existing service provision.

Support needs

Recognition from wider public of need and value of working with young men. In particular, the education authorities need to put targeted work with young men higher on their agenda.

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Bread Youth Project

Contact

Susan Moores

Bread Youth Project, 20–22 Hepburn Road, St Paul's, Bristol
BS2 8UD

Tel 0117 942 7676 Fax 0117 942 7672

Aims

6 To develop social education work with African–Caribbean young men. To promote positive self-identity. To provide opportunities to use skills and express concerns.

Context

Community settings, residential, prisons.

Main target groups

African–Caribbean young men aged 13–25.

Main health issues dealt with. Anger, frustration, African identity education.

Methodologies

Group discussion, one-to-one outreach to other organisations.

How do you target work at young men?

Outreach to local community, self-referral.

Main working assumptions with regard to young men

N/A

Published information

Yes

Evaluation

Internal

Main sources of funding

Barrow Cadbury Trust, National Lottery

How was the project set up and when?

Young men's work started in 1996.

Any major gaps in service?

N/A

Future development

To re-start programme after new staff appointed.

Support needs

Steering group for work formed from local community leaders. Internal and external supervision.

Brook Young Male Sexual Health Clinic

Contact

Harriet Gill

Wirral Brook Advisory Centre, 14 Whetstone Lane,
Charing Cross Road, Birkenhead, Merseyside CH41 2QR

Tel 0151 670 0177

Email wirralbrook@talk21.com

Website www.merseyworld.com/wirral-brook

Aims

To encourage young men to use Wirral Brook Centre and other services. To promote a sense of responsibility with regard to sexual health, behaviour and learning. To develop an educational and supportive service response to the changing needs of young men. To help empower young men to make positive informed choices about their sexual health, personal relationships and sexual behaviour.

Context

Brook Clinic linked to educational work in schools and community settings.

Target groups

Young men under 25 generally, but also targeted work with young men in exclusion units and other young men considered to be vulnerable. Young men are targeted through the project's close links with schools (including school visits). Work is also targeted at areas with high teenage pregnancy rates.

Main health issues dealt with

Condoms/contraception, relationships, peer pressure, sexually transmitted infections, self-esteem, body development, appropriate boundaries.

Methodologies

Service often accessed by groups of young men, so group work.

Main working assumptions with regard to young men

To be open to young men's agenda, to encourage them to explore issues in a safe setting. That young men need to know that Brook services are not just for women, but for them too. That young men need help to take up attitudes of responsibility and to acknowledge that they experience pressure to have sex.

Published information

Articles written in the press about the project's work. Leaflets available.

Evaluation

No formal evaluation. Statistics of clinic use are kept. Wirral Brook has highest percentage of male users in Brook organisation.

Main sources of funding

Wirral Health Authority, National Lottery, local HIV prevention money.

How was the project set up and when?

Clinic set up in response to young men visiting and asking to see a male worker. Staff recognised need to offer specific service to young men. Clinic has been running for 4 years.

Any major gaps in service?

Attendance can be intermittent, so probably a need for more publicity. A need for a physically separate waiting room.

Future development

To link up with other agencies and generate support for working with young men.

Support needs

Training for all staff on working with young men. Need for commissioners to validate work even if outcomes are hard to measure.

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CALM (Campaign Against Living Miserably)

Contact

Pippa Sargent
National CALM Co-ordinator, 2nd Floor, Gateway House,
Piccadilly South, Manchester M60 7LP
Tel 0161 237 2720 **Fax** 0161 237 2733
Email pippa@manchester.nwest.nhs.uk
(plus local contacts in the areas where CALM is active)

Aims

To raise awareness of depression among young men and to encourage them to talk about problems at the onset of depression. To provide support and increased access to local services by young men via a targeted telephone helpline.

Context

Campaign messages and a telephone helpline.

Target groups

Men aged 15–35 within the active CALM Zones of Manchester, Merseyside, Cumbria and Bedfordshire. Targeted through campaign materials aligned to and promoted in young men's social environments of music, sport and entertainment. Materials are designed and developed to reflect current themes in youth culture (eg, club culture). Although it is targeted at young men, anyone can call the helpline.

Main health issues dealt with

Problems with relationships, sexuality, drugs and alcohol, finance, family illness, self-harm, bullying, exam stress, abuse and a range of other issues. The CALM helpline has received over 25,000 interactive calls since its initial launch.

Methodologies

Person-centred and caller-led telephone counselling approach. All referral is caller-led only. The helpline is staffed by a variety of professionals, eg, youth workers, social workers, nurses. The helpline is freephone and open 5 pm–3 am. Campaign and helpline promoted and linked to other services on a local level by local CALM coordinators, although calls are received at a central call centre where

counsellors have access to relevant local information and a database of local services.

Main working assumptions with regard to young men

The CALM Campaign addresses the reluctance of young men to take action and/or access services. It encourages young men to start talking about problems at the onset of depression and/or when problems first emerge. As young men generally do not respond to traditional health messages, the campaigning approach is vital in changing attitudes of young men towards seeking help. Using imagery from and working in partnership with the music, entertainment and sports industries is key to achieving this.

Published information

Information about the campaign and publicity materials.

Evaluation

Evaluation ongoing by the Department of Health and local stakeholders. In addition, an independent evaluation study has been carried out before and after the launch of the project on young men's attitudes to CALM and depression.

Main sources of funding

A partnership approach involving the Department of Health (core funders) and local Health Authorities/Health Action Zones and/or Social Services within the CALM zones.

How was the project set up and when?

The first pilot (in Manchester) was set up in December 1997. This was followed by Merseyside and Cumbria in March 2000, and Bedfordshire in May 2001.

Any major gaps in service?

Difficulties in assessing action taken or barriers to reaching local services once callers given referred information. Restricted opening hours. Helpline service not provided in languages other than English. No on-line support service.

Future development

Continuing to expand sponsorship support and endorsements from significant young men's role-models from music, sport and entertainment, and to develop the CALM brand. Evaluation of specific aspects of the campaign. Roll-out of CALM to other zones in partnership with local stakeholders – different focuses locally depending on zone, eg, engage more with the younger end of the target group; address difficulties in encouraging certain cultures/communities to use CALM's service.

Support needs

Counsellors are supported within a framework of supervision, peer support and training. Local co-ordinators supported by a local steering committee of stakeholders. Campaign locally guided, although helpline centrally managed by Department of Health, therefore good communication and liaison are always required in a disparate team.

The Canonbury Project

Contact

Roger Elderton
Canonbury Project, Unit 3, St Paul's Road, Marquess Estate,
London N1 2PY
Tel 0207 354 9821

Aims

10 To offer social and educational opportunities to young people at risk of crime and involved in anti-social behaviour.

Context

Detached work on estates. Also has unit on estate for individual and group work, and youth club.

Target groups

Young people aged 10–23. These are predominately white working class males.

Main health issues dealt with

Drugs and alcohol; depression, relationships and sex; parenthood, safety and risk reduction.

Methodologies

The detached work is carried out through building long-term relationships focusing on trust and reliability. Small group work is also carried out, as well as leisure activities. Workers from other specialist projects are also brought in.

How do you target work at young men?

Through detached street work.

Main working assumptions with regard to young men

A non-aggressive approach allowing young men an easy 'get out' is essential to avoid them losing face and withdrawing.

Young men are consulted on their needs and involved in process of planning specific projects.

Published information

Annual report.

Evaluation

Internal evaluation is ongoing. Youth services officer's visit to evaluate.

Main sources of funding

Islington Youth Service

How was the project set up and when?

Set up by Youth Service in 1993 after a riot on one of the estates.

Any major gaps in service?

The need to record the work more consistently. There is a real lack of trained part-time male workers, and of policies for working with young men. Other services in the area often have very negative view of the young men, and this can inhibit the work. Work has been done in the past with young fathers and more is needed, but funding is short.

Future development

A young men's residential. A sex education group for young men. A programme of individual work with excluded young men. A mixed parenting group.

Support needs

Good training, particularly for part-time staff. Detached work with young men with multiple problems needs very good management support to justify the approach to the work.

The Clay Partnership

Contact

Nick Smith

34 Four Acres Road, Veryan, Nr Truro, Cornwall, TR2 5QN

Tel 01872 501351

Aims

To provide opportunities for five young men aged 16–25 to achieve formal accreditation in youth work, key skills and outdoor education. To implement a peer education/mentoring programme for local young people to participate in. To provide opportunities for young people in the local area to participate in a range of fun and challenging outdoor activities.

Context

Education. training, outdoor pursuits.

Target groups

Young men aged 16–25 living in localities with high unemployment. A secondary audience of young men aged 13+, targeted through youth clubs, careers, probation. These are boys who are also thought to be at risk of social exclusion.

Main health issues dealt with

Mental health generally, eg, communication skills, low self-esteem from poor employment prospects and limited education opportunities. This applies to both trainees and the young men they will work with.

Methodologies

Team-building training, life skills training, outdoor education training (eg, sailing, canoeing, mountain biking). Trainees are

also given extensive individual support.

Main working assumptions with regard to young men

Young men suffer disproportionately from high levels of unemployment and poor training opportunities, which lead to poor mental health and a high local rate of male suicide. Practical help in the form of qualifications and paid employment is important, as well as educational opportunities in order to motivate young men to help themselves.

Published information

A project report is available.

Evaluation

The project was evaluated by Ofsted in March 2000.

Main sources of funding

Funded by the Rank Foundation for 5 years.

How was the project set up and when?

Need identified by Young People Cornwall, and project initiated at the end of 1999.

Any major gaps in service?

Nothing yet, except that the demand for traineeship is much higher than the project can meet.

Future development

Ongoing youth-work training for trainees.

Support needs

Contact with other projects doing similar work.

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Community Responses to Persistent Young Offenders

Contact

Roger de Sathmary
HAZ Office, Marson Corridor, West Park Hospital,
Park Road West, Wolverhampton WV1 4PW
Tel 01902 552240

Aims

12 To offer mentoring for young offenders or those at risk of offending. To offer mentoring support – in schools for those at risk – in the community for persistent offenders and those excluded from school. To offer intensive mentoring for the most persistent offenders.

Context

Schools, community.

Target groups

Young offenders or those at risk from exclusion or highly disruptive aged 14+. The majority are young men. The initiative works in partnership with schools, the 'Re-Entry' Project and NACRO to provide the service. It is targeted within one electoral ward of Wolverhampton.

Main health issues dealt with

Within schools, the issues are focused around managing behaviour to enable school attendance. With those attending Re-Entry, the issues covered are self-esteem, substance and alcohol misuse, self-harm and other mental health issues.

Methodologies

Befriending to offer advice, information and support. Group work, often with outside facilitators brought in.

Main working assumptions with regard to young men

That young men need role models. There has been no specific focus on masculinity, but this has arisen as a training/consultancy need as the work has developed.

Published information

None

Evaluation

Being evaluated by CEDC Coventry.

Main sources of funding

HAZ Innovations central fund.

How was the project set up and when?

Set up 12 months ago.

Any major gaps in service?

A need to 'catch' young men earlier before offending becomes persistent.

Future development

N/A

Support needs

Training on masculinity.

Dads R Us

Contact

Mark Dexter
HMYOI Lancaster Farms, Stone Row Head,
Off Quernmore Road, Lancaster LA1 3QZ
Tel 01524 848745

Aims

To encourage young men to take and share responsibility as parents. To offer practical and theoretical information. To encourage positive attitudes to parenting.

Context

Young Offenders Institute

Target groups

Young men aged 18–21 who are already fathers or about to become fathers.

Main health issues dealt with

What kind of father is a good role model for children? What does taking responsibility mean? Legal position of unmarried men. Child development, talking, discipline, activities with young children. A complementary course open to all inmates covers basic childcare.

Methodologies

Small group work (up to eight) – discussion, case studies, videos.

Main working assumptions with regard to young men

That all young men have some knowledge of parenting, and this is the place to start from. That young men have difficulty

seeing themselves as being responsible practically for children. That the young men care a lot about their children, but often have difficulty putting this into practice.

Published information

None (although there have been articles about the work in professional journals and the media over the past 7 years).

Evaluation

Internal monitoring of programme. Some follow-up research carried out by the Trust for the Study of Adolescence involved young men from the Young Offenders' Institute.

Main sources of funding

The Prison Service Education Department

How was the project set up and when?

Set up in 1994 as a result of demand from young fathers about how they could become better parents.

Any major gaps in service?

Needs to be a way of young men staying in better touch with their children while in prison. This may involve preparation of reading tapes to send home.

Future development

None at present.

Support needs

N/A

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Developing Work with Young Men

Contact

Mike Farnfield
District Youth and Community Office, White Cross Education
Centre, PO Box 604, Quarry Road, Lancaster LA1 3SF
Tel 01524 35099

Aims

14 To give young men a 'survival guide' to assessing their risk-taking. To encourage young men to reflect on their mental and emotional health.

Context

Schools

Target groups

Year 10 in schools within Lancaster district.

Main health issues dealt with

Risk assessment, relationships with young women, sex, emotional health, peer pressure, conflict/anger.

Methodologies

Classroom-based work (in groups of eight to 25) by two staff using group work exercises and teaching.

Main working assumptions with regard to young men

That young men need a constructive/positive way of being 'masculine'. That most risk-taking behaviour in young men is

unthinking, and that learning to manage risk might help them stay safer.

Published information

None.

Evaluation

Internal evaluation by Youth Service staff after each session. Sessions have also been reviewed by Ofsted.

Main sources of funding

Youth and Community Service

How was the project set up and when?

Initiated by Youth and Community Service. Ongoing links have been established with certain local schools.

Any major gaps in service?

The four sessions (of 1 hour) are not long enough, but it is difficult to negotiate more with schools.

Future development

To spread the work to other schools. To maintain the work as part of the Youth and Community Service's core curriculum.

Support needs

Independent evaluation for staff members on progress of sessions has proved useful. Time needed to review the curriculum regularly is important. A forum for male workers would be useful.

Dorset Interagency Suicide Prevention Plan Focusing on Young Men

Contact

Sue Bennett
Dorset Health Authority, Victoria House, Princes Road,
Ferndown, Dorset BH22 9JR
Tel 01202 893000

Aims

To reduce suicides of young males in Dorset.

Context

The initiative is multi-agency and works in a variety of settings, eg, A&E services, youth advisory services, probation service, youth clubs, young offenders' institutes, schools.

Target groups

Young men aged 12–25, particularly those most at risk from social exclusion, marginalisation and isolation. The initiative works through refocusing existing services to target young men, preferring a holistic approach to the health issues surrounding suicide prevention.

Main health issues dealt with

Mental health issues, but also broader social issues such as housing needs, social isolation, gender identity, teenage pregnancy.

Methodologies

Different methodologies are used by the different agencies involved, eg, the Youth Service operates 'one-stop shops' offering counselling; the Connexions service. Other agencies offer drop-ins or coffee bars, and telephone helplines.

Main working assumptions with regard to young men

The acknowledgement that young men do not use existing services and that new initiatives need to be linked into

mainstream work in order to reach young men. Long-term work is needed to benefit young men, working around their broader mental health in order to encourage use of services.

Published information

A conference report, *Suicide Prevention in Young Men*, and an action plan.

Evaluation

Suicide rates have come down in Dorset. No formal evaluation available.

Main sources of funding

Department of Health

How was the project set up and when?

Health authority recognised problem of young male suicide in early 1990s. A multi-agency conference led to a Dorset-wide action plan.

Any major gaps in service?

Work within primary care has come only lately, and it would have been beneficial to involve them more fully earlier.

Future development

There will be more work on male-only groups in schools' personal, social and health education classes. There is also a big need to develop work with young offenders.

Support needs

Varies according to each service.

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Enigma

Contact

Mark Heywood
Gay Community Health Service, 82a Northam Road,
Southampton, Hampshire SO14 0SN
Tel/Fax 023 8023 5111

Aims

16 To address sexual risk-taking with gay and bisexual men. To target those most at risk from sexually transmitted infections and HIV infection. To address these issues by skills development in confidence, assertiveness and negotiation. To develop knowledge, provide information and support.

Context

Community – workshops and residential.

Target groups

Gay and bisexual men who are at risk of HIV and other sexually transmitted infections, particularly young men under 25. An initial marketing approach was used to create interest using Enigma imagery. Later, after a sense of curiosity had been established, individuals were approached by project staff and invited to an 'Enigma journey' (an individual assessment of need). Individuals who identified a need were recruited onto the initiative.

Main health issues dealt with

Sexual health knowledge, negotiation skills, decision-making, legal issues, assertiveness, self-esteem.

Methodologies

Initial one-to-one needs planning, questionnaires, case studies, group work and team work exercises. Participants were interviewed before and after the initiative.

Main working assumptions with regard to young men

That a significant portion of gay and bisexual men are practicing unsafe sex and that this stems from risk-taking

behaviour. That in order to deal with this, issues of communication, relationships, confidence and assertiveness need to be addressed.

Published information

Reports on the project.

Evaluation

The Enigma project as an in-depth intervention has been evaluated using a range of quantitative and qualitative methodologies. It is an evidenced-based intervention which achieved statistically significant results.

Main sources of funding

HIV prevention budget.

How was the project set up and when?

Following evidence of unsafe sex amongst the target group, an initiative was developed to address sexual risk-taking. Broader issues of confidence, assertiveness, self-esteem and relationships issues were taken into account within the initiative. First pilot ran from April 1999.

Any major gaps in service?

Through evaluation of the initiative, a number of 'process' recommendations were made which were incorporated into subsequent Enigma programmes. These changes were in data gathering and workshop structure.

Future development

Following evaluation of the Enigma project, it is recommended to continue to provide the Enigma intervention to address sexual risk-taking among the target group.

Support needs

Support for staff includes regular supervision sessions and access to welfare services.

From Boyhood to Manhood Foundation

Contact

Decima Francis
Sojourner Truth Centre, 161 Sumner Road, London SE15 6JL
Tel 0207 7406220 **Fax** 0207 231 8630
Email shepsu.fbmf@talk21.com

Aims

To provide day, evening and weekend support programmes for African–Caribbean young men.

Context

Community settings.

Main target groups

African and African–Caribbean boys and young men aged 12–17 within the London Borough of Southwark.

Main health issues dealt with

Educational needs, sexual health (eg, sexually transmitted infections, teenage pregnancy), relationships, diet and nutrition, physical health, social skills, behaviour modification, anger management.

Methodologies

Group work, individual work, support work with parents, personal planning, peer-mentoring project, cognitive work. How do you target work at young men? Outreach in local community, referral from other agencies, eg, schools, Youth Offending Teams.

Main working assumptions with regard to young men

To treat young men respectfully, giving them examples of different types of black men who are functioning well in society, home and personal lives. There is a need to nurture the will to change habits, provide social skills training in all areas of life, and integrate young men back into the community in a positive and supportive way. Young men are looked at holistically, and the work is done from an Afro-

centric perspective. It is very important that work with parents and families is carried on alongside work with young men.

Published information

A needs analysis report carried out before setting up the project is available.

Evaluation

Internal, and externally as part of Southwark Youth Service Crime Prevention.

Main sources of funding

Local authorities; Millennium fund; some private sponsors; fundraising; 'in-kind' services.

How was the project set up and when?

The project's Director had created similar programmes in the USA, and set up the project on returning to the UK in 1997 with help from Sojourner Truth Community Centre, SASS members and Vanu Sestrii.

Any major gaps in service?

Secure longer-term funding is vitally needed. Staff are largely voluntary and demand for places on the project is very high. There are now requests for work with a younger age group (9–11), and for those coming out of institutions; also for work with young men 17+.

Future development

To secure more funding to allow more places to be made available. Would like to expand to other boroughs, and nationally. Plans also to work with other age groups (see above) and open up to girls, and also create programmes for parents.

Support needs

Financial security of project, mentoring and counselling and ongoing training.

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Gateshead and South Tyneside HIV/Sexual Health Promotion Service

Contact

Adrian Smith
Young Men's Sexual Health Worker, 14 Regent Terrace,
Gateshead, Tyne and Wear NE8 1LU
Tel 0191 490 1699 **Fax** 0191 490 1706
Email adrian.smith@exchange-gatesh-tr.northy.nhs.uk
Website www.gatesheadhealth.freesevice.co.uk

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Aims

To offer sex education to young men in school and community settings. To offer sex health advice/information and contraception to young men via contraceptive and young people's clinics. To provide training to other professionals.

Context

Schools, colleges, alternative education settings, Youth Offending Teams, community and youth groups, clinics.

Target groups

Young men under 25, particularly vulnerable young men, eg, those in areas of high teenage pregnancy rates and multiple deprivation, young men in care, and asylum seekers. Secondary targets are professional workers, eg, community and youth workers, health workers, teachers, social workers, care workers. A 'c-card' system is used to target young men. Word of mouth is the primary means of publicity, but there is also publicity in recreational settings.

Main health issues dealt with

In clinical settings, condoms, 'performance' and the physical aspects of sex are common issues. In community/group settings the most common issues are the mechanics of sex, condoms, relationships, alcohol and bullying.

Methodologies

In clinics, male workers are made available where possible for individual work. In group settings, the focus is on interactive methods, role-playing, presentations – all done in single-gender groups. Efforts are made to tie in the group work to accessing services.

Main working assumptions with regard to young men

The work adopts an anti-oppressive approach (in particular anti-sexist), seeing work with young men as part of a wider

context of issues. Central to the work is putting young men's concerns (which they often find difficult to articulate) on the agenda. However, it is vital that this is done without colluding.

Published information

Publicity leaflets and posters produced by the project and a newsletter.

Evaluation

Internal evaluation (pre- and post-programme questionnaires; focus groups; peer evaluation) carried out, but no outside evaluation done.

Main sources of funding

Health Authority and Teenage Pregnancy allocations.

How was the project set up and when?

Set up in 1997 after work carried out with heterosexual young men by gay and bisexual men's project identified need for generic work with young men and boys. Now there are three Young Men's and Boys' Sexual Health Workers within the service.

Any major gaps in service?

Barriers between community services and health services still need to be broken down further. Professional barriers need to be shifted to enhance the service for young men. Young men's work needs to have a higher profile with health service providers. There is a high dependency on Teenage Pregnancy funding, which can focus work on teenage pregnancy issues at the expense of wider sexual health issues (although every effort is made to place teenage pregnancy work within a wider sexual health framework).

Future development

Extension of clinical provision (using a mobile clinic) developed in consultation with young men. Increased training with professionals/adults who live and work with young men.

Support needs

A need for other examples of good practice. Important for direct contact with other workers in the field doing similar work.

Health of Men – The Lad’s Room

Contact

Nigel Hughes
Health of Men, Bradford and Airedale Health Promotion,
136 Malsis Road, Keighly, BD21 1RF
Tel 01535 667613
Website www.healthofmen.com

Aims

To offer free health advice to young men aged 12–25.

Context

Drop-in centre.

Target groups

All young men aged 12–25, but particularly those who do not use other services. Publicity materials are designed using ‘club culture’ images to appeal to young men.

Main health issues dealt with

Free condoms, sexual health generally, bullying, relationships, steroid use, drugs and alcohol.

Methodologies

Individual advice sessions by male workers. Staffed by health visitor/nurse. Informal chat sessions. Referrals are made to other local agencies.

Main working assumptions with regard to young men

That young men actually want this kind of service, but have

difficulty/reluctance in accessing existing services. That young men, while maybe having correct information, do not apply it in their lives.

Published information

Article on work of project published in *Nursing Times*: Mills, R., Chell, S. and Saunders, R. (1999) Man to man. *Nursing Times* 95(19): 32–33.

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Evaluation

Bradford University is evaluating.

Main sources of funding

HAZ

How was the project set up and when?

A partnership of local information centres carried out a needs analysis. Project started in September 1999.

Any major gaps in service?

Work on young fathers needed. Work in schools also needed.

Future development

Work with Asian young men on coronary heart disease. Groups to be developed from drop-in work.

Support needs

N/A

Hospital Youth Work Team

Contact

Sean Cullen
Children's Out-Patient Department, New Cross Hospital,
Wolverhampton WV10 0QP
Tel 01902 307999 **Fax** 01902 643051

Aims

20 To strengthen provision of young people who are admitted to acute services. To assist young people who are admitted for self-harm, overdose or other lifestyle-related admissions. To ensure all non-medical needs are addressed and assist interaction with appropriate services.

Context

On wards, home visits, outreach in community settings as appropriate.

Target groups

All young people aged 11–21.

Main health issues dealt with

Isolation, relationships, behavioral problems, difficulties in managing medical treatment, self-harm.

Methodologies

Peer-support groups, individual work on information-giving. Young people are worked with both on the ward and afterwards at home, to run an individual programme of support. Residential work groups for young men are also being set up.

Main working assumptions with regard to young men

That young men need a form of 'subtle mentoring', particularly those who experience social isolation.

Published information

An annual report is available.

Evaluation

Only the annual report. However, an external evaluation is planned for the end of 2001.

Main sources of funding

HAZ-funded for 3 years. Workers seconded from Youth Service.

How was the project set up and when?

It was recognised by drug and alcohol services that many young people (particularly young men) were 'missing the net'. Medical staff in acute services felt there were individuals they could not deal with adequately. Much work was put into the set-up so that youth workers were seen as complementary to the medical staff and not as 'play workers'.

Any major gaps in service?

N/A

Future development

Joint training with medical staff.

Support needs

N/A

Hounslow Youth Counselling Service

Contact

Patricia David
Hounslow Youth and Community Service, De Brome Building,
Boundaries Road, Feltham, TW13 SDT
Tel 0208 583 2958
Email barbara.poulter@education.hounslow.gov.uk

Aims

To provide counselling for young people, including young men in Feltham YOI.

Context

Young Offenders' Institution.

Main target groups

Targeted young men's work with young offenders aged 14–20. In particular, young men considered at risk of suicide.

Main health issues dealt with

Separation, suicidal feelings, depression.

Methodologies

Individual counselling.

How do you target work at young men?

Referrals from Health Unit within the YOI.

Main working assumptions with regard to young men

Young men have mostly had very negative parenting experiences. As many are themselves parents, this produces

much conflict and sadness, and idealised views of the paternal role. Many have problematic relationships with women, again based on difficult experiences with own mother and an absence of positive male role models.

Published information

Yes.

Evaluation

Internal.

Main sources of funding

Charitable trusts.

How was the project set up and when?

Requested by YOI and initiated in 1992.

Any major gaps in service?

A system is needed that allows all young men in the YOI to access counselling, not just those with extreme mental health problems.

Future development

Part-time work employed to manage YOI work and to monitor and evaluate.

Support needs

Clinical supervision. Support systems from manager to facilitate team approach. Particular support needed around working in prison environment.

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LADS Project – Learning and Development Skills

Contact

Julie Smedley
Prescot Community and Youth Base, Bryer Road, Prescot,
Knowsley, Merseyside L35 5DW
Tel 0151 493 1894

Aims

22 To assist young men into accredited training programmes, education or employment.

Context

Community.

Target groups

Socially excluded or disaffected young men aged 13–19. Young men are referred primarily from schools, but also through detached youth workers.

Main health issues dealt with

Confidence and self-esteem. Also specific needs-led issues, eg, sexual health.

Methodologies

A 12-week programme of accredited training, eg, motor-bike skills. Trainees work in groups of five on the training and other social skills sessions. Individual intensive mentoring is also provided. After completion of the programme, ongoing weekly support sessions are offered.

Main working assumptions with regard to young men

There is a lack of targeted provision for young men in the local area. This is needed because young men are often seen as the ‘perpetrators’ of social problems such as crime and poor sexual health, and their needs are often ignored.

Published information

None

Evaluation

Internally evaluated for the National Youth Agency, which is the managing agency.

Main sources of funding

DfEE – Neighbourhood Support Programme.

How was the project set up and when?

September 2000.

Any major gaps in service?

The project works in two localities, and there needs to be an integration of the young men from these different areas. This has so far proved very difficult.

Future development

To open a drop-in service.

Support needs

Supervision. Networking with others doing similar work with young men to share best practice.

LEAP Confronting Conflict

Contact

Helen Carmichael
LEAP Confronting Conflict, 8 Lennox Road, London N4 3NW
Tel 0207 272 5630 **Fax** 0207 272 8405
Email info@leaplinx.com

Aims

To explore the causes and consequences of conflict with young people. To provide conflict-resolution techniques.

Context

Young Offenders' Institutions, schools and community organisations.

Main target groups

16–21-year-olds in YOIs and community programmes;
14–15-year-olds in schools.

Main health issues dealt with

Current conflicts with peers, parents, criminal justice system. Work also done on understanding links with past conflict, and how this builds to the present. Future behaviour is addressed and skills taught to break 'cycles of conflict'.

Methodologies

Group work is run within 3-day intensive courses. Emphasis on active and experiential techniques, eg, role-playing, practising new skills.

How do you target work at young men?

Project is brought in by other agencies. Young men have been targeted as a result of work in YOIs. Otherwise project aims to work with both genders.

Main working assumptions with regard to young men

That to engage with young men you need to offer practical training involving learning new skills.

Published information

Yes

Evaluation

Externally evaluated by Prison Service Psychologist.

Main sources of funding

Charitable trusts, and service is bought in by other agencies.

How was the project set up and when?

LEAP was set up in 1987. Work in YOIs with young men since 1994.

Any major gaps in service?

That the remand experience is a missed opportunity for young men. Young men need provision during this part of their prison experience.

Future development

N/A

Support needs

Internal supervision necessary, as is preparation for single-gender work.

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Let's Get Serious

Contact

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M15 5BP
Tel 0161 226 4393
Website info@letsgetserious.com

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Aims

To train long-term unemployed young men as mentors. To provide a mentoring service to disaffected young men.

Context

Community.

Target groups

Long-term unemployed young men (aged 16+) are the initial target group to be trained up as mentors. Disaffected young men under 16 are the second target group. Young men are reached through youth offending teams, schools, pupil referral units and outreach to community leaders and organisations.

Main health issues dealt with

For both groups the main issues are self-esteem, mental health, crime, drink- and drug-related behaviour, and risk-taking generally.

Methodologies

The mentors receive accredited training in, eg, sport, photography, music, IT. They also receive training in basic counselling skills through a programme of individual and group active learning. The mentees receive a mixture of individual contact and group work in specialist skills training, eg, music and social skills.

Main working assumptions with regard to young men

There is a lack of targeted work with young men in this area. There is a high incidence of suicide, domestic violence and gang violence. Young men suffer from poor health outcomes, and do not respond to existing educational approaches. The level of violence in their lives is high, and is not dealt with by the school system.

Published information

None yet.

Evaluation

Will be evaluated externally.

Main sources of funding

HAZ Innovations and EEC funds.

How was the project set up and when?

Started in April 2000.

Any major gaps in service?

There is a need for work around the gang culture, especially for families where the father is involved. Also a need for work on black culture for mixed-race young men.

Future development

The mentors will be given funds to set up their own business.

Support needs

Need to exchange information with others involved in this kind of work, especially around setting up a business.

Loudmouth Educational Theatre Company

Contact

Chris Cowan, Eleanor Vale
The Friends' Institute, 220 Mosely Road, Highgate,
Birmingham B12 0DG

Tel 0121 446 4880

Email info@loudmouth.co.uk **Website**

www.loudmouth.co.uk

Aims

To raise awareness of the practice of health and social care professionals working with young people. To highlight needs of young men around sexual health.

Context

Professional training, schools youth clubs, colleges, pupil referral units, secure units.

Main target groups

Varies according to the particular project – eg, have targeted young men around fatherhood (15–25-year-olds); also young men around health issues (aged 13–21) and puberty issues (boys aged 10–12). Also have worked with professionals on young men's sexual health needs.

Main health issues dealt with

Fatherhood, sexual health needs of young men (eg, accessing of services, contraception, communication skills, fears and desires around relationships, puberty and growing up).

Methodologies

Drama performances with participatory workshops.

How do you target work at young men?

Projects are researched with young men and then devised by the company. Other agencies then buy in production for work with young people.

Main working assumptions with regard to young men

That young men have difficulties in asking for help, and lack communication skills. That workers often have difficulties with young men's attitudes and behaviours and with their own assumptions.

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Published information

Yes

Evaluation

N/A

Main sources of funding

Health Authorities, Education Departments, PCGs, Health Promotion, schools, pupil referral units and secure units.

How was the project set up and when?

Set up 1994 with help from the government's 'Self-Start' programme.

Any major gaps in service?

Would like to have more male actor/facilitators from different ethnic backgrounds. Currently recruiting.

Future development

N/A

Support needs

N/A

Mancroft Advice Project (MAP)

Contact

Peter Bainbridge
MAP, The Risebrow Centre, Chantry Road, Norwich NR2 1QZ
Tel 01603 766994

Aims

26 To offer support for young fathers. To inform them of their rights and responsibilities.

Context

Within the advice/counselling project.

Main target groups

Young fathers under 26.

Main health issues dealt with

Relationships, empowerment, emotional well-being, health, skill development around supporting other young dads.

Methodologies

Group work focusing on identity, self-reflection and skills. Individual work also used to reinforce this.

Main working assumptions with regard to young men

Apparent that young men lack knowledge and understanding of what they can and can't achieve as parents.

How do you target work at young men?

Young men asked for the group themselves.

Published information

Yes

Evaluation

Some internal evaluation, and some carried out by Working With Men.

Main sources of funding

Two workers employed by MAP. Some extra funding came from 'Safer Cities'. Much work done voluntarily.

How was the project set up and when?

Project set up after young mothers' group had been run by MAP. Young men asked if they too could have group. Initiated in 1994.

Any major gaps in service?

Workers need to have realistic expectations of young men. Initially there was a hope that they would run peer work sessions for other young dads, but this took time to set up. Appropriate funding needs to be in place before work happens, otherwise there is a danger of letting down young men.

Future development

On hold at the moment.

Support needs

Others with experience in this area with whom to bounce off ideas and combat isolation.

New Bridge

Contact

Ann Renton
New Bridge, 27a Medway Street, London SW1P 2BD
Tel 0207 9760779

Aims

To develop practical, emotional and social skills around fathering. To improve the ability to choose whether or not to become a father through knowledge gain.

Context

Young offenders' institutes, adult male prisons, YOT teams.

Target groups

Men within prison system (excluding sex offenders) and fathers within the community.

Main health issues dealt with

Responsibility of fatherhood, positive parenting, emotional development, also information on contraception, sexually transmitted infections and testicular self-examination.

Methodologies

Group work based around practical exercises, quizzes and games, videos.

Main working assumptions with regard to young men

Groups of young men who have often not experienced a positive father figure in their lives have little understanding of their importance in their children's lives, and that that they

have a choice when to become a father. Young men are often caught in a cycle of offending and uninvolved parenting.

Published information

Brochure and posters.

Evaluation

The course has recently been accredited by Open College Network level one. Internal evaluation done by New Bridge after each course.

Main sources of funding

Lloyds TSB, The Prison Service, Lankelly Trust, payment from users and other donations.

How was the project set up and when?

Set up 5 years ago, initially in the south west, and has since spread throughout other regions.

Any major gaps in service?

Need for a relationship development course, perhaps run in conjunction with partners.

Future development

Trying to develop these courses with other organisations that specialise in these areas.

Support needs

Regular meetings, ongoing in-house training offered by prison, attendance at training offered by Open College Network.

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NOBLINE

Contact

Jos Lawton

No Limits, 278 Shirley Road, Southampton SO15 3HL

Tel 02380511051 **Helpline** (freephone) 0800 328 1668

Aims

28 To promote sexual health awareness among young men. To offer free confidential advice and information.

Context

Telephone helpline within a young people's advice agency.

Open 11 am–5 pm daily.

Target groups

Young men aged 14–25. The helpline is publicised through flyers and cards and through a network of local agencies.

Main health issues dealt with

Contraception, sexually transmitted infections.

Methodologies

Telephone counselling, referral to other agencies.

Main working assumptions with regard to young men

Helplines are easier to use for young men who are reluctant users of services. Publicity materials need to be targeted,

particularly through visuals, to attract young men to the service.

Published information

Publicity materials available.

Evaluation

Not yet.

Main sources of funding

Health Authority funding for a 1-year pilot for Helpline.

How was the project set up and when?

Agency located in areas with high levels of teenage pregnancy. Most existing agencies are used by young women, not young men. Health Authority wanted to try to do something to meet needs of young men as well. Still in first year of pilot.

Any major gaps in service?

Publicity needs to go into schools.

Future development

N/A

Support needs

Staff are supervised and trained in-house.

Parkhouse Project

Contact

Val Grey
Parkhouse Project, East End Park, Howden Lane, Wallsend
NE28 0BE
Tel 0191 262 0122 **Fax** 0191 200 7089
Email parkhouse.project@connectfree.co.uk

Aims

Sexual health provision for young people, with some work targeted at young men.

Context

Community-based, schools, youth groups, outreach.

Main target groups

Young people aged 11–25; targeted work with 13–19-year-olds as a Youth Service priority.

Main health issues dealt with

Contraception, sexually transmitted infections, sexuality.

Methodologies

Group and individual inductions to the project. Sexual health education programmes in schools and youth groups using participatory methods, eg, group discussion, role-playing. Peer research into sexual health needs of young men.

How do you target work at young men?

Through specific pilot programmes on sexual health education in other agencies. Through self-accessing of the project by boys and young men, both individuals and groups.

Main working assumptions with regard to young men

That young people should have equal access to sexual health services, and young men have traditionally missed out on this. That working with both genders is vital to meeting sexual health needs.

Published information

Yes.

Evaluation

The Youth Service (of which project is a part) has recently been evaluated by Ofsted.

Main sources of funding

Health Authority, Youth Service and HAZ.

How was the project set up and when?

Established 1993 to meet the gap in targeted provision to young people.

Any major gaps in service?

Work of the project is picking up on the very poor quality of sex education in schools, and this needs to be addressed.

Future development

To develop a model programme for work with boys in schools and youth-work contexts. To develop joint work with Health Promotion boys' worker.

Support needs

Affordable resources and training which meets the needs of more experienced workers. A network for those engaged in this kind of work.

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Peer Health Education Project

Contact

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Roundabout Community and Youth Centre,
Stockbridge Lane, Huyton, L36 3SA
Tel 0151 289 0770 **Fax** 0151 289 0275
Email : heavysidebarbabra.dlcs@knowsley.gov.uk
Website www.knowsley.gov.uk

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Aims

To educate young men through course and residential work towards a more positive and healthy life.

Context

Youth and community centres, detached groups, residential.

Target groups

Young men aged 16–25. Older young men who are trained as peer educators.

Main health issues dealt with

Alcohol/drug misuse, diet and exercise, HIV/AIDS and sexual health, stress, self-esteem and unemployment, homelessness.

Methodologies

Informal and formal group work. Training of older young men to act as peer educators. Peer educators are provided with a teaching pack (eg, videos, contraceptive kit, questionnaires).

Main working assumptions with regard to young men

Young men need adults who trust them and allow them to set their own agenda. The approach is non-patronising and non-judgmental.

Published information

About to publish a report.

Evaluation

Has been evaluated by Glaxo Smith Kline, who brought in external evaluators.

Main sources of funding

Glaxo, Barnardos, New Deal funding for peer health educators.

How was the project set up and when?

Workers identified that there was little health information targeted at young men. Teenage depression and suicide rates locally made people take notice and see that targeted work was necessary on health/mental health with young men. Set up in March 2000.

Any major gaps in service?

Need for work with young fathers. Many single fathers are known to the project and they all suffer from isolation. Also young men with disabilities, and young men who have been through the care system are also not being worked with. A drop-in service would be useful if funding was available. A full-time worker is now in post for young fathers.

Future development

Health peer educators (volunteers) will now be working from all youth and community centres.

Support needs

Training on work with young men, mental health issues, homelessness guidelines.

Running the Risk

Contact

Health Promotion Specialist – Sexual Health and Young Men
Birmingham Specialist Community Health Trust, Sexual Health
Promotion Service, St Patrick's Centre for Community Health,
Highgate Street, Highgate, Birmingham B12 0YA

Tel 0121 446 1088 **Fax** 0121 446 1090

Email liz.morris@bscht.wmids.nhs.uk

Website www.runningtherisk.co.uk

Aims

To promote sexual health, enabling young men to access appropriate and relevant information specifically around HIV prevention. To provide opportunities for young men to improve their self-esteem and assertiveness within this context.

Context

Youth and community, young offenders' teams, alternative to education centres, voluntary organisations, community venues and health service.

Target groups

Disaffected and excluded young men aged 14–25. African–Caribbean young men within this target group. Professionals and community members who work with this target group.

Main health issues dealt with

Ensuring access to appropriate sexual health information. Raising awareness about HIV and sexually transmitted infections. Examining attitudes to parenting and developing communication skills in relationships.

Methodologies

Non-judgmental, participant training methods, including group work, theatre in health education and role-playing. Resource development strategies. Internet and websites, sports activities and social interactions. Small group work with the emphasis on reasoning, informal methods and a non-judgmental approach.

Main working assumptions with regard to young men

That young men need opportunities to really learn how to communicate, to check out information, and to make informed choices in their sexual lives. Young men need someone to talk to who does not use jargon and who is open. This encourages them to be open too.

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Published information

Website (see above).

Evaluation

Internal evaluations have been produced to monitor the development of the project.

Main sources of funding

HIV prevention allocation commissioned through Birmingham Health Authority.

How was the project set up and when?

The project has been running since 1999, and was set up after a research report, *Running The Risk*, written by Working With Men. The implications of this research formed the original basis of the project.

Any major gaps in service?

Sexual health work in mainstream schools with young men before puberty in order to prepare young men for sexual relationships.

Future development

To target young African–Caribbean young men involved in hardcore gang culture.

Support needs

Additional staff needed to take on increased workload. Clinical support in terms of medical information on developments in HIV and sexually transmitted infections, and improved access to clinics for young men. Liaison with other projects to share models of good practice.

Sexual Responsibility for Young Men in Schools

Contact

Dave Mulligan
NACRO Youth Activities Unit, Apsley Centre,
Melbourne Road, Apsley, Nottingham NG8 5HL
Tel 0115 942 4555

Aims

32 To change the attitudes of young men towards sexual responsibility.

Context

Schools – within personal, social and health education sessions.

Target groups

Young men aged 14–16. Schools are asked to select young men they feel have particularly hardened 'macho' attitudes.

Main health issues dealt with

Misconception about sex, safer sex, sexual orientation, accessing services, legal rights and responsibilities, peer pressure, sexually transmitted infections.

Methodologies

Volunteers (mostly women) are trained in sexual health and managing conflict, and then they run series of 12 sessions in schools. A curriculum resource pack is provided for the volunteers.

Main working assumptions with regard to young men

That currently young women take much of the responsibility and risk associated with unsafe sexual activity. The area has a high rate of sexually transmitted infections. Young men need to be encouraged into responsibility. There is a need to address and change 'macho' attitudes.

Published information

Short summary of work available.

Evaluation

An evaluation will take place at the end of 2001.

Main sources of funding

HAZ

How was the project set up and when?

Originally from similar work done on alternative curriculum projects for excluded young men.

Any major gaps in service?

None at the moment.

Future development

Work continuing along same lines.

Support needs

N/A

Soft Touch Community Arts Co-operative Ltd – The ‘Hyped’ Project

Contact

120a Hartopp Road, Leicester, LE2 1WF

Tel/Fax 0116 270 2706

Website www.soft-touch.org.uk

Aims

To undertake community development with under-represented people through creative group work and skills development. ‘Hyped’ aimed to give young men a voice through the production of media materials and digital arts.

Context

Young Offenders’ Institutes (YOIs), youth groups, schools and community colleges.

Target groups

‘Hyped’ was aimed at socially excluded young people, including offenders and gay/bisexual young people.

Main health issues dealt with

Drugs, mental health offending, parenting, sex and relationships.

Methodologies

Group discussion leading to production of printed materials.

Main working assumptions with regard to young men

Young men need to be given a voice, particularly young offenders.

Published information

Materials developed by young men available.

Evaluation

Only internal monitoring so far.

Main sources of funding

National Lottery.

How was the project set up and when?

Soft Touch has been running since 1986.

Any major gaps in service?

More resources needed for work on peer education with young men.

Future development

Received Lottery funding for new media project.

Support needs

N/A

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Supporting Young Dads

Contact

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Aims

To pilot innovative and effective ways of reaching and supporting young fathers.

Context

Community settings.

Target groups

Young fathers and young men at risk of becoming fathers. Targeting through posters, hospital maternity services and local professional networks.

Main health issues dealt with

What information do young men need pre- and post-birth? What services might be useful? Self-esteem and parenting skills.

Methodologies

The project is in the recruiting phase, but it is anticipated that both individual and group work will be used. An outreach worker is in post and recruiting in the Wolverhampton area.

Main working assumptions with regard to young men

Recognised that with government initiatives to combat

teenage pregnancy, young men need to be included in service provision as so much existing provision is aimed at young women. Existing approaches to young men do not work, and they easily slip through the net and disappear. CEDC uses a community development approach in its work, and believes that young men need to be fully involved in defining the work of the project.

Published information

N/A

Evaluation

Evaluation to be carried out externally by Working With Men.

Main sources of funding

Department of Health S64.

How was the project set up and when?

Set up in November 2000.

Any major gaps in service?

N/A

Future development

Funded for 3 years. One pilot started in Wolverhampton, and another to start in South Yorkshire coalfields.

Support needs

Training on work with young men and masculinity, supervision and encouragement.

STRIDES

Contact

Socrates Siskos
fpa Cymru, Riverside House, 31 Cathedral Street,
Cardiff CF11 9HB
Tel 02920 644034

Aims

To help young men explore sexuality, sexual health and relationships in an informal group setting. To explore knowledge, attitudes relating to sex, sexuality and sexual health. To equip young men with skills and confidence to make informed choices.

Context

Youth provision.

Target groups

Young men aged 13–20, on sexual health and self-esteem. Excluded young men on anger management. Word of mouth is used as primary source of publicity. Also project advertised in local youth clubs, colleges and schools.

Main health issues dealt with

Contraception, sexually transmitted infections, homophobia, sexuality, fatherhood, relationships, self-esteem and testicular cancer.

Methodologies

Small group work focusing on attitudes and values as key for learning.

Main working assumptions with regard to young men

A non-judgmental approach is vital to make young men safe. Young men are not a problem and do not have to be changed. Understanding of their experience of growing up is vital, as is liking them, and looking beyond the 'macho' front.

Published information

Blake, S. and Laxton, J. (1998) *Strides: A Practical Guide to Sex and Relationships Education with Young Men*.

Evaluation

By the Health Promotion Division of the National Assembly of Wales.

Main sources of funding

Bro-Taff Health Authority and other sources.

How was the project set up and when?

Set up by fpa Cymru in 1996.

Any major gaps in service?

Work focusing on homophobia. Mental health, particularly regarding bullying and self-esteem, needs to be more focused.

Future development

A complementary girls' project is to be set up. Work on emotional intelligence.

Support needs

Regular supervision and support. Training.

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Twilight Football League

Contact

Eloise Reece

Wolverhampton Teenage Pregnancy Unit, Coniston House,
3rd Floor, Chapel Ash, Wolverhampton WV3 0XE

Tel 01902 444622 **Email** eloise.reece@whc-tr.wmids.nhs.uk

Aims

36 To promote social inclusion for disaffected young men. To help develop young men's knowledge and skills. To build self-esteem. To reduce rates of teenage pregnancy.

Context

Sports.

Target groups

Disaffected young men aged 12–15. Referrals made by youth workers, youth offending teams, schools in particular locality.

Main health issues dealt with

Fitness, drugs, sexual health.

Methodologies

Youth worker works alongside football coaches. Informal individual work mixed with more formal sessions in groups. Youth work and football coaching used as basis for work on health issues.

Main working assumptions with regard to young men

Young men have difficulty accessing services, do not get a good deal in school sex education, and are disaffected from education generally. Masculinity places limits on access to services and on their behaviour. There are few settings in

which young men are engaged with about their health, and even less that touches them.

Published information

None.

Evaluation

Working With Men has undertaken a review of the first year of the project and will be evaluating the project over the next 2 years.

Main sources of funding

HAZ plus public and private sponsorship.

How was the project set up and when?

Initiated by Wolverhampton Wanderers Football Club and Health Authority.

Any major gaps in service?

The health work needs to be fully integrated from the start, so that young men do not assume they only come for football coaching. Need to allow a lengthy lead-in time in order to sort out working relationship with partner agency. Recruitment of suitable male workers has been difficult.

Future development

Two new leagues to start soon. Training on work with young men for staff. An information centre for young men will open shortly at the Wolves FC ground.

Support needs

External supervision/support, training and resources.

Wiseguys Project (Signpost)

Contact

Matthew Trickett
Signpost
26 Victoria Road, Northenden, Wythenshaw, Manchester
M22 4JP
Tel 0161 436 5433
Email signpost@pop3.poptel.org.uk

Aims

To help young men challenge the straightjacket of masculinity.

Context

Community.

Main target groups

Young men aged 15–25 on Wythenshaw Estate. Those who are non-attenders at school. Also socially isolated young men.

Main health issues dealt with

Specific groups run on themes of friendship, partners, fathers, citizenship.

Methodologies

Small group work sustained over long periods.

How do you target work at young men?

Through partnership organisations, eg, YMCA. Also referrals from social services, Youth Offending Teams and mental health agencies.

Main working assumptions with regard to young men

The research shows that young men fare poorly in terms of mental health. The aim is to bring out young men's hidden caring side. They need to learn to communicate and find alternatives to the stereotypes.

Published information

Yes.

Evaluation

Currently being evaluated by Working With Men.

Main sources of funding

National Youth Agency.

How was the project set up and when?

Set up in 1999 for 3 years. It was seen that there was no targeted provision for young men in the area. Young men were coming to Signpost in crisis, so preventive work was initiated. Gang warfare on the estate was another reason for targeting young men.

Any major gaps in service?

Work with more isolated, 'quiet' young men.

Future development

More direct work on health.

Support needs

Staff have internal and external supervision. There is also an advisory group.

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Young Fathers Group

Contact

Nick Smith

Young People Cornwall, c/o 34 Four Acres Road, Veryan,
Nr Truro, Cornwall TR2 5QN

Tel 01872 501351

Aims

38 To provide a space in which young fathers can explore issues affecting them. To provide access to information, support, advice and advocacy services. To assess the needs of young fathers, and disseminate information to relevant agencies, organisations and decision-makers. To implement a peer education framework enabling young fathers to pass on their experiences of fatherhood to young people in a variety of settings.

Context

Community.

Target groups

Young fathers under 25. The young men are targeted through information and advice centres, community midwives, colleges and probation service.

Main health issues dealt with

Communication skills, feelings management, self-esteem, children's welfare.

Methodologies

Individual support and advocacy. Group work led by young people. Outside facilitators for workshops. Accredited training opportunities.

Main working assumptions with regard to young men

Young fathers lack services targeted at them and do not access mainstream services. Young men may need support in order to take full responsibility for their children. Young men receive a 'bad press' which affects their self-esteem.

Published information

CD-ROM available.

Evaluation

None.

Main sources of funding

HAZ, Young People Cornwall, WILD Project.

How was the project set up and when?

After a pilot study in the north of the county as part of the WILD project in 1999.

Any major gaps in service?

Extra workers needed.

Future development

One worker will start soon, funded by Surestart programme.

Support needs

Contact with others doing similar work.

Young Men's Health Promotion Roadshow

Contact

Les Cockrill
Community Education Centre, Seaward Avenue, Leiston,
Suffolk IV16 4BE
Tel 01728 0933

Aims

To raise the profile of young men's health needs. To promote the role of male staff and make health work a men's issue. To offer health information in an accessible and explicit format appealing to young men.

Context

LEA youth groups, voluntary youth groups, scouts, cadet groups.

Main target groups

Young men aged 13+.

Main health issues dealt with

Sexual health (particularly testicular self-examination), stress (relationships and school), smoking, the need to talk.

Methodologies

Information displays, individual work, structured group discussions. Roadshow staffed by two workers.

How do you target work at young men?

Publicity materials sent out to all local authority and voluntary youth groups. Visits by roadshow then requested by workers.

Main working assumptions with regard to young men

Young men have a problem with taking responsibility for health issues and consequently are negligent of their own

health. Health issues, eg, in school, are stereotypically dealt with by women workers, reinforcing a message that health is a 'women's issue'. It was important to run the roadshow with male workers to underline men's ability to take responsibility for health.

Published information

Article on work published in Working With Men's magazine.

Evaluation

Yes, internally.

Main sources of funding

Suffolk Health Authority funded the work as example of new innovative approach. Funding only for 18 months; despite overwhelming demand the project folded because the Youth Service was unable to take it over.

How was the project set up and when?

Youth Service applied for money as part of Health of the Nation funding in 1997.

Any major gaps in service?

There is still a need for this kind of work, and demand still exists locally.

Future development

None, despite recognition by Health Authority and Youth Service that this approach worked.

Support needs

Better health resources targeted at young men – very little is available that shows images of young men. The project experienced difficulties in obtaining sufficient supplies of condoms.

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Young Men's Residential

Contact

Michael Baker
Health Promotion Service, Jarvis Centre, 60 Stoughton Road,
Guildford, Surrey GU1 1LJ
Tel 01483 532828

Aims

40 To encourage young men to look at their sexual health, relationships, managing risk, and the environment in which they live. To use outdoor activities to build teamwork and trust.

Context

Residential, outdoor activities.

Target groups

Young men aged 14–17 at risk from exclusion. Those with challenging behaviour. Targeted and selected by workers in youth clubs.

Main health issues dealt with

Sexual health, communication in relationships, managing risk behaviours, conflict.

Methodologies

Outdoor activities – games, team/trust-building exercises. Group work on sexual health, goal setting. Conflict work facilitated by outside agency.

Main working assumptions with regard to young men

Young men have poor health outcomes compared to young

women. They underachieve in school and are involved in risky behaviour. They need help with understanding their behaviour and attitudes.

Published information

Residential programme and planning proposal available.

Evaluation

Internal evaluation in progress.

Main sources of funding

Surrey County Council Youth Service, East and West Surrey Health Authorities.

How was the project set up and when?

Following a highly successful equivalent project for young women, a needs assessment was carried out amongst young men. Started 6 months ago.

Any major gaps in service?

That the residential overemphasised activity and did not allow enough time for reflection. Future events will change the emphasis.

Future development

The next event will involve significantly more pre-residential work in youth clubs.

Support needs

Access to good resources and training on working with young men.

Young People's Health Project

Contact

Helen Davis

Mirfield Centre, Scholars Gate, Kitts Green, Birmingham
B33 0DL

Tel 0121 786 1400

Email vibrant@yphp.fsnet.co.uk

Aims

A specific group was set up as part of the project's work to provide young men with a place to consider 'being male in the 90s'.

Context

Community and youth work.

Main target groups

Young people aged 12–25.

Main health issues dealt with

Relationships, sexuality, racism, role models, fatherhood.

Methodologies

Group discussion, residentials and participatory exercises.

How do you target work at young men?

Young men targeted through school referrals.

Main working assumptions with regard to young men

Young men do not have or allow themselves a safe 'space' in which they can share how they feel.

Published information

Yes.

Evaluation

Internal.

Main sources of funding

Health Authority.

How was the project set up and when?

Young men's group ran from 1998 until 2001.

Any major gaps in service?

As a whole the Youth Service needs to create opportunities for young men to share their experience in a safe environment.

Future development

Work with young men in mixed groups.

Support needs

Good quality resources.

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42nd Street

Contact

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Manchester M4 5JW
Tel 0161 832 0169

Aims

42 To empower young men to make changes in their lives.

Context

Counselling agency.

Target groups

Young men aged 18–25. Within this, young men living in hostels or vulnerable to suicide and self-harm are also targeted. About to start a new campaign targeting young men.

Main health issues dealt with

Mental health – self-harm, suicide, sexuality, drugs, alcohol, serving abuse.

Methodologies

Both individual counselling and therapeutic groups. Also befriending and practical/advice work.

Main working assumptions with regard to young men

Work is person-centred, non-interventionist, and works towards self-empowerment. It is recognised that young men

suffer from peer pressure to conform to ideals of masculinity. Young men often behave very differently individually to how they are in group settings, where they feel compelled to play up to stereotypes.

Published information

N/A

Evaluation

Internal evaluation ongoing, but nothing written up specifically on young men's work.

Main sources of funding

Social services, Health Authority, HAZ, charities.

How was the project set up and when?

The project has been in existence for 20 years, and has always worked with young men.

Any major gaps in service?

Need to raise the profile of the work with young men. Looking to develop materials produced by young men themselves. There is a need to liaise more with other agencies in the Manchester area.

Future development

Training and supervision planned with Working With Men. Also a conference on gender being planned.

Support needs

External supervision and consultancy.

Questionnaire

Name of project

Contact details (address, email, fax)

Aims and objectives

What setting(s) does the project work within?

What are the main target groups for the project? (around identity, eg, age, ethnicity, sexuality; or need, locality). Please identify where there are primary and secondary target groups.

What are the main health issues dealt with by the project in the work with young men?

What methodologies are used by the project?

What would you say are the main working assumptions (around masculinity, men's roles, etc) held by the project in regard to young men?

Do you have published information on the project?

Has the project been evaluated for effectiveness either internally or externally?

What are the main sources of funding for the project?

How was the project set up and when?

Can you identify any major gaps in your service?

What future development plans does the project have?

What support needs do staff have on this kind of project?

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