

Youth Ideas & Action

Developments in youth service

No. 10
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Quality Leaders Project
"Management development through service development"
<http://www.seapn.org.uk/qlp.html>



Department of Applied Social Sciences
London Metropolitan University
Ladbroke House
62-66 Highbury Grove

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Introduction

Welcome to the tenth issue of *Youth Ideas and Action* (YI&A). There is a lot of interesting work going on in libraries and youth services. Some of the articles included in this issue will hopefully encourage and give you some ideas that may enhance the work that you are doing on the Quality Leaders project – Youth.

There are many initiatives taking place around the United Kingdom that focus heavily on youth development and activities and we have highlighted some of those in this issue of *Youth ideas and Action*.

In April and May 2007 Quality Leaders were invited to write articles about the experience and impact of QLP-Y in their authorities, in partnership with members of the Project Team. One such article was published in the June, Vol.22 No.2, of *Public Libraries Journal* and more information can be found in the following pages. It has been a valuable learning experience for those involved and an excellent opportunity to raise the profile of the work going on in QLP-Y.

We would encourage Quality Leaders to raise the profile of their projects and on-going work in their authorities, by submitting articles to various journals who are willing and keen to publish work and who have widespread readership. Further details can be found in this publication.

We would also welcome any contributions to future editions of YI&A. If you have any articles or information that you would like to submit, please do so contacting Shiraz Durrani at: s.durrani@londonmet.ac.uk.

I will be leaving London Metropolitan University on the 8th August as I have a new job that I will start at the London Borough of Enfield in September. I would like to take this opportunity to say how much I have enjoyed working with you all on the Quality Leaders Project and I wish you all the very best for the future.

Emily Sowter
28th July 2007
Tel: 020 7133 5020
e-mail: e.sowter@londonmet.ac.uk

Fulfilling Their Potential Conference 2007: Public Libraries and the Youth Offer

Below is a link to the useful Reading Agency website that has publications on a recent conference that has taken place involving a variety of different agencies that have met to discuss Public Libraries.

The conferences have also looked at what services are being delivered by libraries to young people.

The conference also looks at the different and interesting ways libraries and local authorities are trying to engage with young people.

http://www.readingagency.org.uk/projects/children/fullfilling_potential.html.

The site mentions some innovative and creative projects:

Innovative and creative projects with young people

A number of pilot projects are now being developed and delivered in different regions across England:

- [Partners for Change](#) - 3 library services in the South West are piloting different approaches to involving socially excluded young people in shaping library services which meet their needs
- [Fulfilling their Potential North West](#) (FtP NoW) - 21 library services across the North West are piloting new ways of involving young people in service planning and delivery as part of a region-wide pilot of the FtP Improvement Framework
- [Book Bars](#) - planned for 2007 – 2010 subject to a successful funding bid to set up 20 Book Bars in 4 regions (North West, South West,

South East and East Midlands) over 3 years. To provide young people with a cutting edge experience of books and reading in a relaxed, informal environment. Young people will be at the heart of the planning, design and delivery of the Book Bar experience. For young people's views on Book Bars, visit www.bookbars.co.uk

- Involving young people as volunteers – TRA is seeking funding to pilot new approaches to the involvement of young people in library services
 - Manga Mania - all library services in the North East have committed to developing new approaches to using manga with young people. A bid to the Arts Council's Grants for the Arts will be made shortly. This project supports the FtP Outcome – 'Young people enjoy reading and feel inspired to share their reading with others'
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Young People's Reading Promotions

- [Manga Mania](#) – available for immediate delivery, Manga Mania is the hugely successful reading promotion aimed at 13 –16 year olds that's hip, stylish and appeals to girls and boys. Perfect for developing manga and anime collections for young people, setting up manga and anime clubs or developing work around The Big Draw and Free Comic Book Day
- [BOOX™](#) is a TRA promotion with an exceptional track record of getting young people reading. We're developing plans and fundraising for a new look BOOX™ with an integrated print and on-line approach – all designed to stimulate reading.

[Booktrust Teenage Prize 2006](#) - TRA in partnership with Booktrust. Over 120 public and school library services are now actively promoting the Prize and involving their local Teenage Reading Groups in shadowing and reviewing the shortlisted books. See young people's online reading diaries at www.bookheads.org.uk. This project supports the FtP Outcome – 'Young people enjoy reading and feel inspired to share their reading with others'.

Youth Libraries Board established

A Strategic Youth Libraries Board, comprising representation from the Museums Libraries and Archives Council (MLA), the Department for Culture Media and Sport (DCMS), the Society of Chief Librarians (SCL), the National Youth Agency (NYA) and the Association of Senior Children's and Education Librarians (ASCEL), has recently been established to push forward on young people's library services at a strategic level.

A rebel with an attitude

The Guardian, April 28th 2007

There can't be that many female playwrights who are deaf, punk and Muslim, so Sabina England is something of a find. With a lurid Mohawk and leather jacket slathered with slogans, she looks every inch the rebel and has an attitude to match.

Sabina, who says she lives in the "shitty midwest of the United States" or the "HELL-HOLE OF BOREDOM AND YUPPIES", is part of a subculture that, until a few years ago, existed only on paper.

The Taqwacores - a novel about a fictitious Muslim punk scene in the US - has spawned an actual movement that is being driven forward by young Muslims worldwide. Some bands - such as the Kominas - have a cult following. Others, such as Sabina, are virtually unknown. In a brief email exchange, she lays out some harsh truths.

The interview for this article can be found at the following link:

<http://music.guardian.co.uk/rock/story/0,,2066036,00.html>

Birchfield Library Consultation project

Libraries in the city of Birmingham have done a mass consultation with young people using their opinions and discussions to shape the development of a new library and develop a service that young people be interested in accessing.

Below is a more indepth look at the process of the consultation and the findings.

“The city is planning to build an innovative ‘signature’ building to replace the recently demolished library. A proposed design was submitted for Planning Permission in April.

From August 2006 to March 2007 Birmingham Libraries undertook a community consultation project to engage local people in discussions about the design of the new library and the ways in which they would like to use it. The emphasis was on testing ways of engaging with young people, though in the context of exploring the awareness and ideas of the whole community.

- A partnership with the [Youth Service](#) to train young researchers to undertake consultations within the community on behalf of the library service.
- An outreach programme to explore the initial findings from the youth service activities and engage with a diverse range of people in the community through a range of organisations and services.
- A commission to an independent organisation - [First Class Youth Direct](#) – who specialise in communicating with young people in disadvantaged situations - to promote and hold a debate event on reading and libraries – talking to young people on behalf of the library service.
- [Connecting Histories](#) - A heritage and archives programme to enable people to think about library design in the context of their heritage and identity, and their sense of place and belonging – and highlighting the role of libraries in community cohesion.

The full report can be found at:

<http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/birchfieldconsultation.bcc>

Accessed 9 June 2007

Youth centres: We helped build this

”From neglected land in east London has risen a youth centre built for young people by young people.” Andy Hillier reports.

”From the outside, it is difficult to tell what lies behind the steel security gate at 1a Cumberland Road. Located next to a car garage and slap bang in the middle of a residential area in Plaistow, East London, it would be easy to mistake the space for a neglected slab of wasteland.

In fact, open the gate and the contrast could not be starker. Where once stood a series of ramshackle sheds and a patch of scrubland, there is now a minimalist youth centre, complete with courtyard, chill-out zone and dance studio.”

For more information on the project and funding please visit:

<http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/resources-and-practice/>. [Accessed 6th June 2007].

Big Lottery Fund

“An East London organisation, Hackney Marsh Partnership, will be spreading the message of reconciliation among young people living in a cycle of violence in Hackney with the announcement today of a Big Lottery Fund grant of £145,155.

Across the capital ten organisations are set to benefit from BIG funding worth over £1 million. Today’s money comes courtesy of BIG’s Young People’s Fund programme: this unique initiative turns young people’s ideas for projects into tangible realities.”

For a full interview and more information on the project, and specifics on youth activities taking place, please visit the big Lottery website at:

http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/pr_060207_lon_ypfo_lottery_brings_peace?regioncode=-1. [Accessed 12th June 2007].

Library Responds to Teen Needs with Advisory Board

Lester Public Library in Washington, U.S.A, has significantly improved the way it works with and delivers its service to young people, or teens as they are referred to. They now have in place a Teen Advisory Board (TAB) who play a part in choosing materials for the library, ranging from books, movies and computer games. The board are actively involved in the planning of various programmes that take place within the library.

To find out more information, please visit the Lester library website at:

<http://www.tworivers.lib.wi.us/Teens.htm> . [Accessed 30 July 2007].

Welcome To Your Library

Welcome To Your Library shortlisted for prestigious Sustainable Communities Award

[The Welcome To Your Library project](#), which works 'to improve access and quality of services for refugees and asylum seekers', has been shortlisted in the Community Cohesion category of the LGC (Local Government Chronicle) and HSJ (Health Service Journal) [Sustainable Communities 2007 Awards](#).

<http://www.lda.org.uk/cms/contentpage/wtyl>. [Accessed 11th June 2007].

New Journal: *Information, Society and Justice*

An inter-disciplinary electronic journal

<http://www.londonmet.ac.uk/depts/dass/research/studentjournal/> (under construction)

Information, Society and Justice is a peer-review, open-access electronic journal based in the Department of Applied Social Sciences (DASS) at the London Metropolitan University. The journal is governed by an Editorial Board drawn from UK and overseas. It seeks to provide a proactive space for critical discussion of the linkages between social information, justice and democracy. It will focus on issues of equality, human rights, social inclusion, economic justice, and struggles for liberation and democratic expansion.

The central role of information in these areas will be explored in depth. It will focus on the role that librarians and information workers together with libraries and information services can play in safeguarding, highlighting and communicating on issues such as equality, human rights, social/economic justice, social policy, and liberation. Creative work on these themes will also be considered.

The journal will publish original research, communiqués, interviews, reports and other material on these and other fields. It is not limited to any one disciplinary perspective and will accept contributions from academics, professionals and information workers working in any disciplines.

The journal invites relevant articles from academicians, policy practitioners, and civil society activists. It also encourages submission from students and their participation in the administration of the journal.

The first issue is expected to be published in November 2007.

Further details from: Shiraz Durrani: s.durrani@londonmet.ac.uk

“Filling the Youth shaped hole”

The *Public Library Journal* carries the article “Filling the Youth shaped hole” *Public Library Journal*. Vol. 22 (2) Summer 07. pp. 7-10.

AUTHORS: S. Durrani; S. Ibrahim; C. Lusted; D. Percival; E. Sowter; A. Stalker-Booth - who "put their heads and experience together to write about the role and impact of the QLP-Y".

Below are some highlights from the article.

Public libraries face major challenges in meeting the needs of young people. *Fulfilling their potential* sees the need for “nothing less than a fundamental change in focus for libraries”. That is precisely what the Quality Leaders Project –Youth (QLP-Y) aims for.¹ Its central tenet is “management development through service development”.

[...]

But the challenges are not easy to meet. Historical imbalance in services to young people is compounded by a lack of strategic approach to address the imbalance. This results in what a participant in QLP-Y describes as a “*youth shaped hole in most of our libraries*”.² While there is no doubt that there are many examples of good practice in providing innovative services, these remain as pockets of excellence. An overall vision that includes the provision of relevant, creative and effective services to meet unmet and new needs of young people has not yet been developed and implemented. - Shiraz Durrani.

“QLP-Y sees national policy framework as an overarching outline of what the government aims to achieve and also as a framework for ethical and equality objectives to be met efficiently. Through QLP-Y, there is a potential to engage youth and library services and connect them to the individual projects we are working with. We have explored various methods to establish this connection by creating a policy ‘checklist’ for authorities aimed at getting them to consider criteria they should be trying to meet in their projects with young people which links to the national agendas. We also keep authorities and individuals informed by producing an irregular publication, *Youth Policy Review*.³” - Emily Sowter.

“Our focus is now firmly on the next programme of workshops. Again, working with Youth & Connexions, we will be holding a PlayStation competition across the borough. The winner of each game will be invited to a grand final where various prizes will be presented. Finalists will be invited to our suppliers to choose PlayStation stock for our loan collections, thus continuing our consultation objective. Working with us is a group of young people from the film project, to continue their development opportunities through QLP.” - Catherine Lusted, Barnet Quality Leader (QL).

¹ Further information about the Quality Leaders Project is available at: <http://www.seapn.org.uk/qlp.html>.

² Pitcher, Eastwood-Krah and O'Neill (2007).

³ An electronic copy of “Youth Policy Review” (No. 1, February 2007) is available at http://www.londonmet.ac.uk/londonmet/library/s44117_3.pdf[Accessed: 28 April 2007].

“The Quality Leaders worked in partnership with local youth centres in order to recruit young people. This was building on previous partnership working when we had carried out previous surveys to ascertain young people’s interests and their expectations of Haringey Libraries.” - Selma Ibrahim and Claire Stalker-Booth, Haringey QLs.

“We are currently working with an ethnically diverse group of young people, who are interested in publishing a magazine. We will be running workshops to support them, providing them with the skills they need. In another partnership with social services, we are also working on a drama project based on the concept of “liberation”, to coincide with the 200th anniversary of the abolition of slavery.” - Dave Percival, Portsmouth QL.

The New Londoners

Below is an article for the Institute of Race Relations (IRR) making reference to a new newspaper in London produced by the Refugee Media Action Group.

“A new paper circulating in London, *The New Londoners*, produced by refugees and asylum seekers, provides a strong, alternative voice for these marginalised and often vilified communities.

THE tabloid-size 24-page newspaper, produced by the Refugee Media Action Group at the Migrants Resource Centre for Refugee Week, is slickly produced with quality pictures and interesting articles which provide information and analysis about issues that affect refugees and asylum seekers in London.”

To read the article in full please visit:

<http://www.irr.org.uk/2007/june/ha000025.html>. [Accesses 30th July 2007].

Government Changes

Machinery of Government changes announced by the Prime Minister.

Important information on Machinery of Government

Source: info4local: alert@info4local.gov.uk
05 July 2007

New departments

The Department for Children, Schools and Families (<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk>) is responsible for improving the focus on all aspects of policy affecting children and young people. It takes on pre-19 education policy responsibilities from DfES.

The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (<http://www.dius.gov.uk>) brings together functions from the former Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), including responsibilities for science and innovation, with further and higher education and skills, previously part of DfES.

The Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (<http://www.dberr.gov.uk>) brings together functions from DTI, including responsibilities for productivity, business relations, energy, competition and consumers, with the Better Regulation Executive, previously part of the Cabinet Office. It leads on making sustainable improvements in the economic performance of the regions.

Forthcoming events

DASS Debates & Lectures

Department of Applied Social Sciences
London Metropolitan University

http://www.londonmet.ac.uk/depts/dass/new_home.cfm

Further information: email DassLectures@londonmet.ac.uk.

People and ideas shaping the world

DASS holds a series of public debates and lecture to highlight the contribution of leaders, movements and ideas that have shaped the world. Many of these have been forgotten, marginalised or deliberately hidden from public view. People everywhere are increasingly using new possibilities created by forces of Information and Communications Technologies to liberate their minds and using alternative ideas to shape a new world where people are at peace with people. Information about emerging ideas and social movements around the world can now be shared instantaneously.

In this rapidly changing world, DASS Debates and lectures aim to create a place to think, to debate and develop ideas so as to raise awareness about issues and ideas that are changing the face of the world today. The series aims to provide a forum for visiting and resident speakers to present and discuss their work in a variety of fields. It provides staff opportunities to launch their new books on a variety of subjects.

A new programme of DASS Debates & Lectures starts in September. Highlights include the following:

→ 19 November, 2007, 6.00 – 8.00 p.m. Tower Building, 166-22-
Holloway Road. London N7 8DB. Book launch:



Vernellia R. Randall: Dying while Black; an in depth look at a crisis
in the American healthcare system. 2006. Seven Principles Press.

Young people: ten year strategy

http://www.policyhub.gov.uk/news_item/young_strategy07.asp [Accessed: 01
August 2007]

On 26 July 2007, Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) and HM Treasury (HMT) published a strategy document (Aiming high for young people: a ten year strategy for positive activities) which sets out the Government's aspirations for what services should achieve over the next 10 years and identifies priorities for spending unclaimed assets - funds in dormant bank accounts, which are to be released for investment in services for young people, in addition to supporting financial inclusion and supporting financial capability. It represents the last strand of the Government's Policy Review of Children and Young People.

[Aiming high for young people: a ten year strategy for positive activities](#)

Chapter 1: A vision for young people

Chapter 2: Positive activities: Improving outcomes

Chapter 3: Empowerment: Giving young people and communities real
influence

Chapter 4: Access: Attracting and engaging every young person

Chapter 5: Quality: Effective services delivered by a skilled workforce

Youth services: Government to shake up national youth support

http://www.ypnmagazine.com/news/index.cfm?fuseaction=full_news&ID=15044

By Alison Bennett - 01/08/07

The Government is to review its support for national organisations supporting young people's services, with a view to creating a "single clear lead to support local delivery".

The shake-up is likely to include bodies such as The National Youth Agency, and the National Council for Voluntary Youth Services, both of which will be involved in consultations.

The move was announced in the Government's 10-year youth strategy, Aiming high for young people, released last Thursday. It outlines a need for the "rationalisation" of youth support bodies, which it says may not be up to the task of driving through the "transformation" of services for young people.

A spokesman for the Department for Children, Schools and Families said: "The Government will consider options for improving support for the youth sector, in consultation with leading organisations."

Tom Wylie, outgoing chief executive of The National Youth Agency, said: "There's certainly a need for more sustained leadership across the entire youth sector with a focus on outcomes and it should build on the existing strengths of The NYA."

Wylie urged the Government to consider his call for a national youth board as a way of pooling strengths.

Public Libraries: Promoting young people's active involvement

A research seminar took place in London on 4th July to discuss a draft research report carried out by the National Youth Agency, "Public Libraries: Promoting young people's active involvement". The report looks at the research carried out by the National Youth Agency and examines the way libraries deliver a 'community' offering to young people.

The report is still in draft form and yet to be fully finalised but below is the executive summary from the report that will give an insight into the initial methods and approach as well as the policy context of the youth agenda.

The National Youth Agency (2007): Public Libraries: Promoting young people's active involvement. May, 2007. Rebecca Linley

Executive Summary

1. Aims

The aims of this study are to:-

- Provide a brief historical overview of the role of public libraries as democratic institutions;
- Establish evidence of the role of public libraries in supporting young people's community action;
- Develop an outline showing how public libraries might develop a community action 'offering' to young people.

2. Methods and Approach

The three main elements of the study are:-

- To review the existing evidence of both libraries' historic role in supporting citizenship and the current library offer to young people;
- An online survey;
- Identification of case study material.

3. Policy Contexts

The Youth Matters agenda and the themes of community involvement in the Local Government White Paper are both drivers for change.

4. Library Contexts

- Libraries have historical associations with citizenship and community empowerment.
- Libraries already have a credible offer to young people of providing accessible, affordable places to go and things to do, with 52% of 16-24 year olds using libraries.

5. Existing Evidence

- There is a lack of a national evidence base on libraries' support of young people's community involvement, but there is some evidence relating to specific organisations.
- The evidence from individual libraries and programme evaluations shows innovative approaches, based on the genuine involvement of young people.

6. Survey

- The online survey was sent to library and youth work networks, but the vast majority of the 139 responses were from library staff.
- 80% of respondents were aware of partnerships between libraries and youth services.
- 69% were aware of libraries offering community involvement opportunities.
- 84% were aware of young people using the library for group activity.
- 85% were aware of libraries that actively engage with young people.
- 61% were aware of young people playing a part in shaping library services.
- 13% felt that their local library service gave a lot of encouragement to young people's active involvement, 43% some encouragement, 36% a little encouragement and 8% none to all.
- Survey respondents also cited a range of ways in which libraries engage with young people.

7. Case Studies

- The case studies are drawn from eight library services, including one US case study.
- Looking across the seven case studies from England, these showed library services that were seeking to enhance young people's genuine involvement in services.
- The case studies provided only limited evidence of how libraries support active citizenship and democracy.

8. Conclusion

The evidence of library services' involvement with young people suggests libraries' potential to develop a community action offer to young people.



QLP contact details

Shiraz Durrani

Senior Lecturer, Information
Management
Department of Applied Social
Sciences
London Metropolitan University
Ladbroke House
62-66 Highbury Grove
London N5 2AD
Tel: +44 (0)20 7133 5241
s.durrani@londonmet.ac.uk

Dr. Dean Bartlett

Deputy Director,
Management Research Centre,
Department of Management and
Professional Development,
London Metropolitan University.
Stapleton House,
277-281, Holloway Road,
London N7 8HN.
Tel: +44 (0) 20 7133 3215
d.bartlett@londonmet.ac.uk

Emily Sowter

Lecturer in Youth Policy
Department of Applied Social Sciences
London Metropolitan University
Ladbroke House
62-66 Highbury Grove
London N5 2AD
Tel: +44 (0) 20 7133 5020
e.sowter@londonmet.ac.uk

Michael Goetzinger

Research Assistant
Management Research Centre
Department of Management and
Professional Development,
London Metropolitan University
Ladbroke House
62-66 Highbury Grove
London N5 2AD
Tel: +44 (0) 20 7133 5020
m.goetzinger@londonmet.ac.uk