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Youth Support Workers
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Reconnaissance Report

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Introduction

This report has been compiled by Nadine Quigley and Alicia Harney; youth support workers for Drumgor Detached Youth Work Project (DDYWP). The project has been researched over a 12 week period from 13th April 2011 to 6th July 2011. This began with a training session outlining the task and the processes to be completed, a review programme at week eight and the final report completed on schedule.

The focus area for the report encompasses a large area of Brownlow. The housing developments covered included:

- Rowan Park
- Rowan Manor
- Burnside
- Legahory Court
- Legahory Green
- Limefield Rise
- Hillcrest Mews
- Hillcrest Manor
- Hillcrest Crescent
- Enniskeen
- Lakeview Court
- Lismara
- Clonmeen
- Drumellan Park
- Drumellan Gardens
- Drumellan Walk
- Westacres
- Drumgor
- Drumgor Heights and
- Drumgor Park

The aim of this reconnaissance report is to identify young people in the area who may not have worked with Drumgor Detached Youth Work Project before but who may benefit from a detached youth work programme. Further to this we will outline the needs of these young people and suggest recommendations for programme development and signposting. In order to do this we will familiarise ourselves with the local facilities within the community, and also publicise DDYWP to these facilities so that partnerships and positive links can be developed and maintained.

An additional benefit of this report is to identify and mark potential and reported “hotspots” in the screened areas. This gives DDYWP and fellow youth support workers a map of the community with focus areas so that young people can be targeted and interventions carried out successfully.

Research methods for this report include; the internet for census information (2001), local resident surveys, local business surveys, other publicised materials, surveys with local young people (both present users of the service and non users), use of local knowledge from youth support workers and narrative reports from previous sessions.

The main research method that will be utilised is gaining the view of the young people, particularly on the youth provisions that are available to them. DDYWP is currently working with young people from the communities covered as well as programme which have recently been completed and these young people will be contacted.

Further to this, because we adopt a needs-led approach we will introduce ourselves to young people in the area who do not use our provisions and find out about what they would like to see and what they would like to get involved in. By using this information to build programmes and provide resources, we can empower the young people and promote participation. The authors spent an average of four hours per week on the report.

However, this report will not initiate programmes with young people at this stage, but simply make suggestions for future contact sessions.

History and Overview of Area

The focus area for the report encompasses a large area of Brownlow. The area is classified as Urban by the Inter-departmental Urban-Rural Definition Group. Most of the area studied falls within the Drumgor ward; however Drumgask ward and Taghnevan ward are also briefly touched upon.

The youth and community provision in the area has developed greatly within the areas has developed greatly since the early 1990s. Local play parks were demolished and refitted, multi-usage sports areas have been installed and well maintained by the community and the youth and community clubs run on a part time basis. Drumellan is the only full time community house which is staffed from Monday to Saturday.

Drumgor

Drumgor is the largest of the focus areas, encompassing Burnside, Legahory Court, Legahory Green, Limefield Rise, Hillcrest Mews, Hillcrest Manor, Hillcrest Crescent, Westacres, Enniskeen, Lakeview Court, Lismara, Clonmeen, Drumgor Road, Drumgor Heights and Drumgor Park. The resident population here is 2843 living in 1226 domestic properties (Census 2001). 27.1% of this area are under 16 years old compared to the Northern Ireland average of 23.6% and therefore within our remit of 10 – 18 years we have a large proportion of young people to target.

Within the area there is a mix of privately owned and housing executive homes. The area was once much larger with many temporary residents. A stigma grew attached to the area and many houses became empty. However, due to anti-social behaviour in and around the derelict houses, particularly in Westacres, these houses have since been demolished and a Residents Association has been established to promote a more positive view and community spirit within the area.

Clonmeen is a known hotspot for Drumgor Detached Youth Work Project as it has a play park, playing fields, multi-use sports area (MUGA) and a youth

shelter installed by Craigavon Borough Council. The bridges around the area have been developed by DDYWP in partnership with other community organisations including the local residents associations. The community development programmes that have been implemented in this estate have ensured that less anti-social behaviours and problems have been present here.

The Drumgor estates also have access to a Community Centre, a Youth Club, playing fields (which are no more than green area), a primary school, churches, and the local businesses of; a hairdressers, a corner shop, a public house and off licence, a DVD store, a bookmarkers, a snooker hall, a chip shop.

According to the statistics of 2008 (NISRA, 2011) 51% of the births during this time were to young unmarried mothers a staggering increase on the Upper Bann average of 36.5%. This may be an issue that could be tackled by Drumgor Detached Youth Work Project by education the young people on sexual health and relationship issues.

Although there is adequate schools and education services within the area only 9.7% of resident population have degree level or higher qualifications, a significantly lower percentage than the 15.8% in the rest of Northern Ireland. Most residents (68.6%) have no or low levels of qualifications according to NISRA (2011), 10% more than peers across Northern Ireland. This leads to the young people's inability to gain secure and fulfilling employment and contributes to the fact that over half of the working age adults (51.1%) are unemployed. Again this is drastically higher than the Upper Bann average of 40%.

As we would expect, this spirals the area into deprivation and as of the small area income estimates 2003-2005 Drumgor has 35.9% of the local residents listed as living in relative poverty and places 63 out of 582 wards in Northern Ireland for deprivation (1 being most deprived). In addition to this 35.2% of post primary young people are entitled to free school meals, over double the Upper Bann average of 15.4%.

For this reason it is hardly surprising that crime rates in the area are high, but noticeably falling. In the past year 2010 – 2011 the crime rates in District E fell by 5.6%.

On census Day 2001 only 61.6% of people in the area listed their health as good, however from general chat with other youth support workers and young people, many feel that although their general health is good they may be suffering with mental health issues including body image doubts and depression.

Drumellan

The area generally known as Drumellan covers a large number of estates including Drumellan Gardens, Drumellan Walk and Drumellan Park. The area falls under the Drumgask ward. This report focuses mainly on the statistics for Drumellan Gardens which reads similarly to the rest of the deprived areas served by DDYWP.

With approximately 445 people in living in the 131 properties in the estate as of 2008 and the fact that 34.4% of people are under 16 years old, we have a large focus group to work with. The information gathered from the 2001 census (Ninis, updated 2010) found that 80.1% of the residents of the area have no or low qualifications, leading to the discovery that only 63.3% of the local people were employed. The housing development falls within top 10% of most deprived areas in Northern Ireland and therefore it is not surprising that 84% of the houses are rented.

Only 59% of the residents of Drumellan Gardens would claim to be in good health, a staggeringly low number with a national average in Northern Ireland of 70%. Further to this, 19.7% of children and young people are born into lone parent families and 44.3% of mothers are unmarried, way above the national average of 38.9%.

Rowan Park & Rowan Manor

Rowan Park and Rowan Manor are both fairly new

developments, and both fall within the Taghnevan ward. A quarter of the population of the area are under 16 years and the area is predominantly Catholic (95.7%). According to the 2001 census, the area houses approximately 810 people in 264 homes, of which 37.7% are young working age adults. 90% of the residents of Rowan Park own their own home and only 26.1% of the households in Rowan Manor are rented. In Craigavon only 68.7% of the household are owner occupied.

In contrast to the other areas served by DDYWP these housing developments are considered more affluent, both by the general population and by the results from the statistics. Rowan Park and Rowan Manor rank 2367/5022 and 1030/5022 on the Output Area Multiple Deprivation Measure placing them in the 20% - 50% band.

Further contrasts exist with percentages in other areas falling much closer to national and regional averages. For example; 39.1% of children are born to unmarried mothers, a similar result to the rest of Northern Ireland where the average lies at 38.9%, however the percentage of households with lone parents and dependent children is 2% above the Craigavon average of 8.1%

Degree level and higher qualifications (12.9%) are still slightly below the Northern Ireland average (15.8%), but are fitting with the Craigavon Local Government Distracts data (12.8%). In addition to this the adults who claim to have little or no qualifications is in fact 2.4% lower than the national average of 58.9%.

It is interesting to note that in this more affluent area up to 74.2% of the residents felt that they were generally in good health.

Current Services Provided in the Area

The current services provided in the area range from Primary Schools and Youth Clubs to Shopping Centres and Police stations. A list of contact numbers is attached as an appendix.

Drumgor shops, including;

Drumgor Public Bar and Off Sales

A corner shop

A hairdressers

A DVD rental store

J.C.'s Chippie

Toals Bookmakers

Snooks Casino and Snooker Hall

Drumgor Primary School

Drumgor Youth Club

Drumgor Community Centre

Craigavon Presbyterian Church

Clonmeen MUGA

Enniskeen Playing Fields

Drumellan Community House, consisting of the Family Learning Centre and the Child & Young Person Centre

Legahory Health Centre

St Anthony's Catholic Church

PSNI Station

St Anthony's Primary School

Craigavon Baptist Church

Moylinn House, incorporating**

Zero – 8 – Teen

Craigavon Travellers Committee

Volunteer Bureau

Aftercare Services

Youth Justice Agency

Woman's Aid

Dry Cleaners

Hot & Spicy Indian Take Away

Legahory Dental Surgery

Marions Hairdresser's

Splash Sure Start

Legahory Shopping Centre, including:

Pharmacy

Taxi rank

Post Office

Wah Hep Chinese Advice and Information Centre

Kate's Place Cafe

Ladbrokes Bookmakers

Mallon's Butchers

Nisa local shop

Solicitors

View of Businesses in the Area

As part of this reconnaissance report we asked the local businesses in the area to take part in a short survey about the area and the prominent issues. The questions were asked in person, and for those who did not have time to respond at the time we left questionnaires with them and followed up about a week later. Other places, such as the church were contacted via telephone. Some businesses chose not to respond to the survey and so their views are not listed in these results. In addition to this, some questionnaires had not been returned at the time of writing and so their views are also not represented.

Drumgor

When asked about their general view of the local area many of the business gave a negative response, claiming that the area had become run down and needed a good community clean up. The business owners commonly felt that more facilities and informal education in the area would help elevate some of the problems facing the community. The problems, which were raised in the survey, included alcohol, drugs and anti-social behaviours. A number of businesses also raised their concern in regards to the lack of PSNI presence and the reaction of the young people when the PSNI are patrolling the area.

The common consensus of the business was that there was not enough provided for young people at key times, such as late evenings and weekends. The business owners/ staff who took part in our surveys and engaged in conversations recognised the positive work done in the local youth and community centres but felt that the area would benefit from somewhere for the young people to go once these had shut.

Although not within our remit, some businesses also raised the issue of both the younger generation of primary aged children and the older population who also have less facilities available to them but also feel intimidated on the streets because of the

high proportion of young people who congregate in “gangs”.

From speaking to the business owners in the area we found that the area at the front Drumgor shops is a favoured hot spot for local young people. One shop owner felt that the young people do not do any harm, but can be very intimidating for other people coming to the shops as they often hang around in large groups, abusing alcohol and often drugs.

Legahory

Within Legahory many of the business owners and staff who we spoke to did not live in the area and so gave their opinions solely as workers in the community and wanted to make that very clear. This lead many of them to apologise for their answers although they tried to answer as honestly as possible. The responses to the general view of the area was negative brushed with positive aspects, for example one local business man felt that the area got a lot of bad press but had excellent facilities and services, including a shopping centre and nature walks.

The general agreement was that the area was deprived, but improving.

Hotspots that business raised where they had noticed young people congregating included, the old derelict houses where the recent drug related shooting had taken place and the Travellers grounds behind Moylinn House.

Many of those interviewed claimed that if the housing in the area was redeveloped it might help to bring pride to the area and raise the perception by outsiders. A local man explained how the area has no heart and no identity, making it feel like a township rather than a community hub. He would like to see the area being remarketed to allow people to invest time and energy revamping the community and redeveloping the houses.

Prejudice was rife in this area, with most of the businesses that we targeted commenting on the

Travelling Community who have a designated living area here.

Many anti-social behaviours were stated as affecting the image and community feel of the area. However, all of the businesses surveyed claimed that the youth provision in the area was good or fantastic. They stated that the challenge is to promote the services, which are available to the young people to encourage them to take part and use what is already available to elevate the boredom, rather than always expecting new programmes to be developed just for them.

From these recommendations, it is clear that we need to more strongly signpost young people to youth provisions and community services in Craigavon. However, we should also focus on building relationships with the settled and Travelling young people would bring significant changes to the area, particularly if we could incorporate both cultural heritages into the redevelopment of the area. It may be worth trying to force a partnership with the Traveller Support Committee of Craigavon located in Moylinn House, Lisa Hogg, Project Manager there is also keen to take this partnership further.

View of Agencies and Resident Associations in Area

Drumellan, Westacres and Clonmeen all have active Resident Associations. Although we were unable to get official surveys completed with all Chairpeople we did speak informally to them about the area and the work that DDYWP carry out within it.

All felt that the work that DDWYP do is valuable but some felt that it would be better to take the young people into youth clubs or away from the area to work with them so as to keep other residents happy.

View of Young People in Area

When carrying out the report we met with a particular focus group from a few of the estates which helped to give us an insight into the youth perspective of the communities. After explaining the purpose of our report they were very helpful in their responses to us.

The young people co-operated with us in terms of discussions, questionnaires and providing open and honest responses. Other groups of young people were also helpful in their responses and ensured that the report did not become bias towards one group.

View of Youth Support Workers

Identified Groups and Needs

- Linked programmes older/ young groups
- Using the areas that are already available eg bridges
- Community clean up/ promoting the image of the community
- PSNI interventions/ educations

Appendixes

Contact numbers

Drumgor shops

Drumgor Public Bar and Off Sales	028 3834 2187
A corner shop	028 3834 2209
A hairdressers	028 3834 1841
Eddie's DVD rental store	028 3834 2662
J.C.'s Chippie	028 3834 5544
Toals Bookmakers	028 3834 2544
Snooks Casino and Snooker Hall	028 3834 1807
Drumgor Primary School	028 3834 1488
Drumgor Youth Club	028 3834 2977
Drumgor Community Centre	028 3834 4711
Craigavon Presbyterian Church	028 3839 4195
Drumellan Community House	028 38321415
Legahory Health Centre	028 3834 1431
PSNI Station	0845 600 8000
St Anthony's Primary School	028 3834 1569
Craigavon Baptist Church	028 3839 1930
Pharmacy	028 3834 1462
Sun Taxi rank	028 3834 5275
Post Office	028 3834 2455
Solicitors	028 3833 3333
Hot & Spicy Indian Take Away	028 3832 9636
Legahory Dental Surgery	028 3832 2080
Marions Hairdresser's	028 3834 3770