



WEST SWINDON & THE LYDIARDS CHURCH PARTNERSHIP & NCOUNTER

PROJECT PROPOSALS

Overview of project

We have signed a partnership agreement which states that ncounter and WSEP will work together to develop and implement against a strategy which includes the initiation, nurture and development of youth work in a single community. The three modes of operation will be:

- Discover and develop potential
- Explore faith
- Mature and grow

Discover and Develop – the aim here is to engage young people through activities which will interest and benefit them and through which relationships with youth workers can be built. It will be particularly essential to research what the local need is amongst young people. For example, if the overriding need of the community is an After-School Club then this will become the focus for this mode. This could, for example, incorporate performing arts sessions, film showing, informal discussion and other activities which encourage young people to explore and identify the person they want to become. This is an essential first step towards ‘formative spirituality’, the foundation of faith.

Evangelism through words will not be the priority here; workers will engage with young people through activity which enhances and develops young peoples’ social awareness, talents and skills. Workers will, however, be open about their Christian faith through conversation and testimony (where appropriate). Literature relating to other events happening within the Emerge programme (ie Explore Faith & Mature and Grow) will be on display and advertised to encourage young people to access other parts of the programme if they wish.

Explore faith – this mode will explicitly explore ‘faith’ questions with young people which engage them in formative spirituality, such as : ‘Why am I here?; ‘What is the purpose of life?’; ‘Does God exist?’ Following this, material will be introduced which looks more deeply at the tenets of Christian beliefs, for example using courses such as: DEEP, Youth Alpha, Essence, Exodus 20. Engagement will be through group work and experiential activities. An important part of this mode will be to challenge young people to explore faith issues practically, not just cerebrally, for example through peer leadership of small groups and activities. Also they will be encouraged to put into practice during the week Christian teaching on different topics, for example, prayer, self-sacrifice, patience,

love, faith, self control. This will help young people to grow and mature in faith as they see the results of practical application of teaching in their lives, also providing discussion material for future weeks.

Mature & Grow – in this mode young people will be given support to work out the personal implications of the Christian faith. Emphasis will be given to prayer, Bible-study, mutual support, sharing testimony within and outside the group. An essential part of this mode will be to challenge participants to engage in ministry and mission through service in areas such as : the Emerge programme; local social action projects; mission programmes at home and abroad eg Lee Abbey, YWAM, CMS, Tearfund etc.,.

Success Criteria

The success criteria will be:

- all three modes of activity are present within one community (defined as : one building/one set of leaders/a common activity/common branding)
- young people are able to m- and in practice do - move freely between the three modes

Survey results and implications

The survey conducted by ncounter with funding from Community Foundation found that;

- Most young people living in West Swindon like living there. Comparison with national results from similar surveys suggests a greater proportion are happy with their local area than is generally the case. One in ten West Swindon young people think it's a "great" place to live.
- Cheap access to sports facilities and new arts facilities are the most popular improvements to West Swindon facilities identified by young people.
- If a new arts facility is to be provided, a performance café with sound recording and rehearsal facilities is the most popular idea.
- Many young people – more than 1 in 7 – would be happy to help teach performing arts to others, and a similar proportion want to get involved in steering the future development of facilities for young people in the area.

Additional work carried out by the Youth Steering group found that;

- Most people consider that young people and the elderly get on well in the local community.
- The most popular proposal for improving facilities was a community café, followed by a schools out (after school) club.

- Although there was no strong consensus on what would improve relations between young people and the elderly, the most popular proposal was for more community events and places to meet, which would enable age groups to mix.

We therefore believe that to pursue a performing arts theme for the youth community, ideally combined with a café environment, will best meet the needs of the young people in the area. We propose an incremental approach to developing this community, recognising the ongoing work by WSEP and ncounter. We therefore divide the activities into three phases. Phase 1 aims to consolidate ongoing work by WSEP and introduce new “Discover and Develop” work (coded D). Phase 2 adds to this work and produces a final programme which should meet our objectives. Phase 3 brings these activities into a themes environment through work to develop Holy Trinity Shaw church, providing a performing arts café, and recording/rehearsal facilities in the same building.

Creating Community

We are aiming to build community through people and buildings. Ncounter will lead discover and develop activities, with volunteer support from WSEP. WSEP will lead Explore and Mature and Grow activities, with support from ncounter staff. In this way, young people migrating around the activities offered within the community will encounter the same leaders and helpers, albeit in different roles. This will build a sense of feeling at home, and of continuity between the different types of activity.

Common buildings will also be used wherever possible. The main building on which the youth community will be centred is Holy Trinity Shaw. The Base will be used for performing arts, and Greendown and Bradon Forest will also be important for the ongoing work.

PHASE 1: Current work - Creating a youth community themed around performing arts	PHASE 2: Provide a more complete programme	PHASE 3:
Discover and Develop:		
<p>DA1: The Base Performing Arts workshops (yr 7-11) (already ongoing)</p> <p>Where: The Base, Purton Stoke</p> <p>When: Saturdays/Sundays, school holidays</p> <p>For: yp to learn skills in performing arts and improve social skills</p> <p>Staff: ncouter workers/church volunteers</p> <p>Aim: build relationships with yp in emerge community; provide needed resource for parents and yp (esp working parents); church showing love in action; yp develop performing arts/social/life skills; improve self esteem & self confidence.</p> <p>Funding: ncouter will source funding for capital and revenue costs.</p>	<p>DA2: The Base (as above, supplemented by annual show case.)</p>	

Discover and Develop:		
DB1: Schoolwork (yr 7-11) Where: Bradon forest/Greendown When: BF – Thurs lunchtime; GD – Wed lunchtime - already ongoing For: games and light Christian teaching. Staff: ncounter workers/school youth workers Aim: build relationships with yp in emerge community; yp developing self confidence and esteem, improve social skills, learn a little about Christian faith. Funding: ncounter will fund its own staff	DB2: Schoolwork (as left)	
Other schools work at BF and GD through Collective Band: Ongoing schools work (both schools have already had a schools week so have good relationships with Collective/ncounter), eg dance, drama, PSHE, RE lessons, concert, workshops. Aim: build relationships with yp in emerge community; develop performing arts/social/life skills; initiate & develop discussion on Christian faith; improve self esteem and self confidence. Funding: ncounter will pay revenue and capital costs. Individual churches within WSEP will be invited to make a donation to cost of the schools week at Greendown.		

Discover and Develop:		
<p>DC1: Performing Arts Showcase</p> <p>Where: Lydiard Park</p> <p>When: 12th July 08</p> <p>For: Young people's skills to be showcased for wider audience</p> <p>Staff: Ncounter workers, church volunteers</p> <p>Aim: to encourage young people to grow in confidence and skill and where possible to teach other young people; encourage young people to be involved in organisation.</p> <p>Funding: ncounter will source funding for this event; churches will be asked to fund any activities which relate specifically to Hope '08.</p>	<p>DF2: Performing Arts Showcase</p> <p>Where: ?</p> <p>When: end of summer term '09</p> <p>For: Young people's skills to be showcased for wider audience</p> <p>Staff: Ncounter workers, church volunteers</p> <p>Aim: to encourage young people to grow in confidence and skill and where possible to teach other young people; encourage young people to be involved in organisation.</p> <p>Funding: ncounter will fund all costs.</p>	

Discover and Develop:

DD2: “Schools Out Club” (Sept 08)
aimed at y 7- 9’s linking in with Swindon
Young Carers in the community for
specialised activities (interest expressed)

Where: Shaw church, hall and kitchen
area.

When: 4.00 – 5.30 pm; Mon, Thurs

For: drop in club – homework, café,
games, performing arts, DVD, chat & chill

Staff: ncounter workers/church volunteers

Aim: build relationships with yp in emerge
community; provide needed resource for
parents and yp (esp working parents);
church showing love in action; yp develop
social/life skills; advise on personal safety,
health; encourage yp to take responsibility
for their club.

Funding: ncounter will fund capital and
running costs.

Discover and Develop:

DE2: Recording/Rehearsal facility (yr 10+) (start date dependant on funding).

Aim: create a recording/rehearsal facility based at Holy Trinity, Shaw, for young people to use during evenings in emerge youth groups and at other agreed times, under adult supervision. The young people will learn and teach new skills linking in to the emerge youth community and other parts of the programme. The facility can also be used for youth (and other) worship, training and conference events.

A performance/rehearsal area (7mx 8m approx) sited in current worship area, to include:

- removable stage area (2mx 5m) in front of double wooden doors;
- lighting on brackets (fixed above)
- lighting desk – (mobile, to be locked away when not in use.)

Recording area: Sound desk (2m x 1m 'box' lockable) sited in current "phase" room against window. Room remains 'multi-use'.

Other: Sound proofing. Power points, cabling

Finance: Estimated cost: £12,000. Ncounter will source funding for this facility, capital and revenue costs, paying hire costs to Shaw for 'Discover and Develop' events and sessions.

Storage securely store mobile lighting desk (unit on wheels). Mobile staging.

Funding: ncounter will fund capital and running costs.

Explore Faith:		
<p>EA1: CBW (yr 7 – 11) ; in practice mainly y 7-9</p> <p>Where: Shaw Church</p> <p>When: Tuesday nights 7.30 – 9.00</p> <p>For: music, café, chat, games, sports, DVD's, Christian talks, discussion, prayer, performing arts</p> <p>Staff: church volunteers/ ncounter workers</p> <p>Aim: to build relationships with yp in emerge community;Explore Christianity in relevant way;</p> <p>Provide young Christians with a non churchy environment to bring their non Christian friends</p> <p>To empower adults and yp to develop skills and build confidence.</p> <p>Funding: WSEP fund running costs, inc rental and resources; ncounter will fund its own staff.</p>	<p>EE2: Arts Cafe (y 9,10,11+)</p> <p>Where: Shaw church (hall)</p> <p>When: Tuesday night 7-9pm</p> <p>For: occasional live music performance; café, chat, DVD's, Christian talks, discussion, prayer, performing arts; possibly occasional worship; occasional sports.</p> <p>Staff: Church youth leaders; ncounter workers; occasional band visits</p> <p>Aim: build relationships with yp in emerge community; provide needed resource for yp; church showing love in action; yp develop performing arts/social/life skills; improve self esteem & self confidence; encourage yp to take management responsibility; Explore Christianity in relevant way; Provide young Christians with a non threatening environment to bring their non Christian friends to find out about the Christian faith.</p> <p>Funding: Ncounter will source capital funding from grants and its own staff;</p> <p>WSEP to fund running rental and resources.</p>	<p>EF3: Performing Arts Café (y 9,10,11+)</p> <p>Where: Shaw church (current worship area); hall will continue to be used for sports activities.</p> <p>When: Tuesday night 7-9pm/Fri 7-9; Sun 7-9 (ie during youth work sessions); open during day for community.</p> <p>For: live music performance; café, chat, DVD's, Christian talks, discussion, prayer, performing arts; possibly occasional worship.</p> <p>Staff: Church youth leaders; ncounter workers; occasional band visits</p> <p>Aim: see left</p> <p>Funding: ncounter will source funding for capital costs of café set up and fund its own staff;</p> <p>WSEP fund rental and resources.</p>

Explore Faith:		
<p>EB1: Phaze (yr 6 - 9)</p> <p>Where: Shaw church</p> <p>When: Fri nights 7 – 9.00</p> <p>For: food, games, drama, Bible exploration, discussion, occasional youth service</p> <p>Staff: church volunteers/ncounter workers</p> <p>Aim: Explore Christianity in relevant way; Provide young Christians with a non churchy environment to bring their non Christian friends to find out about the Christian faith; To empower adults and yp to develop skills and build confidence</p> <p>Funding: WSEP fund running costs; ncounter will fund its own staff.</p>	<p>ED2: Club Night (end y 6 - 8)</p> <p>Where: Shaw church</p> <p>When: Friday night, 7-9 pm</p> <p>For: food, café, games, drama & other Performing Arts; Bible exploration, discussion.</p> <p>Staff: Church youth leaders; ncounter Gap students; occasional band visits</p> <p>Aim: build relationships with yp in emerge community; provide needed resource for yp; church showing love in action; yp explore Christianity in relevant way; provide young Christians place to bring n/c friends; yp develop performing arts/social/life skills; improve self esteem & self confidence; encourage yp to take management responsibility.</p> <p>Funding: WSEP to fund running costs, eg hire costs and resources.</p> <p>Ncounter will fund its own staff.</p>	

Mature & Grow:		
EC1: G2G (Yr 10-13) Where: Shaw church When: Sun nights 7 – 9 (alternate) For: Bible exploration, discussion, support, prayer Staff: Church volunteers/ncounter workers Aim: Explore Christianity in a relevant way Funding: WSEP will fund running costs; ncounter will fund its own staff.	MA2: G2G will continue and other cell groups will be established.	

Mature & Grow:		
	<p>MA2: Cell groups (yr 9 -11; 12-13)</p> <p>Where: Shaw church</p> <p>When: Tuesday night?/Fri night?/Sun night?</p> <p>Staff: Church youth leaders; ncounter workers; occasional band visits</p> <p>For: Bible study, prayer, worship, support, mission projects, leadership in church, serving, development of gifts etc</p> <p>Staff: Church youth leaders; ncounter Gap students; occasional band visits</p> <p>Aim: to encourage young people who have made a Christian commitment to go deeper; to get grounded in faith; to support one another; to experience worship in different forms; to try out gifts; to help lead youth work in emerge, to serve in the church; to experience mission in another culture/country.</p> <p>Funding: WSEP will fund running costs; ncounter will fund its own staff.</p>	

Every Child Matters Outcomes – how do we plan to achieve these through emerge youth programme?

Enjoy & Achieve:

- Young people achieve personal and social development and enjoy recreation
- Young people with learning difficulties and or disabilities are helped to enjoy and achieve
- There are safe and accessible places where young people can play and socialize
- The project delivering a diverse programme that engages 35% of the priority age group and is highly rated by young people.
- Regular consultation forms a part of work with young people involved in the process
- Continual development of the Youth Steering Group
- Young people are empowered and are fully involved in leadership and management decisions
- Young people are fully involved in monitoring and evaluation, which enables the programme to forward plan.
- Young people are contributing fully to the promotion of activities.

Make a Positive Contribution

- Young people involved at every level in planning and delivery of programme
- Young people develop enterprising behaviour
- Develop self confidence and successfully deal with challenges
- Develop positive relationships and choose not to bully or discriminate
- Young people have opportunities to provide mentoring support to others
- Rights of all young people are valued to influence the decisions that affect their lives and their communities
- Young people are enabled to develop and design their own services and become active citizens.
- Young people's views are published.
- Young people are empowered and are fully involved in leadership and management decisions.

Be Healthy

- Healthy lifestyles are promoted
- Young people are mentally emotionally and sexually healthy
- Choose not to take illegal drugs

Stay safe

- Young people are safe from bullying and ASB
- Yp are informed about key risks to safety and how to deal with them
- Yp are provided with a safe environment
- Incidence of child abuse and neglect is minimized

Achieve Economic Well being

Emerge Mgt Team:

6/5/08

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- Provide opportunities for young people to reach their maximum potential through offering a quality programme of both activity and issued based youth work designed to enable personal and social development.

The National Association for the Care and Rehabilitation of Offenders (ref 1) now use drama-related provision to encourage the development of self-expression, personal and social skills, e.g. communication, group work and self-confidence. This has been proven to encourage young people into education and increase their employability.

'Engagement in the arts and creative opportunities transforms the way children and young people learn and explore the world around them. It can change the way children and young people see themselves – even what they dream of for the future – as well as helping them to develop specific skills'. (The Arts Council)

References:

1. "Drama experience: a creative arts programme for young offenders", online article published by the National Association for the Care and Rehabilitation of Offenders (NACRO) Sandwell, at <http://www.lsneducation.org.uk/JustLearning/themes/QLP/Sandwell.html>. See also "Drama in the Curriculum for Troubled Young People: Is It Worth the Fight?" by S Pearson-Davis, Design for Arts in Education, v90 n2 p25-32 Nov-Dec 1988