

## **MAPPING EXERCISE – SERVICES PROVIDING SUPPORT TO YOUNG PEOPLE AT RISK OF ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR**

### **Background**

In Spring of 2008 MAC Associates carried out a Visioning Exercise for Comeunity (the Neighbourhood Management programme targeting South and part of Central Great Yarmouth) in the Middlegate area, from this they were also asked to carry out a 'mapping exercise' into the work being carried out in the area for young people at risk of or already carrying out anti-social behaviour.

### **Young People and Anti-social behaviour**

In response to a conversation with Rob Gregory, Neighbourhood Manager we set down some ideas on paper for some targeted work with young people around anti social behaviour. At present the Middlegate Visioning Exercise includes some work with young people. We are asking questions of children and young people about their aspirations, what changes they would like to make, if they could, to their lifestyle and home life and also whether they are being placed at risk by their peers. We understand that a piece of research has already taken place by the Youth Workers about the needs of young people – as yet we are unaware of what that piece of work revealed, but we understand that it may have highlighted some of the young people's needs.

### **Methodology**

We are proposing to carry out a series of interviews with identified organisations that offer services or/and work with young people at risk in and close to the Middlegate area of Great Yarmouth. The intention is to hold face to face interviews with key people, but where this is not possible, we will carry out telephone interviews or even gather information via email and the internet.

We also intend to use information gathered during the Visioning Exercise and approach relevant local people who to collect different types of information, giving more rounded results.

### **Information Collected and Collated**

The chart below shows the information gathered through face to face interviews and other methods. The information relates to the activities and facilities aimed at or which occur close to the young people in the Middlegate area. Some of these programmes and facilities are aimed at all, some are for young people in the area, some are interventions specifically aimed at this area of Great Yarmouth.

## Activities and Facilities aimed at Young People in Middlegate

<b>Providers</b>	<b>Actions</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>Where</b>	<b>When</b>
<b>ASB Co-ordinator – Norfolk Constabulary</b>	A family intervention programme	Working with 12 young people from Middlegate and their families	In the home as well as specific activities all over the area.	Monday evening at The York Road Drill Hall
<b>Children’s Services Family Intervention Team</b>	A family intervention programme	Working with 12 young people from Middlegate and their families	In the home as well as specific activities all over the area.	Monday evening at The York Road Drill Hall
<b>Ormiston Children &amp; Families Trust</b>	Activities aimed at the well being of children and young people, especially those disadvantaged by their life experiences or circumstances.	Young people from all over Great Yarmouth	Within their building on South Quay	Monday - Friday: 9.00am - 5.00pm
<b>Salvation Army</b>	Running Guides sessions with 11 young girls.	Young people from all over Great Yarmouth	Salvation Army building	Friday nights – 6pm to 8pm
	1 drop in session on Sunday evenings with up to 20 young people (predominantly from Middlegate)	Young people mainly from Middlegate	Salvation Army building	Sunday nights - 6pm to 8pm
<b>Comeunity</b>	Working with Children’s Services to develop a programme of neighbourhood-based youth work dedicated to the South and Central Yarmouth neighbourhoods.	This work is central to developing the engagement of young people in positive activities at a local level.		
<b>GfS</b>	They are a ‘One	Young mums	Within their	

	stop shop' for women aged 25 or under who are either pregnant or have a child.	aged 25 and under, from all over Great Yarmouth	building on South Quay	
<b>Kittywitches</b>	Carry out and inform on and around health and sexual health	People from all over Great Yarmouth	Within their building on King Street	
<b>Connexions</b>	A service for 13-19 years olds wanting advice on getting to where you want to be in life. It also provides support up to the age of 25 for young people who have learning difficulties or disabilities (or both).	Young people from all over Great Yarmouth		
<b>Children's Services District Youth Work Team Leader</b>	<p>Youth Work Team provide a range of services and projects for young people.</p> <p>In the central area these projects include:</p> <p>Youth Club</p> <p>Extended high school programmes of work related learning, personal and social development work, aimed at pupils at risk of exclusion</p>	<p>Working with young people aged 11+</p> <p>Young (over 13) people from all over Great Yarmouth</p> <p>Young (over 13) people from all over Great Yarmouth</p>	<p>Based in Central Yarmouth</p> <p>York Road Drill Hall</p> <p>At relevant schools</p>	<p>Wednesday evenings 7pm to 9pm</p>

	Information and advice and mentoring projects in high schools	Young (over 13) people from all over Great Yarmouth		
	Work in partnership with the Visiting Teachers and the Pupil Referral Unit for school refusers and excludees	Young (over 13) people from all over Great Yarmouth		
	Off Centre Counselling service for young people in partnership with the Mancroft Advice Project	Young (over 13) people from all over Great Yarmouth		
	Great Yarmouth achievement Education Action Zone - integrated/multi-services approach for children, young people and the wider community based at Great Yarmouth High School	Young (over 13) people from all over Great Yarmouth		
	Partnership projects with Great Yarmouth Carers Support and training for voluntary youth workers and youth groups via a community development team strategy	13-18 (For young people caring for a parent or relative)	York Road Drill Hall	Tuesday 5.30pm to 7.30pm

**In addition, the York Road Drill Hall is a facility close to Midlegate which holds the following activities for young people from all across the area.**

<b>Young Carers</b>	13-18 (For young people caring for a parent or relative)	Tuesday 5.30pm - 7.30pm
<b>Young Fathers</b>	Up to 25 (For young dads)	Various - Contact 07766 443484
<b>Yarmouth Youth Club</b>	For young people aged 13-19	Wednesday 7pm - 9pm
<b>Source</b>	15-25 (For young people who are living independently)	Friday 1pm - 3pm
<b>Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme</b>	For young people aged 13-19	Thursday (alternate) 7pm - 9pm

**There are some small housing playgrounds in the area that are mainly for the use of tenant families, some are not as suitable as they might be and could be improved in the future.**

<b>Playgrounds in the area</b>	<b>Age range</b>
Blackfriars East	0-5 / 6-11
Blackfriars West	0-5 / 6-11
Clarendon North	6-11
Clarendon South	6-11
Dorset Close	6-11
Howard St South	0-5 / 6-11
King Street South	6-11
Louise Close	6-11
Orford Close	6-11
Sackville Close North	6-11
Sackville Close South	0-5 / 6-11
Sidney Close	6-11
Townsend Close North	6-11

### **Conclusions from the interviews -**

There seem to be very few agencies working specifically with young people in the Middlegate area. There are a number of services sited in or close to Middlegate and although they have many clients from the area, their remit is to serve all.

Of those agencies and services working specifically with young people at risk of being involved with anti-social behaviour:

- × They are for young people over the age of 11.
- × All the intervention is aimed at the same group of about 12 young people and their families.
- × All these measures are for those already in trouble with the Police, some of the children being on the local authorities 'At Risk Register' as well.
- × There is little preventative action and mainly reactive or knee-jerk responses to those who cause the most trouble.

Although dealing with those who are in trouble already and may be the ring-leaders of most of the anti-social behaviour is needed to assist with an increase in both actual and perceived fear of safety, there needs to be a more balanced approach.

During both the on-the-street consultations and at the young people's prioritisation session, it was mentioned by local people of all ages that:

- × Those in trouble seem to get rewarded with facilities and activities.
- × Those whose behaviour is positive and responsible are ignored.
- × More than one young person voiced the view that if they were bad they could go to more exciting places," you get more from the council if you do wrong!" was a comment from a 10 year old girl.

There seems to be a need to address some of the problems with the existing use of the play areas aimed at the younger aged children. If these areas were more secure and the facilities were improved and kept in a usable state, this would assist all members of families in the area to feel valued. This, in turn, could help those growing up in the area to be less likely to take part in anti-social behaviour.

Alongside improving facilities for younger children, ensuring that there are relevant facilities and activities for older children will hopefully reduce the likelihood of vandalism to play areas aimed at the under 12's. There are venues and groups that are close to the flats and houses on the estate which could, if funding was made available, be improved. These improvements could be carried out by both officers from the local authorities and volunteers, including the young people from the area.

## **Overall conclusions and ways forward -**

It is evident from the mapping exercise that vital and much needed resources have been made available to work with the young people who are seen as the perpetrators of a significant amount of the anti social behaviour that is occurring within South Yarmouth including the Middlegate Estate. We recognise that a variety of opportunities are being offered to these young people by a number of agencies to ensure that they are able to recognise the impact their behaviour has on others and find ways of changing it.

However, it is also evident from the Visioning Exercise that a number of younger children talked quite openly about times when they have been influenced by young people to do something they weren't comfortable with. It is crucial that more activities and opportunities are provided for the younger age group to ensure that they don't get drawn into anti social behaviour.

In addition, the Visioning Exercise also highlighted that many of the young people who were consulted with are have aspirations for their future and need as much support, help and guidance to enable them to achieve their goals. Many of these young people highlighted that they do not feel their social needs are provided for unless they behave badly.

It is crucial that a balance is created to ensure that those who are very vulnerable and are already in trouble or seriously in danger of being in trouble with the Police are provided with opportunities to change their behaviour, but also some activities are targeted at the 10 year old and above age range who have highlighted that they need recreational opportunities as well.