

GMCDP Update - February 2012



Work with young disabled people

This is the second GMCDP update. The theme of this update is the innovative work GMCDP is undertaking with young disabled people.

The Young Disabled People's Forum – a Manchester project of and for young disabled people

Recent work in the 'Forum' has included:

Targeted Sessional Input within schools and colleges

The 'Forum' delivers sessions to young disabled people (aged 15-25) attending 5 schools and colleges in Manchester. Sessions have included:

- Disability equality/rights and the Social Model of Disability.
- Positive identity and bullying/ disability hate crime.
- Management of stress and health (both general and gender specific).

Contact has also been made with young disabled people who are on work placement through 'Project Search' (run by Manchester College and the Manchester Royal Infirmary). The project supports young disabled people seeking employment skills and work.

'Forum'- youth group meetings

Young disabled people attending the Manchester Forum have become more involved in planning and facilitating the 'forum' youth group meetings. The meetings have focused on issues such as: Disability Equality/Rights; internet and personal safety; and inclusive first aid training.



Highlighting Disability Hate Crime

Working alongside the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS), the 'Forum' has been involved in:

- The production and launch of a Disability Hate Crime DVD and resource pack designed for use in schools (with pupils 14+) it highlights disability hate crime and its effects.

- A consultation event with the Inspectorate of Constabulary and the Inspectorate of Crown Prosecution services, looking at what improvements could be made regarding the current response to disability hate crime.

Access Surveys

Working in partnership with Manchester Disabled People's Access Group (MDPAG), young disabled people from the 'Forum' and Including Young Disabled People Project have been involved in:

- Completing access surveys of transport hubs in Manchester, such as tram and train stations. Young disabled people received training on evaluating access surveys, and assisted in an access survey for Manchester City Council.
- A consultation at Bramall Hall. Managers at Bramall Hall were able to use the experience of the Young Disabled People's Forum to discuss the opportunities and threats of using technology to provide a better visitor experience.

Work Placement and Volunteering

Young disabled people have been on work placements and as volunteers from local colleges, undertaking a variety of roles including: administration, planning, assisting delivery of sessions and involvement in consultations.

Arts Projects with 42nd Street

Young people have been involved in two successful art projects, both on identity and feelings, one of the projects being sponsored by 42nd street. Some of the group attended the opening event at 42nd street's new building, and were pleased to discover that their art work is now on permanent display in the new premises

Lobbying

Young disabled people from the Manchester 'Forum' were involved in lobbying MP's and councillors with regard to the effects of cuts to services to young disabled people living in Manchester.



Work with the NSPCC

Young people from both the 'Forum' and the Including Young Disabled People Project were involved in this work to ensure accurate representation of young disabled people's agenda and making NSPCC services inclusive. Future plans involve young disabled people from both Projects inputting into increasing the NSPCC's knowledge of the particular barriers disabled children and young people face in reporting abuse and receiving necessary support.

The Including Young Disabled People Project - a Greater Manchester Project of and for young disabled people

The project is just about to start its third year, after two very successful years. The project is really beginning to make an impression in Greater Manchester. We are reaching young disabled people from a wide catchment area, and service providers have voiced how impressed they are with the knowledge, passion, commitment and motivation of the young disabled people from the project. Many organisations throughout Greater Manchester have actively sought the views of young people on the project, and have given overwhelmingly positive feedback from events run by the project.

The project is a voice for young disabled people throughout all the areas of Greater Manchester, and is driven forward by their views. It is vital, for it to be an effective young disabled people's project, that it is steered, governed and developed by young disabled people.

Forums of young disabled people in Greater Manchester

As well as holding one-off forums in all of the areas of Greater Manchester, we have started to run permanent, ongoing forums in Bury and Trafford. The content and planning of forum sessions is decided by the young disabled people, so can focus on local as well as more general issues. Preparation is also in place for permanent forums to start in some of the other areas this year.



Consultation

The project has also done partnership work (with Oldham council) in some schools, to find out what young disabled people in the borough think of the transition process. This is ongoing work that will carry on into this year, and hopefully shape Oldham's transition service in the future.

Steering Group

The steering group for the Including Young Disabled People project has gained 7 new members, and has taken part in a number of consultations for national organisations such as: the NSPCC Young Ambassadors; Shape Arts (which involved an activity-packed trip to London); and for local organisations such as the Bury Youth Cabinet, Oldham and Trafford CIL and Breakthrough UK. One member of the steering group is now a member of GMCDP's executive board. Watch out! - The young disabled people are working their way into the highest positions within GMCDP!

Involvement with other Groups

A number of the project members are actively involved in the Right To Control design group, and are shaping the way forward, through co-production, with local partners such as the Department for Work & Pensions, the Office for Disability Issues and local authorities. Project members are also taking active roles in local groups throughout Greater Manchester.

Task Groups

Thirty six young disabled people have been involved in task groups which have:

- Developed the Facebook page, and had a large part in designing the upcoming GMCDP website.
- Been a forum to discuss current issues with regular lively 'Debatable' sessions, where young disabled people have to debate the pros and cons of contentious issues.
- Run some open sessions for newcomers to get acquainted with disability issues and to meet the project members.



Training

As well as the ongoing training with both young people projects on: disability issues, disability history and the Social Model, some young disabled people have taken part in the 'Train the Trainers' sessions, so that we can develop a new generation of young disabled trainers.

Young disabled people from the IYDP project have trained staff from the Harrogate branch of Barnardos, which received positive feedback. At the start of the project, the steering group looked into what training they felt would be useful to the group. They went ahead and researched, booked and undertook the training.

After delivering a very successful event to service providers, the project has been asked to deliver similar training to other young disabled people and council staff.

The future

By the end of the project, we aim to have independent young disabled people forums in all of the boroughs of Greater Manchester, similar to the Manchester Young Disabled People's Forum. So every year we have to visit each of the boroughs and meet new young disabled people. This year we are looking at several opportunities to start ongoing forums in Tameside, Rochdale and Oldham. So lots to look forward to...