

# Junior Wardens



**Belle Isle, Hunslet and Middleton**

*Working in partnership with Belle Isle Family  
Centre and Aire Valley Homes*

# **Belle Isle and Middleton: Junior Warden Interim report<sup>1</sup>**

## **Introduction**

The main objective of the project is to get young people involved in their local community, and provide a safe supervised environment for their personal development. The areas targeted for this work tie into Aire Valley Homes priority estates in Middleton and Manor Farms, with young people attending sessions from the Belle Isle and Hunslet areas. Sessions are being run in partnership with Belle Isle Family Centre, which is an important local community organization at the heart of the Belle Isle and Middleton community.

It was also very important to look at what we were set to achieve from the activities and what outcomes would be achieved from them. Each activity we planned was based around the Every Child Matters outcomes and to build on young people's social skills:

The objectives of the project are to ensure that young people:

- 1) Stay safe: reducing fear and isolation
- 2) Enjoy and achieve: activities that promoted different life-skills
- 3) Make a positive contribution: activities that focus on the local community including environmental activities which contribute to the Safer Stronger & Cleaner Greener agendas.
- 4) Achieve economical well-being: making decisions, being independent, team-building and acquiring life-skills.
- 5) Being healthy: Health & well being sessions, cooking sessions and leisure activities.

The project also bases its structure on the Dream Scheme concept, which is about 'work for points for trips'.

To date, there have been six sessions at the Belle Isle Family Centre. The group comprises of 14 young people all between the ages of 8 and 12yrs old. Young people attending the project are from the Belle Isle, Middleton, Manor Farms and Hunslet areas of Leeds.

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<sup>1</sup> This is an interim report and only covers the main aspects of the sessions conducted and is not a full evaluation of the work being done.

## **Programme of activities**

- ***Session one: Citizenship 28/02/08:***

To teach young people about the traits of good citizenship, the following were the main issues discussed and young people were asked to discuss their community/environment in relation to being a good citizen.

Traits of good citizenship:

- Being a good neighbor by caring about others.
- Sharing your time and skills to the community to make it better, cleaner and safer.
- Conserving resources by practicing the three R's: Reduce. Re-use. Recycle.
- Staying informed on issues and voicing your opinions by voting.

Traits of bad citizenship:

- Looking out only for yourself.
- Littering and wasting resources.
- Leaving all political matters to the so-called "experts."

You can be a positive role-model for citizenship by doing the following:

- Show concern for the success and safety of others.
- Use non-judgmental language that does not offend or demean.
- Do the right thing, especially when it is difficult.
- Do the right thing, even when no one is looking.
- Take responsibility for your actions.
- Reflect on how your actions affect the welfare of others.

- **Session two: Good and Bad things in the community 06/03/08:**

To allow young people to identify the good and bad in their community by walking around and taking pictures using disposable cameras. It also included an aspect of healthy living, as we had to walk around the estate.

**Good things**



Youth activities



Open space

### ***Bad things***



Litter



More litter

### ***Session three: Good and Bad things in the community 20/03/08:-***

To allow young people to identify the good and bad in their community by discussing the photographs taken the previous week. A total of 162 photographs were taken and printed out on A4 paper for discussion. The young people then made a basic display of the good and bad things in their community and asked others who use the BIFC what they thought, and what could be done.

**Session four: Cleaner Greener session 03/04/08 :-**

To give young people an opportunity to make a difference in their community by cleaning up an area selected by them, based on the discussions and photographs taken during the last session.

***The litter-pick***





**Session five: Reward trip 17/04/08:**

This was a trip for the young people to Hollywood Bowl. Based on the work they have put into the project thus far, and linked to the idea of *work for points for trips*, they had earned this outing.



### ***Session Six: Middleton Masterplanning workshop 24/04/08 :-***

This was an opportunity for the young people to get involved in the decision making process, around planned changes in their community. Two landscape designers from Groundwork worked with the young people to design and discuss improvements for a master-plan for the Middleton area.

### ***Additional activities: Healthy eating and cookery skills:***

All the sessions include a meal, prepared by the young people. They are taught how to cook the meal, set the table, and then clean up after themselves. Thus far it has been a huge success in that all the young people involved have made a positive contribution to their community and have begun to fully appreciate their local environment and understand the changes they can make to where they live.

### **Forward planning**

The programme will continue to develop young people's understanding of community and environmental activity through practical project work. Young people are looking at sites which they can improve within the local community and are keen to get involved in an arts project around the family centre. There is also potential for young people to get more involved in developing projects that are identified within the Middleton Masterplan. Young people identified a range of things they would like to see in Middleton and there is a real opportunity to get the group involved in further design work to include signage, entrance features and art work, planting and other practical activities that will form part of the capital works that are developed following the masterplanning exercise.