



**HAYS GROUP REPORT
2004**

**Oot 'N' About
Hays Group Work Report
2004**

Introduction:

This report details the group work programme carried out with Oot 'N' About and local young people from the Hays over a period of ten weeks. The report details the process and outcomes of the work along with future recommendations.

Background:

Oot 'N' About is a detached youth work project working on the streets of Greater Craigmillar. The project provides up-to-date information, advice and support to local young people around their needs, aspirations and dreams. The project also develops informal educational group work programmes alongside young people around shared longer term issues that affect both themselves and their community.

The Hays Group:

Oot 'N' About's work on the streets brought us into contact with a group of mixed gender young people between the ages of 12-14 years from the Hays. Discussions with the group generally focused upon their community, specifically the lack of recreational activities for young people, the environment in which they live in and the usage of public space. As a result of this, Oot N About workers alongside the group, agreed an appropriate group work programme to explore these issues and identify appropriate and effective action to bring about change. .

Group Work Programme:

In order to take the group work programme forward youth workers used a methodology known as participatory appraisal. This methodology utilises a range of visual and graphic media to encourage young people to critically explore issues of concern and to plan appropriate action.

Over the course of the programme group work sessions were developed alongside the young people out on the street. During this the young people identified a range of issues that affect their community life. Identified issues included the impact of drug use upon the community, vandalism/graffiti, lack of leisure facilities in the Hays and the use of public space. Reflecting upon these

issues young people discussed a range of contributing factors which ranged from local characteristics to wider social influences.

Several group work sessions focused upon the varying courses of action to tackle these identified issues with the group discussing the likely impact, feasibility and the resources required. During the last session the young people held a vote to determine the two issues that they felt should be a priority for their community. The two issues were the use of public space and graffiti. The group then decided to produce a newsletter to highlight the work they had done and these two issues to the wider community.

Future Recommendations:

The following recommendations should be noted in regards to work with young people in the Greater Craigmillar area:

- The Participatory appraisal methodology is an effective and thorough way of working with young people around issues identified by them.
- Young people have important opinions and voices to be heard regarding the life of their community. Relevant agencies should listen and consult with young people if youth services and the regeneration of the Greater Craigmillar area is to meet young people's needs.
- More research should be carried out to see whether other young people experience these issues within the community.
- More funding should be sought in order to develop and implement the young people's identified action points to improve their community.

Contact Details:

If you require any more information regarding this report then please contact Michelle Dunphy or Emma Kyles on 0131 657 1595.

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During group work sessions out on the street the young people took the youth workers on a tour of there area. In doing so they took photographs of public spaces within the area that they themselves frequented and discussed each of the spaces with both themselves and workers.

- **HAYS SKATE PARK (NIDDRIE MAINS TERRACE)**

'Wouldn't hang about there because people take drugs – smoke hash there'

'Lots of smaller people hang about there so I wouldn't go there'
(13year old male)

- **FIELD BESIDE BINGHAM TUNNEL**

'It's lying empty – there's noting to do here'

'Could be used as a seating area for everybody'

'Could have a park here for older young people and have things in it like the Venchie at Greendykes'

'The neighbours around this bit are nice – they dinny moan at us'

- **HAYS PARK**

'Think it's a waste of money – nae body really use's it'

'We canny go in there – we can moaned at by the neighbours if we touch the plants'

'People smoke and drink here – so we dinny feel safe'

'Not allowed in it – the neighbours moan'

- **HAYS (IN GENERAL)**

'Think that there's stuff for smaller people to do but not anything for us'

'CCTV – Think it takes away our privacy but suppose it's good aswell coz it stoaps people choring'