
Youth Works
Higher Folds

Interim Evaluation
March 2007

Consultant's Statement

Wider Impact Consultancy is pleased to commend the Higher Folds Youth Works Programme. The project is on course to achieve objectives and is achieving 'Value for Money'. It is professionally delivered and is playing a positive approach to the regeneration of the Higher Folds Estate.

Edwin Lewis, Wider Impact Consultancy
March 2007

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Youth Works Higher Folds

Interim Evaluation



Report Commissioned By
Groundwork Wigan & Chorley

Funded By The Coalfields Regeneration Trust

Delivered By Wider Impact Consultancy



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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Higher Folds is an isolated housing estate in Leigh with a population of around 3,000 residents. On the north side the IMD ranks within the 5% most disadvantaged communities in the country. There are high levels of unemployment, single or low-income households and low education attainment.

Linked to low levels of confidence, there is a lack of aspiration, particularly amongst young people growing up on the estate, which is reflected in high levels of low-level crime, such as criminal damage, lighting fires and reports of youth related anti-social behaviour.

There are however a number of strengths within the estate – a great sense of pride and community spirit and a willingness to work together in order to improve everyone's quality of life.

With this understanding, the Youth Works Programme is well placed to make positive contributions to the social, physical and economic regeneration of the estate and wider area. The Programme has secured a well-resourced base to work, from which the Youth Works team has quickly gained the trust of local community members.

The clock is however ticking and for members to work collaboratively under the umbrella of the Coalfields Regeneration Trust Initiative Communities there is much to do. What is also clear is the need for the Youth Works team, other key agencies and community that Work!

This will take a great deal of skill, understanding and strategic thinking if ambitious targets are to be achieved. Supported by Groundwork Wigan & Chorley, the Youth Works team have the skills and resources to play a significant role in this task. The team must resist the temptation to work alone and must explore every opportunity to work alongside other agencies and local community members – in particular the young people, who risk losing out the most.

Wider Impact Consultancy is confident the Youth Works programme on the Higher Folds Estate has the potential to support, enable, empower and involve this most important asset in the regeneration of their community.

2. Acknowledgements

Wider Impact Consultancy would like to thank the following for their efforts in making this report possible:

Young people living on the Higher Folds Estate

Mona Follows, Tenants & Residents Association

Karla Hamlington, Higher Folds Chippy

PC Pete Stafford, Greater Manchester Police

Roy Mason, Work Solutions, Higher Folds Job Shop

Paul Whitemoss, Wigan Council

Jan McDonald, Coalfields Regeneration Trust

Harry Kelly, Groundwork Wigan & Chorley

Dawn Kenyon, Ian McGregor, Sally Dodgson - The Higher Folds Youth Works Team

Contributions have included data, information, and time and, most importantly, honest feedback on how the Youth Works programme is making a difference to young people and their families living on the Higher Folds Estate, Leigh, Wigan.

3. Terms of Reference

Wider Impact Consultancy has been commissioned by Groundwork Wigan & Chorley to carry out an independent evaluation of the effectiveness of the Youth Works programme on the Higher Folds Estate, Leigh, Wigan.

The evaluation will be in two phases:

Phase 1 will be in the form of an interim evaluation from the start of Coalfields Regeneration Trust funding (Summer 2005 to March 2007)

Phase 2 will be in the form of a final report (March 2008).

4. Methodology

In addition to interviewing the Groundwork Wigan & Chorley Youth Works team and accessing internal data and information, opportunity will be taken to interview and obtain data and information from external key partners, including:

- The young people of Higher Folds
- Higher Folds Tenants & Residents Association
- Local businesses
- Local police
- Local partner agency members
- Wigan Council
- Coalfields Regeneration Trust staff
- Groundwork Wigan & Chorley
- Youth Works Higher Folds

The research will also involve a number of site visits to the Higher Folds Estate, when opportunity has been taken to:

- Observe young people in the Youth Works Drop In Centre, involved in activities.
- Observe young people relating to older residents and shop staff in the local community.

5. Groundwork Wigan & Chorley

Groundwork Wigan & Chorley objectives include making a long-term commitment to supporting local neighbourhoods. Committed team members aim to breathe new life into open spaces, enabling people to meet their own needs by building on the community's strengths and skills.

Their work includes helping people improve the appearance of their community, training residents in how to run voluntary groups, running community health and safety programmes and helping to reduce crime.

Groundwork often uses the local environment as a tool to make real change to the social capital of an area. Small projects, focused on small patches of neglected land, bring a huge pay-off in terms of bringing neighbours together, developing social as well as physical capital. They aim to use projects to deliver multiple outcomes, including fostering cohesion in our communities, reducing crime and anti-social behaviour and encouraging healthier lifestyles.

Examples of projects include:

Prince's Trust

Groundwork Wigan & Chorley is a local partner of the Prince's Trust. The Prince's Trust Team is a full time 12-week programme of personal development for 16-25 year olds. The teams take part in a challenging and action packed programme which begins with team building activities, including a week at an outdoor pursuits residential activity centre, project work in the local community and work placements. It culminates in a team presenting its achievements to an invited audience as they receive their key skills certificates.

Team members also fund raise and select projects to best suit their own personal development needs and a local group of people that they wish to support.

Objectives

- Developing practical skills which will help you in life, and in a job
- Meeting new people
- Enjoying an action packed week away from home
- Taking part in challenging projects
- Benefiting from two weeks work experience
- Being given career advice and help with job searches
- Getting help with CV writing
- Make a difference to local communities
- Achieving nationally recognised qualifications
- Having an amazing time

Groundwork 'Breakthrough'

Groundwork's innovative 'Breakthrough' programme provides opportunities for young people who are excluded from the education system or at risk of exclusion.

Six weeks of high-energy activities provide challenging fun and achievement that lasts a lifetime.

The programme gives an exciting mix of challenging educational activities together with qualifications to improve the participant's chances of gaining future employment. The young people are given the opportunity to test their personal boundaries and develop many new skills; with commitment and enthusiasm they can reach new heights and have fun.

Aims

To provide a positive, stimulating and achievable programme of self-development in order for the process of re-engagement to take place.

Objectives

- To reduce involvement in anti-social behaviour and the effects on the communities within the Wigan Borough
- To encourage involvement and inclusion in local communities
- To gather together a record of achievement to present to potential employers
- To participate, achieve and succeed in activities and challenges
- To improve basic skills, confidence, self-esteem and motivation
- Provide a safe and enjoyable learning environment for all

The Groundwork Breakthrough Youth Development Programme gives young people the opportunity to take in challenges such as:

- Rock climbing
- First Aid
- Fire Safety
- Disability Awareness
- Orienteering - ASDAN Bronze Award
- CV writing
- Interview skills and much, much more.

Breakthrough is helping non-attendeess and those pupils in school who are not achieving academically to change from a path of negativity and risk to one of hope, respect and positive direction.

The National Youth Works Programme

There are around 21 Youth Works programmes operating throughout a number of deprived areas in England and Wales.

At national level, the programme is supported by a partnership between Crime Concern, Groundwork UK and Marks & Spencer. The majority of programmes are managed by local Groundwork Trusts, supported by multi-agency steering groups.

The Mission Statement of Youth Works is:

'Youth Works provides young people growing up in disadvantaged neighbourhoods with the skills and opportunities to develop their skills to reduce crime and improve their social, physical and economic environments.'

Youth Works programmes cover an age range of 8 to 25 years.

Aims

1. Address issues of crime and criminality among young people. Targets have been set to reduce recorded crime and nuisance levels by 30% to 50% within a three-year period.

2. Provide structured, vibrant and optimistic programmes and activities aimed at providing young people with the skills, capacity and motivation to become directly involved in their personal development and the regeneration of their local community.
3. Involve the wider community to ensure that the Youth Works programme is sustained, adding value to existing and new partnerships.

Activities Include

- **Community Work** – Drop In Centres for young people, accredited training for volunteers and community leaders
- **Preventative Work** – community link activities, working with families in crisis and school support programmes
- **Diversionary Work** – after school programmes, summer play schemes, sporting activities, arts and cultural projects
- **Remedial Work** – mentoring ‘high risk’ young people, detached youth work and links with rehabilitation programmes
- **Skills Development** – homework clubs, cyber café’s, IT training and work experience.

Further information about Youth Works at national level can be found at

www.youth-works.com

6. The Coalfields Regeneration Trust

About the Trust

The Coalfields Regeneration Trust (CRT) was established in 1999 and is dedicated to improving the quality of life for people in Britain's coalfield communities.

The Trust is an independent charity and company limited by guarantee. Its mission is to lead the way in coalfields regeneration and to restore healthy, prosperous and sustainable communities. In order to achieve this mission we have two key objectives:

- To complement the work of economically-driven agencies by focusing on the so-called "softer" side of regeneration
- To inform and influence policy-makers with regard to coalfields issues, and bend mainstream spend to needy coalfields communities.

Its aim is to make coalfields sustainable, and to work towards the point where they can be prosperous, viable and cohesive without support.

The CRT works with people at a very grassroots level in order to build confidence and encourage them to actively participate in taking their communities forward – we all know things are getting better but there is still much to do. Giving people aspirations, talking about the long-term and sustainability needs to have commitment behind it. The Trust is committed to standing by communities to achieve their goals.

The CRT supports a number of innovative projects that contribute significantly to the wider regeneration agendas in coalfield communities.

It recognises the need to tackle chronic problems facing the most severely deprived former mining communities such as Higher Folds and invests resources where it matters most. A proactive focussed and sustained type of intervention has been developed.

By listening to communities and identifying gaps in support, the CRT has produced a programme that responds to local needs by:

- Targeting the most deprived former mining communities
- Building capacity and sustainability within the community and voluntary sector
- Responding to structural inadequacies including worklessness and low educational attainment
- Improving skills and access to good jobs
- Stimulating enterprise and local confidence to compete

Communities That Work! Programme

The CRT has worked with local communities and partner agency members to develop the **Communities that Work!** Programme to make coalfield communities a better place to live, work and learn. Its approach has been to work at a neighbourhood level in areas that would benefit from an integrated effort from the Trust via delivery partners and other local organisations.

Whilst not an exact science the criteria for **Communities that Work!** include:

- Demonstrable need for intervention
- Funding 'cold spots'
- Building on low levels of voluntary sector infrastructure
- Building on low levels of community capacity to create support for projects
- A clear assessment how the Trust can add value to transform the area
- Opportunities to develop partnerships with other funders and delivery partners
- Potential for demonstration and learning
- Create through the community and delivery partners' sustainability for the programme post CRT funding

7. Higher Folds Estate

Higher Folds is an isolated housing estate in Leigh with a population of around 3,000 residents. On the north side the IMD ranks within the **5%** most disadvantaged communities in the country. There are high levels of worklessness, single or low-income households and low education attainment.

Crime & Anti-Social Behaviour

Table 1 provides an outline of crime and anti-social behaviour on the Higher Folds Estate - 01 April 2006 to 18 February 2007 per 1000 population, compared to the borough average.

Table 1

Area	Criminal Damage	Theft of Vehicle	Anti-Social Behaviour	Youth Causing Annoyance	Small Deliberate Fires
Higher Folds	36.11	3.94	139.86	57.78	22.32
Borough Wide	20.54	4.94	76.96	37.55	6.41

Source: Greater Manchester Police Wigan Division (Recorded Crime) Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service (Fire data)

Summary of Challenges

From local consultation (source CRT), it is known there are many barriers to gaining employment that range from affordable childcare and transport, to the confidence and skills levels in job seekers.

Linked to low levels of confidence, there is a lack of aspiration, particularly amongst young people growing up on the estate, which is apparently reflected in high levels of low-level crime, such as criminal damage, lighting fires and reports of youth related anti-social behaviour.

A Partnership Approach

There are also a number of strengths within the estate – a great sense of pride and community spirit and a willingness to work together in order to improve everyone's quality of life.

Delivery and Steering Group Partners include:

- Wigan MBC
- ERP
- 3SE
- Groundwork Wigan & Chorley
- Higher Folds Primary School
- Higher Folds Community Centre
- Higher Folds Residents Association
- Ashton, Wigan & Leigh Primary Care Trust
- AGAPE Family Support Group
- Wigan Pier Theatre Company
- Forestry Commission
- Wigan MBC
- Wigan & Leigh College
- Bedford High School
- Forestry Commission
- Manchester Enterprises Local Economic Advantage Project

Following a period of community consultation in the spring of 2005, a group of interested groups and residents was brought together to design the **Community that Work!** programme. With no set budget the group built a vision that includes:

- Removing the barriers to opportunity by the provision of training for young people and adults, affordable and locally based childcare and better access to services, including health
- Reducing the levels of worklessness on the estate by working alongside unemployed residents, and providing “bespoke” information, guidance and support

- Raising the aspirations of the community as a whole, and in particular young people, through youth-focused and intergenerational activities

An ambitious action plan was drawn up to deliver these activities that include:

- A **Youth Works** project located on the estate to engage young people to the age of 25
- A programme of activity to reduce the levels of worklessness from over 30% to under 20% in real terms to assist 230 people into full employment

The programme is already seeking out employment opportunities over the next ten years, such as those that will be based at Leigh Sports Village or the ex-Bickershaw Colliery development site. Local organisations are working together to offer opportunities such as volunteering in order to boost the confidence of residents;

- Improvements to existing community services such as the Community Centre and the development of new activities including a childcare social enterprise and a community transport scheme
- Investment in community services including an intergenerational theatre group, a family support service and the development of a micro-grant scheme to encourage the growth of the community sector

Now operational for 12 months the **Communities that Work!** Programme has already achieved success in the area:

- There are 93 residents engaged in the employment project, some who have been on incapacity benefit for long periods or unemployed for 15 years
- The **Youth Works** project is up and running in the old Housing office with a full staff compliment and have called the facility 'The Underground'
- The Theatre Group has been a great success, they have produced one show already called "On the Hill" and are already rehearsing for the next Spring/Summer performances
- A childcare management committee has been set up that represents the interests of all youth and childcare organizations, including the primary schools. Affordable childcare is being provided by 'School Friends'
- The breakfast and after school clubs are thriving at the Primary School

- Great progress has been made on the inclusion of innovative projects such as the virtual advice surgery in partnership with the Citizens Advice Bureau, the development of a sustainable community transport scheme and negotiating contracts for small-scale call centre activity located in the Community Centre.

8. Youth Work Higher Folds

Inputs

Funding

Groundwork Wigan & Chorley is the 'Managing Agent' and accountable body for the Youth Works programme on the Higher Folds estate and has been awarded a **three-year** grant of £298,844 by the CRT (principal funder). Total grants include:

• CRT	£298,844
• Princes Trust	£24,897
• Groundwork Wigan and Chorley	£79,059
• Groundwork UK	£1,000
Total	<u>£403,800</u>

Programme Location

The programme is based in the centre of the Higher Folds estate, within the recently re-furbished Housing Offices. Named the '**Underground**' by the young people, the Youth Works base comprises of a ground floor '**Drop-In Centre**' with disabled access and a number of back room meeting rooms and offices.

Youth Works Staff

Four new posts have been created:

- 1 Programme Manager
- 2 Development Officers
- 1 Administration Officer

All staff is employed by Groundwork Wigan & Chorley and is tasked with delivering the Youth Works programme on the Higher Fold estate.

Wider Impact Consultancy has taken time to meet the Youth Works team and is impressed with their experience and commitment to work with the Higher Folds community and partner agency members to achieve challenging outcomes.

Outcomes

Agreement has been reached with the CRT as principal funder to deliver the following outcomes during the three-year life of the programme:

Table 2

Description	Outputs Planned for the following Grant Periods					Total Outputs
	1	2	3	4	5	
Jobs Created	4					4
New Volunteers	4	4	4	4	4	20
People Benefiting	50	50	50	50	50	250
Young People Benefiting	50	50	50	50	50	250

Source: CRT

Progress to Date

Following appointment during Autumn 2005, the Programme Manager faced a significant challenge in securing a base for the programme on the Higher Folds estate. For a number of reasons (none of which were the responsibility of the programme), this was delayed until Summer 2006. Further delays, linked to Health & Safety and disabled access have resulted in delayed access for young people until late 2006.

Despite this clear setback, the remaining team were recruited and detached work began during late 2005. Partnership working included links with agencies such as:

- Third Sector Enterprise
- Wigan CVS
- Higher Folds Residents & Tenants
- Manchester ERP
- Leigh Sports Village
- Forestry Commission
- Leigh Prince's Trust
- Community Safety Partnership
- Child Care Steering Group
- Higher Folds Steering Group
- Children and Young People's Services
- Sure Start
- Anti-Social Behaviour Unit
- Young Mums
- Bedford High School
- Higher Folds Primary School
- St. Gabriel's Primary School
- Kings Hill High School
- Creative Industries (CRIIS)
- Higher Folds Job Shop (Work Solutions)

Outputs Achieved

Table 3 provides a summary of outputs achieved to date (1 March 2007).

Table 3

Description	Outputs Planned for the following Grant Periods					Total Outputs To 1 March 07
	1 Sept 05 to Feb 06	2 Mar 06 to Aug 06	3 Set 06 to Feb 07	4 Mar 07 to Aug 07	5 Sep 07 to Feb 08	
Jobs Created	4					4
New Volunteers	1M 1F	1M 1F	2F 1M			7
People Benefiting	4M 8F	100 Adults (Fun Day)	12M 2F			126
YOUNG PEOPLE BENEFITING	50	97	109			256
Males	32	52	79			163
Females	18	45	30			93
Ethnic Mix	White 50	White 95 White/East European 2	White 107 White East European 1 White/Black Mixed 1			White 252 White East Euro' 3 White/Black Mixed 1
Physical Disabilities			1			1
Hidden Disabilities		3	3			6
8 to 10 Years	28	47	20			95
11 to 17 Years	22	40	79			141
18+		10	10			20
Number of Activities or Sessions	45	56	109			210
Activity Hours	112	182	279			573
Total Attendance	675	551	1722			2948
Rate for Activities (Young Person Hours)	1029	1764	4102			6895

Source: Youth Works Higher Folds, March 2007

It is clear that access to the Youth Works base within the centre of the Higher Folds estate has had a positive impact on the number of young people benefiting from the programme.

Activities

Activities are split into themes, covering five outcomes based on 'Every Child Matters'. The list below is an example of activities currently being delivered by the Youth Works team:

1. Be Healthy

- Rugby Coaching
- Bowling
- Ice Skating

2. Staying Safe

- Fire Awareness Training
- Regular Drop-In Sessions
- Healthy Eating Advice
- Smoking Cessation Advice

3. Enjoy and Achieve

- Halloween Party
- Open Drop-In Sessions
- Pool Knock-Outs
- Football Tournament
- Kayaking, Problem Solving, Rock Climbing, Abseiling (Anderton Outdoor Education Centre)

4. Make Positive Contributions

- Fire Awareness Training
- Decoration Making
- Film Making Project
- Art & Craft Sessions

5. Economic Well-Being

- Laser Quest
- Ice Skating

Building on a strong base of community/school centred activities during 2005/06 the Youth Works team are developing links with local partners such as Leigh Rugby Union Club, the Forestry Commission and the Fire & Rescue Service.

Wider Impact Consultancy is particularly impressed with developing links with the Higher Folds estate '**One Stop Job Shop**' funded by the CRT and managed by **Work Solutions**. Work Solutions is one of the largest operating companies in the Manchester Solutions Group. They work with partners in the public, private, community and voluntary sectors to deliver high quality and innovative services aimed at improving skills and securing employment for the socially excluded, disadvantaged and economically inactive people in the Manchester Sub-Region (MSR).

Through its network of 15 centres, Work Solutions has a physical presence across Greater Manchester. Work Solutions works in close collaboration with local authorities, Jobcentre Plus, Learning Skills Council (LSC) and various local regeneration partnerships to significantly improve the employment prospects for local people.

The Job Shop is providing direct support to those most at risk of worklessness, providing 'entry to employment', opportunities in the form of 1:1 and group initiatives to people living on the estate from 16 to 65 years.

Situated within the same area of the Youth Works base, there are clear opportunities for each of the initiatives to provide 'additionality' to the other, in the form of referrals and collaborative initiatives.

Table 4 provides an over view of the current timetable of regular weekly activities within the Youth Works base.

Table 4

Day	Morning	Afternoon	Evening 6pm to 9pm
Monday	Sure Start 9.30 to 12.30	Junior Session 3.30 to 5.30	Senior Session
Tuesday	Sure Start 9.30 to 12.30	Connexions Surgery 1.00 to 4.00	Senior Session
Wednesday	Sure Start 9.30 to 12.30	Junior Session 3.30 to 5.30	Senior Session
Thursday		Adult Services 10.00 to 3.30 Junior Session 3.30 to 5.30	
Friday	Team Meeting/ Administration etc.	Planning	

Source: Youth Works Higher Folds, March 2007

Views of Local People

Local Police – Local Police Officer **Pete Stafford** is well aware of the challenges faced by the young people living on the Higher Folds estate. *“It’s down in the main to the aspirations of the local people. While there are no ‘big time’ criminals on the estate, local people don’t seem to mind there children being involved in low level crime such as anti-social behaviour.*

Nothing is thought about their children illegally riding motorbikes on common land. Young people are in a mind-set that nothing good will happen to them such as a good job with prospects. Views and opinions like this need to be challenged. Young people need a goal in life. Something to aspire to. If we are to tackle low-level crime, anti-social behaviour and poverty”.

Local Residents – **Mona Follows** is an active member of the Community Centre and Residents Association. *“Whilst I wouldn’t live anywhere else, the young people need something to do, to keep them off the streets, where they can’t frighten older residents who need to visit the local shops”.*

Local Business People - **Karla Hamlington** owns the ‘Higher Folds Chippy’. *“I have been here for seven years and it was a nightmare when I first arrived. The kids were really unruly and twenty-year-old blokes threatened me. It was not uncommon to have twenty to thirty kids hanging around the shop, putting people off coming into the chippy”.*

“Things have got slowly better and we have noticed a real improvement since the Youth Works place opened. They have something to do now and someone to take an interest in them. Before Youth Works, all they had to do was stay in watching telly, play on Play Stations, or hang around the streets.

“They come into my shop now and tell me about where they are going to and what they have done. They have been ice-skating and rock climbing. They are really excited and pleased someone is on their side at last.

I overheard one of the Youth Works staff helping a young lad find work recently. That’s really good, because these kids need help if they are going to make something of themselves.

Believe me, before Youth Works, they had nothing – nothing. On the whole, I don’t see the kids as threatening now. They are just part of this community; which is a good place to live and work. Can we have more of the same please?”

Local Young People – Wider Impact Consultancy has taken time to meet with a number of young people visiting the Youth Works Drop-In Centre. Below are responses to a number of questions:

In your eyes, what is wrong with the Higher Folds Estate?

- Dirty
- Litter – Cigarette ends
- Germs
- Vandalism/Graffiti
- People don't care about the environment
- People pull plants up
- Illegal motor bikes whizzing about
- Aggressive older people to young people
- No where to hang out
- Not enough shops
- Facilities get ruined
- Lack of respect for people's property
- Stealing cars and property
- Fires being started through letter boxes
- Phone boxes got smashed
- Older people show off in cars, skidding
- Fighting
- Burning bins
- Teenagers behaviour
- Bullying
- People watching you
- Young people hanging around, worrying older people
- Drinking – adults and tramps about the streets
- Intimidating people

What is needed to make things better?

- Somewhere to hang out
- More activities e.g. bowling, rock climbing, laser quest
- More structured clubs e.g. Karate
- Bigger, better equipped park
- More rubbish bins
- News Letters/Newspapers, telling people about improvements
- Volunteers to help at Youth Works
- People being nicer to each other – good manners
- Improving the image of the Estate
- Set up community projects
- Stop smoking sessions
- Fire awareness sessions
- Community Police who we know
- More Security Guards and Street Wardens
- Hidden CCTV
- Ban unlicensed motor cycles on streets
- Motor bike area, with ramps
- Better lighting around the shops

What difference has the Youth Works Drop-In Centre made to your life?

- Enjoyment and fun
- Freedom
- Chance to speak your thoughts
- Extra school activities
- Good activities
- More people come
- Chance to speak to your friends in an open forum
- Teenagers stop their bad behaviour
- Take us on trips
- Youth Club
- Youth Works staff make us feel better - a base and trips

What is on your 'wish list' for Youth Works?

- Groups for young mums etc.
- Football table
- Advertise more
- PS 2 games
- More trips

Summary

The Youth Works team has worked extremely hard to overcome obstacles to establish the programme on the Higher Folds estate and is gaining the support of young people, older residents, local business people and other key partner agency members. The positive influence of Groundwork Wigan & Chorley assisting and facilitating progress to date is noticeable.

It is encouraging that the Youth Works team have direct access to Groundwork Wigan & Chorley initiatives such as Prince's Trust and 'Breakthrough'. This is a positive outcome of Groundwork Wigan & Chorley being the Managing Agent for the Youth Works programme on the Higher Folds Estate.

It is noticeable there is no apparent linkage with local authority Youth Services. Whilst this is not uncommon due to cut backs in local authority Youth Service delivery, it risks duplication and/or replication of youth services for young people living on the Higher Folds estate. There may also be opportunity for joint/collaborative working.

The Youth Works team are represented at key partnership meetings and is featured within minutes of meetings.

The programme has gained a secure foothold in the form of a base on the estate, from which a range of youth centred activities are organised. Outcomes such as numbers benefiting from the programme are encouraging.

Whilst current activities will assist in tackling issues such as low-level crime and anti-social behaviour, there is opportunity to develop activities, which tackle issues such as worklessness, single or low-income households and low education attainment.

Developing links with agencies such as Connexions, Sure Start and the estate based Job Shop are encouraging and welcomed by the agencies which are apparently taking advantage of the facilities at the Youth Works base, bringing opportunity for '**additionality**' to all agencies.

9. Recommendations

1. The Youth Works team are on course to achieve outcomes agreed with the CRT and, along with other key agency members, should be congratulated for their efforts in overcoming obstacles, which delayed establishing the Youth Works base on the Higher Folds Estate

2. Opportunity should be taken to expand outcomes by which the success of the programme on the estate should be judged. These should include the programme's involvement in reducing low level crime and anti-social behaviour such as

- Criminal damage
- Small deliberate fires
- Anti-social behaviour
- Youths causing annoyance

3. Opportunity should be taken to review activities being delivered by the Youth Works programme. Whilst current activities are likely to assist in reducing low-level crime and anti-social behaviour, there are opportunities to develop vocational/accredited activities that are likely to tackle issues such as worklessness, single or low-income households and low education attainment

4. Urgent consideration should be given to the Youth Works team linking with and visiting other Youth Works programmes, such as **Youth Works Bridgend**, to explore exchanging 'good practice' in areas associated with vocational/accredited activities for young people (see Youth Works Bridgend evaluation at <http://www.widerimpact.com/news.html>)

5. Opportunity should be taken by the Youth Works team to develop closer 'partnership' and collaborative working with other key partner agencies operating and having influence on the Higher Folds estate. It is essential agencies do not work in isolation or risk duplication, and/or replication of strategies and services in terms of tackling the key issues effecting the regeneration of the estate.

6. There are exciting opportunities for Youth Works and other agencies delivering services to deliver '**additionality**' linked to collaborative working. Initiatives include the estate based Job Shop and those being delivered by key agencies such as Sure Start, Connexions and local authority Youth Services. These should be explored, developed and delivered as a priority.

7. Urgent multi-agency meetings should begin to take place regarding the sustainability of the Youth Works programme and other initiatives on the estate. Current funding is due to end in **Spring 2008**. Research has proven three years is not a long enough period to make a lasting and sustainable difference to communities such as Higher Folds.

10. Conclusion

As highlighted above, the Youth Works programme is on course to achieve outcomes agreed with the principal funder.

There have clearly been delays in fully establishing the programme on the Higher Folds estate, which have been overcome by the hard work of those concerned.

Whilst the programme is now on course to deliver agreed CRT three-year outcomes, there is still a lot to do if the programme is to make a long-term sustainable contribution to the regeneration of the Higher Folds estate.

Central to this is partnership and collaborative working with **all** key agencies. Whilst the Youth Works team, supported by Groundwork Wigan & Chorley are highly experienced and dedicated, they clearly do not have all the answers or resources to 'do the job on their own'.

It is understood the Coalfields Regeneration Trust is continuing to play a strategic role on the Higher Folds estate. This is encouraging and it is essential that appropriate members of the Youth Works team and Groundwork Wigan and Chorley continue to attend multi-agency meetings and work closely with other key agencies members.

Wider Impact Consultancy is encouraged by what the Youth Works team is achieving and does not underestimate the task in hand for the community and agencies such as Groundwork Wigan & Chorley working on the estate.

We look forward to re-visiting the programme in a year's time to complete the final report on behalf of Groundwork Wigan & Chorley.