

Final Evaluation of the Youth Works  
Higher Folds Programme

March 2008

**“what if. . .?”**



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Higher Folds Programme**

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### **Consultant's Statement**

Wider Impact Consultancy is pleased to submit a positive report in relation to the overall delivery of the Youth Works Higher Folds Programme.

We are delighted to commend the Youth Works Higher Folds Programme, in particular those front line staff who have worked hard to ensure programme objectives have been achieved and have without doubt enhanced and improved the lives of young people living on the estate.

Outputs agreed with the principle funder, the Coalfields Regeneration Trust have been exceeded and impressive outcomes will help cement the value the Youth Works programme can make to involving young people in the social, physical and economic regeneration of local communities.

Based on research findings and our experience, a number of recommendations are suggested, which if acted on, have the potential to add value to the wider regeneration of the Higher Folds estate.

Edwin Lewis, Wider Impact Consultancy Limited  
March 2008

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## Youth Works Higher Folds



*'Diamonds in the dust'*

**Report Commissioned by**  
Groundwork Lancashire West & Wigan

**Delivered by**  
Wider Impact Consultancy  
[www.widerimpact.com](http://www.widerimpact.com)



Supported by



the coalfields  
regeneration trust

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## 1.0 Executive Summary

The Higher Folds is an isolated housing estate in Leigh, Greater Manchester. Built in the 1950's to serve the needs of a vibrant mining community, it remains a popular place to live. But decades of unemployment and few local opportunities have left a legacy of low educational achievement, low income levels, widespread worklessness and disproportionate levels of crime and youth related anti-social behaviour.

It ranks within the top **8%** of the most disadvantaged Super Output Areas (SOAs) within England. On the North side the IMD ranks within the **5%** most disadvantaged communities in the country

**Source:** Coalfields Regeneration Trust 2005

Funded by the Coalfields Regeneration Trust (CRT) the **Communities that Work** initiative has worked along side residents and delivery partners, with objectives that include:

- Reducing levels of worklessness by over 30%
- Removing barriers to opportunity
- Raising the aspirations of the community as a whole, in particular the younger generation

A number of themed initiatives have been funded:

- Community Support
- Reducing Worklessness
- Sustainability
- Removing Barriers
- Supporting Young People

Linked directly to the Supporting Young People theme, Groundwork Lancashire West & Wigan has been commissioned by the CRT to deliver the **Youth Works programme** on the estate.

The Youth Works programme is a national initiative managed by Groundwork UK that provides a template for local partners to work together to enable young people to engage with their local communities, help reduce crime and nuisance and become actively involved in social, physical



and economic environments. Full details about the Youth Works programme can be found within section 6 of this report.

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. Four new posts have been created:

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

Activities commenced with a half term programme in early 2006 and Easter and summer activities from then on.

**Wider Impact Consultancy** has been commissioned by Groundwork Lancashire West & Wigan to carry out two evaluations of the Youth Works Higher Folds programme:

- Mid-term Evaluation
- Final Evaluation

The mid-term evaluation, containing a number of observations and recommendations was delivered during March 2007 and can be viewed by accessing [www.widerimpact.com](http://www.widerimpact.com)

This final evaluation has been carried out during March 2008 and will report on outputs and outcomes achieved by the programme. We have also taken the opportunity to deliver a number of recommendations.

## **Outputs**

On the whole, the Youth Works programme has exceeded outputs agreed with the CRT. For example, agreement was reached for 250 young people to benefit from the programme. The programme has supported **622** young people and delivered over **18,000** hours of activities. Most significantly, the programme has provided an impressive range of training opportunities, activities



and facilities for young people, who clearly otherwise would not have access to. Full details can be found within section 9 of this report.

### Outcomes

We have taken the opportunity to examine crime and anti-social behaviour statistics kindly provided by Paul Whitemoss, Wigan Council. As will be highlighted within section 9 of the report, outcomes are impressive. For example, during the life of the Youth Works programme:

- Criminal damage reduced by **28.7%**
- Anti-social behaviour reduced by **43.7%**
- Youth Causing an annoyance reduced by **50%**
- Lighting small deliberate fires reduced by **45.8%**
- Reductions were maintained towards the end of the programme and remain significantly higher than Borough wide outcomes
- The young people themselves are stating they feel safer as a result of the programme (see paragraph 9.18)

We are also impressed with partnerships developed with Sure Start, Work Solutions, local schools and Wigan Fire & Rescue Service. This has certainly paid dividends, for example, the **45.8%** reduction in small fires on the estate has resulted in a cost saving of **£39,400**.

Most importantly, young people living on the estate have appreciated and gained value from their involvement with the Youth Works programme. Case studies have been carried out and can be viewed within section 9 of this report.

We are grateful to the young people, as they are clearly facing a number of challenges in their lives. Whilst Higher Folds is a popular place to live, it has been summarised by Youth Works staff and key agency members interviewed as a 'desert' in relation to hope, aspirations and opportunity.

There is no doubt that the front line Youth Works staff have connected with a significant number of young people living on the estate. One staff member describes them as '**diamonds in the dust**'.

## Recommendations

Whilst the programme has delivered impressive outputs and outcomes, there is a cloud hanging over the Higher Folds estate. Since we visited the estate to carry out the final evaluation, the Youth Works programme has closed down due to a lack of continuation funding.

Despite their best efforts, Groundwork have delivered the programme almost single handed, without the direct support of key agencies such as local authority youth services and criminal justice agencies including the Police, Probation Service and Youth Offending Team.

Rather than criticism, such observations are intended to 'open the door' to the way forward on the estate in relation to meeting the aims and objectives of the Youth Works programme (see section 6) and the needs of young people and the wider Higher Folds community.

We therefore offer a number of recommendations:

1. All those involved in the delivery of the Youth Works Higher Folds programme should be congratulated for the hard work, commitment and energy.
2. Opportunity should be taken to closely monitor crime and anti-social behaviour on the Higher Folds estate following closure of the current Youth Works programme. This will provide a useful indication of the role Youth Works has had on reducing crime and anti-social behaviour on estate.
3. Copies of this report should be distributed to senior representatives of key agencies involved in youth / youth justice and crime prevention strategies in the Borough.
4. Senior managers within Groundwork Lancashire West & Wigan should carry out urgent meetings with senior representatives of key agencies involved in youth / youth justice and crime prevention strategies in the Borough, with an objective of exploring the feasibility of re-launching the Youth Works programme on the Higher Folds estate.
5. Subject to a positive outcome, any future Youth Works programme on the Higher Folds estate should involve the formal formation of a multi-agency steering group, with joint

and shared responsibility for fund raising, programme development and agreeing / delivering aims and objectives.

6. Future plans should involve active participation of young people, other members and representatives of the wider Higher Folds community.

## Conclusion

We are grateful for the support and cooperation provided by those individuals who have contributed to this report.

We are reporting 'bitter / sweet' outcomes. Whilst the Youth Works programme has exceeded outputs agreed with the CRT and achieved impressive outcomes, they risk being short-term and the main losers will be the young people and wider community members of the Higher Folds estate.

A cruel blow has been delivered to the young people. They have been given access to first class youth provision and have had it snatched away from them overnight.

We are pleased to commend the Youth Works programme, those multi-agency members and most significantly those '***diamonds in the dust***' who have supported its delivery and urge those who have it in their power to make a difference, to consider our recommendations highlighted above.

## **2.0 Acknowledgements**

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

**Young people** living on the Higher Folds estate

**Elizabeth Peel** – Groundwork UK

**Eileen Waldron** – Higher Folds Community Centre

**John Harding** - Borough Commander, Wigan Fire & Rescue Service

**Karla Hamlington**, Higher Folds Chippy

**Mona Fallows**, Tenants & Residents Association

**Nicola Ratcliffe** – Breakthrough Project (Groundwork)

**Rachel Holt** – Sure Start

**Roberta Higginson** – Higher Folds Primary School

**Ron Batty** – Higher Folds Post Office

**PC Pete Stafford** - Greater Manchester Police

**Roy Mason** - Work Solutions, Higher Folds Job Shop

**Paul Whitemoss** - Wigan Council

**Jan McDonald** - Coalfields Regeneration Trust

**Dawn Kenyon, Ian McGregor, Stephanie Parkinson** - The Higher Folds Youth Works Team

Contributions have included data, information, 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.

### **3.0 Terms of Reference**

This research has been tasked to address the following question on behalf of the principle funder, The Coalfields Regeneration Trust:

Has the Youth Works Higher Folds programme delivered the outcomes agreed with the principle funder, The Coalfields Regeneration Trust?

We have also been asked by the commissioner, Groundwork Lancashire West & Wigan to examine if Youth Works objectives have been met:

1. Youth nuisance will be reduced by providing a range of community based activities and access to a range of recreational activities and facilities
2. 'At risk' young people will have improved opportunities to fulfil their potential and reduce the risk of offending behaviour
3. Young people will benefit from reductions in crime rates, youth nuisance and the fear of crime
4. There will be increased opportunities for young people and older residents to take part in decision making in their lives and become stakeholders in their communities
5. Improvements in the local environment will benefit all residents, both young and old, and will create the climate to attract business into the area

#### 4.0 Methodology

The brief has been delivered in three sections:

1. Desktop (Secondary) research:
  - Access to data and information kindly provided by the Youth Works team
  - Access to crime / anti-social behaviour statistics and information kindly provided by Paul Whitemoss, Wigan Council
  - Access to information kindly provided by Wigan Fire & Rescue Service
2. Primary research, which includes:
  - Face to face interviews with the Youth Works team
  - Observations of Youth Works within the Higher Folds Drop-In Centre
  - Face to face meetings with 4 young people engaged on the programme at the time of the research
  - Interviews with key agency members and local businesses:

**Elizabeth Peel** – Groundwork UK

**Eileen Waldron** – Higher Folds Community Centre

**John Harding** - Borough Commander, Wigan Fire & Rescue Service

**Karla Hamlington**, Higher Folds Chippy

**Mona Fallows**, Tenants & Residents Association

**Nicola Ratcliffe** – Breakthrough Project (Groundwork)

**Rachel Holt** – Sure Start

**Roberta Higginson** – Higher Folds Primary School

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**PC Pete Stafford** - Greater Manchester Police

**Roy Mason** - Work Solutions, Higher Folds Job Shop

**Paul Whitemoss** - Wigan Council

**Jan McDonald** - Coalfields Regeneration Trust

3. Submission of a final report drawing together the findings of the above sections.

## 5.0 Groundwork Lancashire West & Wigan

### 5.1 Introduction

**Groundwork Lancashire West & Wigan** Executive Director **Bob Allen** points out, *'Groundwork's success has always been built on delivering at neighbourhood level, where the Trust engages with local communities, partnerships and local authorities to deliver services at local level. Building on the key themes below, the Trust is well equipped to meet local authority priorities and Local Area Agreement and Public Service Agreement targets.*



### 5.2 Safer, Stronger Communities

Groundwork's physical environmental improvement programmes, making communities cleaner, safer and greener, remain at the core of its work. The Trust is delivering a range of place shaping services including:

### 5.3 Community Pride

Greening street scenes and capitalising on people's pride in their area and its future. Tackling 'grotspots' and making the most of areas of open space in residential settings; providing new facilities, improving local image and bringing communities together to make real changes at neighbourhood level.

### 5.4 Safer Streets

Groundwork aims to increase community safety by designing out crime through open space and route way improvements. This is achieved through working with local people to understand safety issues and through the skills of community focussed landscape architects.

### 5.5 Healthier Communities and Older People

Engaging with the public health agenda is a major strategic objective for Groundwork locally, regionally and nationally. The Trust is committed to ensuring that its work links to local objectives around health and wellbeing and delivers a range of related services.



## 5.6 Children and Young People

Groundwork is committed to engaging young people in regeneration, both in decision making and in providing facilities and activities that meet their needs. Programmes include:

**Youth Works** – exists to help ‘at-risk’ young people aged 8 – 25 play a positive role in the regeneration of their neighbourhoods. It provides a range of activities to divert young people from becoming involved in crime, anti-social behaviour and poor health.

**The Prince’s Trust** – Groundwork’s programme is devised to support the personal development of groups of young people, to take up challenges to build confidence and develop life skills, benefiting the community through local volunteering.

**Breakthrough** – provides opportunities for young people aged 14 - 16 who are excluded from the education system, or at risk of social exclusion.

**Positive Futures** – delivered across the city of Preston, the programme utilises sport and other physical activities as an alternative form of recreation activity to keep young people away from the lure of drugs and alcohol.

## 5.7 Economic Development and Enterprise

Groundwork helps to create the conditions for economic development, through skills development and direct support to businesses. The Trust delivers services such as:

## 5.8 Environmental Business Services

Delivers Environmental Business Services (EBS), helping businesses to reduce their costs and become more competitive through focus on their environmental performance.

## 5.9 Moving On Moving Up

Aimed at the over 25s, Moving On - Moving Up aims to help those who have spent some time on benefits make the transition towards employment. It provides direction, support and motivation to help tackle problems related to benefits dependency. The programme aims to give confidence and demonstrate that there are alternative options available for everyone. It is based around our Wigan Youth Works centres, which are based in Higher Folds, North Worsley Mesnes and Abram.

## **6.0 The National Youth Works Programme**

### **6.1 Introduction**

There are around 20 Youth Works programmes operating throughout a number of deprived areas in England and Wales.

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

### **6.2 The Youth Works Model**

Youth Works provides a template for local partners to work together to enable young people to engage with their local communities, help reduce crime and nuisance and become actively involved in social, physical and economic environments.

### **6.3 Aims**

1. Address issues of crime and criminality and anti-social behaviour among young people
2. Provide structured, vibrant and optimistic programmes and activities designed to equip young people with the skills, capacity and motivation to become directly involved in their own 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

#### **6.4 Objectives**

1. Youth nuisance will be reduced by providing a range of community based activities and access to a range of recreational activities and facilities
2. 'At risk' young people will have improved opportunities to fulfil their potential and reduce the risk of offending behaviour
3. Young people will benefit from reductions in crime rates, youth nuisance and the fear of crime
4. Communities will benefit from reductions in crime rates, youth nuisance and the fear of crime
5. There will be increased opportunities for young people and older residents to take part in decision making in their lives and become stakeholders in their communities
6. Improvements in the local environment will benefit all residents, both young and old, and will create the climate to attract business into the area

#### **6.5 Working with 'At Risk' Young People**

The Youth Works programme recognises that young people living in deprived communities are likely to be at risk, not only of becoming involved in crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour, but also of becoming socially excluded.

Before beginning to work with 'at risk' young people, it is important to understand the issues associated with youth crime and social exclusion, so that programmes can focus on the factors in children and young people's lives that can, to some extent be influenced by practical, community based prevention work. Key factors include:

- Family
- Education
- Community
- Individual / peer
- Early adulthood

#### **6.6 The Case for a Targeted Approach**

Research conducted on behalf of the Youth Justice Board has identified that the risk factors for youth offending and substance abuse overlap to a very large degree with those for educational

underachievement, young parenthood and adolescent mental health problems. Action taken to address these risk factors therefore helps to prevent a range of negative outcomes.

For these reasons, a key aim of Youth Works is to develop an intensive programme, linked to the local Youth Justice Plan to divert young people most 'at risk' into constructive activities.

Youth Works programmes are based in specifically targeted local neighbourhoods such as the Higher Folds estate, where young people are likely to be exposed to a range of factors associated with the risk of offending and social exclusion. For example:

- Active involvement in crime and / or anti-social behaviour
- Becoming involved in crime
- Truancy
- School exclusion
- Abuse from others
- Drug and alcohol abuse
- Poor health
- Teenage pregnancy
- Long-term unemployment
- Homelessness

## **6.7 Range of Service**

Youth Works programmes offer a broad range of services and opportunities to all young people aged between 8 and 25 in the area, with more intensive support being made available to those young people most in need of it. Activities delivered as part of the programme fall into five broad categories:

### **Community Work**

- Accredited training for volunteers and community leaders
- Drop-in centres for young people
- Environmental projects

### **Preventative Work**

- Community link activities
- Working with families in crisis
- School support programmes
- Support for young people not in education, employment or training (NEET)

### **Diversionsary Work**

- After school programmes
- Summer play schemes
- Sporting activities
- Residential opportunities
- Arts and cultural projects

### **Remedial Work**

- Mentoring with 'high risk' young people
- Detached youth work
- Links with rehabilitation programmes

### **Skills Development**

- Homework clubs
- Cyber cafes
- IT training
- Work experience

## **6.8 Further Information**

Further information about Youth Works at national level can be found at: [www.groundwork.org.uk](http://www.groundwork.org.uk)

## **7.0 The Coalfields Regeneration Trust**

### **7.1 Introduction**

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 have got 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 invest 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



## 8.0 The Higher Folds Estate

### 8.1 Introduction

The Higher Folds estate was built in the 1950's to serve slum clearance and to provide housing for people working at the Bedford and Gin Pit complexes. It ranks within the top **8%** of the most disadvantaged Super Output Areas (SOAs) within England. On the North side the IMD ranks within the **5%** most disadvantaged communities in the country.

Car ownership is low and it suffers from poor public transport links. (Leigh, which is 3 miles away, is the largest town in England without a railway station) This had led to the estate becoming insular and leads to a mistrust of strangers, and new initiatives. It has a poor range of shops, for example, a Co-op, post office, hairdresser, chip shop, chemist and an off license-general store and a labour club. Most shops shut at 8pm due to the threat of anti social behaviour from groups of youths, known as '**Shoppies**', who congregate around the shopping parade. Most adults avoid this area after 7pm.

**Source:** CRT 2005

### 8.2 Stats and Facts (Source: CRT 2005)

- Population **3040**
- **25%** being aged 60 or over
- **30%** being under 19
- Average age **39.3**
- Health related issues are a problem within the local populous and ranks within the top **4%** for poor health nationally
- **45%** of adults on the estate are not economically active or in training or employment
- Those that are employed are mainly employed within a semi-skilled or low skilled capacity
- Long term unemployment lies at **21%** of the population (national average 5%)
- **11%** of those unemployed were aged over 50, with **10%** never having worked
- **32%** being long term unemployed (in excess of 2 years)
- The low incomes rates on the estate are reflected in the number of free school meals (**55%**)
- **35%** of residents have no qualifications
- **27%** of residents do not own a car

### 8.3 Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour

We are grateful to Paul Whitemoss, Wigan Borough Council for providing statistical information relating to the Higher Folds estate and Borough as a whole.

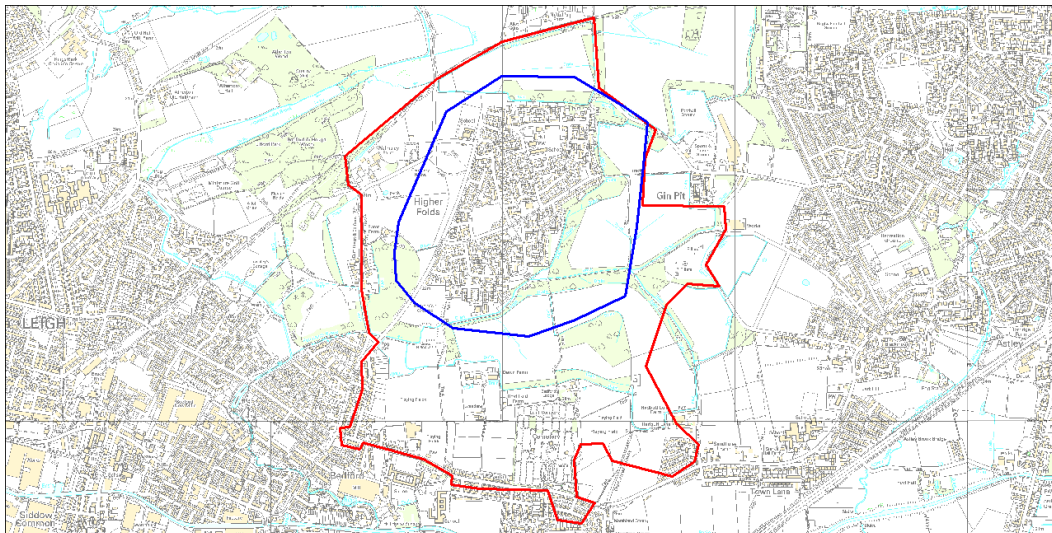
Understanding the Youth Works programme aims to address issues of crime and criminality among young people. We have concentrated our research on crime and anti-social behaviour, which could reasonably be attributed to young people living on the Higher Folds estate:

- Criminal damage
- Reports of anti-social behaviour
- Reports of youth causing a nuisance
- Small deliberate fires

Data provided includes the baseline year (05/06) for the Higher Folds South and North Super Output Areas (SOA). Data also includes the same time period in 06/07 and 07/08 (i.e. 1 April to 17 February).

**Figure 1** is a polygon of the Higher Folds area, created to ensure that 'background noise' is not being picked up from within the two SOA boundaries that clearly cannot be counted as Higher Folds (mainly to the south).

**Figure 1** Polygon Higher Folds Area



#### 8.4 Rate per 1000 Population

Table 1 highlights rates of occurrence of the above categories per 1000 population of the Borough and the Higher Folds estate.

Table 1

Base Line Rate per 1,000 population (01/04/2005 to 17/02/2006)

Category	Borough	Higher Folds
Criminal Damage	20.7	46.9
Anti-Social Behaviour	92.8	220.1
Youth Causing a Nuisance	37.6	106.3
Small Deliberate Fires	N/A	N/A

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

#### 8.5 Summary of Challenges

It is clear that incidences of low level crime, anti-social behaviour and most worryingly, deliberate lighting of fires were high on the Higher Folds estate compared with the Borough as a whole.

From local consultation sourced by the CRT, it has been 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.

#### 8.6 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.

### 8.7 Delivery and Steering Group Partners include:

- Wigan MBC
- ERP
- 3SE
- Groundwork Lancashire West & Wigan
- 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

### **8.8 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, 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.

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

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

## 9.0 Youth Works Higher Folds

### 9.1 Inputs / Funding

Groundwork Lancashire West & Wigan 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 Lancashire West & Wigan	£79,059
○ Groundwork UK	£1,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>£403,800</b>

### 9.2 Agreed Outputs

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	
<b>Jobs Created</b>	4					<b>4</b>
<b>New Volunteers</b>	4	4	4	4	4	<b>20</b>
<b>People Benefiting</b>	50	50	50	50	50	<b>250</b>
<b>Young People Benefiting</b>	50	50	50	50	50	<b>250</b>

Source: CRT

### 9.3 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.

#### 9.4 Youth Works Staff

Four new posts have been created:

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

All staff are employed by Groundwork Lancashire West & Wigan and are tasked with delivering the Youth Works programme on the estate.

#### 9.5 Programme Development

Following appointment during **autumn 2005**, the Programme Manager faced a significant challenge securing a base for the programme on the estate. Whilst premises were secured in **November 2005**, it was not possible; due to delays in refurbishments, to open for use by young people until **October 2006**. Despite such set back, programme staff were recruited and activities commenced with a half term programme during **February 2006** and Easter and summer activities from then on. Sure Start opened an information centre during **March 2007**.

It has been noted that the Drop-In Centre was closed for two weeks over the busy Christmas school holiday period, due to a serious leak within the roof.

#### 9.6 Partnership Working

Partnership working included links with agencies such as:

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



## 9.7 Partnerships of Note

### Sure Start

We are grateful to **Rachel Holt**, Sure Start Community Development Worker, who is praising of the Youth Works programme, *'The staff are highly motivated and passionate about supporting young people and are able to reach the most 'needy' young people, providing the support they really need.'*

*This base at the centre of the estate is an ideal location and we are grateful to be able to be based here. It is a neutral place to meet families and young people and is well known by the community.*

*We hold sessions here two or three times a week and meet regularly with the Youth Works staff, having built up trust and understanding. We are able to cross refer, which is an effective way of working, that saves time and of course, valuable resources. Most importantly, young people and their families can only benefit from what is a perfect example of partnership working. It would be a tragedy if the Youth Works programme has to close down due to short term lack of funding'.*

### Work Solutions

Wider Impact Consultancy is particularly impressed with links with the Higher Folds estate **'One Stop Job Shop'** funded by the CRT and managed by Work Solutions. Works 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).

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 have been opportunities for each of the initiatives to provide 'additionality' to the other, in the form of referrals and collaborative initiatives.

### School Links

We were pleased to meet with **Roberta Higginson**, Acting Head of **Higher Folds Primary School**, who paints a positive picture of the Youth Works programme. *'There are serious issues and challenges on this estate. Out of 100 pupils, I estimate that only 3 families have anyone within the family who works. The children face apathy, low self-esteem and a lack of positive role models. Parents don't trust authority and there is a general lack of support for what we are trying to do here.'*

*The Youth Works team are well placed to teach and support the young people and provide positive role models and values such as fair play, manners, good behaviour and how to play and interact with their peers. We liaise closely with the team and committed and trained Youth Works staff like Ian provide valuable support and partnership networks, which are helping us deliver the philosophy of 'Every Child Matters' and support our 'Change for Children' meetings'.*

### Wigan Fire and Rescue

We are grateful for a response from Borough Divisional Commander **John Harding**, who is aware that Higher Folds is an estate which has traditionally presented problems for the Fire and Rescue Service as regards deliberate fire setting and fire related anti social behaviour. He is careful to point out that Higher Folds is not an isolated area as regards the behaviour described.

The Wigan Borough Command of GMFRS work with Groundwork within the Leigh Prince's Trust and the Breakthrough initiatives in which they deliver youth education relating to fire and fire related anti-social behaviour, road safety related information and hoax calls and attacks on fire fighters.

They also work with Children and Young Peoples Services section of Wigan Council to deliver youth forums across the Borough and jointly with Wigan Community Safety Partnership and have funded a 12 month seconded post within Wigan Council of Community Improvement Project Co-ordinator. **Community Improvement Projects** are delivered over a six week time frame and Higher Folds has been identified as one of four areas of the Borough to benefit from access to a Community Improvement Project.

## 9.8 Activities

Table 3 provides an overview of opening times and activities at the Youth Works Drop-In Centre.

Table 3

Day	Morning	Afternoon 3.30pm to 5.30pm	Evening 5.30pm to 8.30pm
Monday	Team meeting / Admin etc.	Junior Session	Senior Session
Tuesday	Sure Start (9.30 to 12pm)	Residents Meetings	
Wednesday	Bedford High School Session	Sure Start (1pm to 3pm) Junior Session	Senior Session
Thursday	Monthly Micro Grant Meetings	Sure Start (1pm to 3pm) Junior Session	Senior Session
Friday	Health & Safety Meetings	Planning	

Source: Youth Works Higher Folds

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

### 1 Be Healthy

Rugby Coaching  
Bowling  
Ice Skating

### 4. Make Positive Contributions

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

### 2. Staying Safe

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

### 5. Economic Well-Being

Film Making  
Laser Quest  
Ice Skating

### 3. Enjoy and Achieve

Halloween Party  
Open Drop-In Sessions  
Pool Knock-Outs  
Football Tournament  
Kayaking, Problem Solving  
Rock Climbing, Abseiling

## 9.9 Evidence in Print

We are grateful to the Higher Folds Youth Works team and the young people for access to a number of photographs taken during activities, development opportunities and field trips. It should be noted that in a significant number of cases these are the first times some of the young people have actually left the Higher Folds estate.



## 9.10 Outputs

Table 4 provides a summary of outputs achieved by the programme during its period of activity.

A more detailed breakdown of outputs can be found at [Appendix A](#).

Table 4

Description	Outputs Planned for the following Grant Periods					Total Individual Outputs To 1 March 08
	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 1 March 08	
<b>Jobs Created</b>	4					<b>4</b>
<b>New Volunteers</b>	1M 1F	1M 1F	1M 2F	1M 2F	1F	<b>4M 7F</b>
<b>People Benefiting</b>	4M 8F	100 Adults (Fun Day)	12M 2F	25M 29F	19M 23F	<b>128M 122F</b>
<b>Young People Benefiting</b>	50	97	109	330	217	<b>622</b>
<b>Males</b>	32	52	79	149	134	<b>339</b>
<b>Females</b>	18	45	30	181	83	<b>283</b>
<b>Ethnic Mix</b>	White 50	White 95 White/East European 2	White 107 White East European 1 White/Black Mixed 1	White 307 Mixed 6 East European 11 Black 6	Mixed 6 White 211	<b>White 598 Mixed 6 East European 14 Black 4</b>
<b>Physical Disabilities</b>			1			<b>1</b>
<b>Hidden Disabilities</b>		3	3	23	24	<b>33</b>
<b>8 to 10 Years</b>	28	47	20	53	45	<b>149</b>
<b>11 to 17 Years</b>	22	40	79	151	154	<b>401</b>
<b>18 to 25 Years</b>		10	10	26	18	<b>72</b>
<b>Number of Activities or Sessions</b>	45	56	109	141	133	<b>585</b>
<b>Activity Hours</b>	112	182	279	481.5	305.5	<b>1,360</b>
<b>Total Attendance</b>	675	551	1722	2147	1496	<b>6,591</b>
<b>Rate for Activities (Young Person Hours)</b>	1029	1764	4102	7376	3895	<b>18,166</b>

Source: Youth Works Higher Folds (March 2008)

### 9.11 Statistical Analysis

Based on the outputs agreement with Coalfields Regeneration Trust (CRT) – see paragraph 9.2, it is apparent:

- **Jobs created** (4) - has been fully achieved
- **New volunteers** (20) - has not quite been achieved
- **People benefiting** (250) - has been fully achieved
- **Young People benefiting** (250) has been **over achieved** by 60%

#### Comment

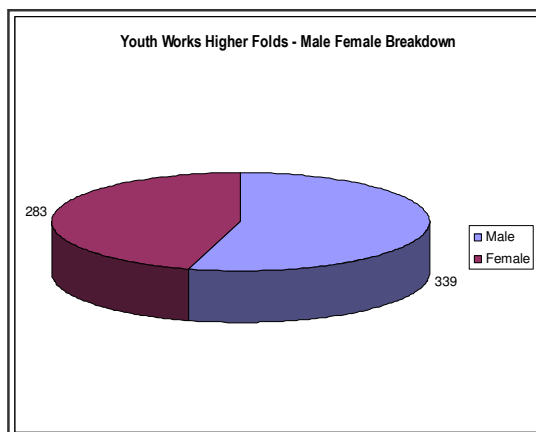
Based on research findings, it is not surprising that the programme has faced problems recruiting volunteers to support delivery. This is based on community apathy, which clearly will take longer than the period of the programme to overcome (see paragraphs 9.7 and 9.17).

#### Highlights

Figure 2 provides an overview of the **male / female mix** of young people benefiting from the programme. Figure 3 provides an overview of the **ages of young people** benefiting from the programme.

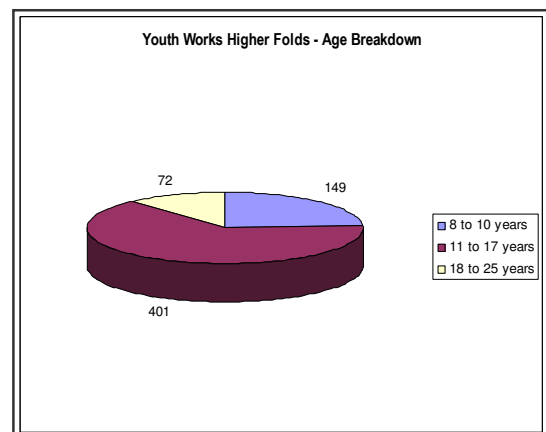
**Figure 2**

Male Female Breakdown Young People  
benefiting from the Programme



**Figure 3**

Age Breakdown Young People  
benefiting from the Programme



## **9.12 Training Opportunities**

### **Young People**

A total of **82** young people have received the following training:

- Fire Awareness – **26**
- Health & Safety –**24**
- Quad Bike (AQA Award) – **32**

### **Volunteers**

- Introduction to Community Work – **3**
- Equal Opportunities – **1**
- Prince's Trust - **2**

### **Youth Works Staff**

The following training has been provided to Youth Works staff:

- Minimum Standards in Youth Work – **1**
- Risk Assessment – **1**
- Dealing with Difficult People – **1**
- Counselling – **1**
- Communicating with People with Communication Problems - **1**
- Motivation Your Self and Others- **2**
- Managing Volunteers – **2**
- Drug Awareness – **1**
- Mentoring – **1**
- First Aid at Work – **2**
- 'Verbal Judo' – **2**



### 9.13 Outcomes

Whilst agreement with the principle funder only involves delivery of the outputs outlined within paragraph 9.2, the research has taken opportunity to explore the effect the programme has had on issues affecting the Estate:

- Crime and anti-social behaviour
- The aspirations and appreciation of young people living on the Estate

### 9.14 Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour

Comment will be based on base line statistics outlined within paragraph 8.4 and interviews with young people, community representatives, the local police officer and local business representatives.

### 9.15 Statistics

Tables 5 and 6 provide an overview of the following categories:

- Criminal Damage
- Anti-Social Behaviour
- Youth Causing a Nuisance
- Lighting Small Deliberate Fires

**Table 5 Reported Incidents**

Category	01/04/05 to 17/02/06		01/04/06 to 17/02/07		01/04/07 to 17/02/08	
	Borough	Higher Folds	Borough	Higher Folds	Borough	Higher Folds
<b>Criminal Damage</b>	6253	143	6509	102	5762	124
<b>Anti-Social Behaviour</b>	27974	671	23412	162	10549	173
<b>Youth Causing Nuisance</b>	11334	324	11424	162	10549	173
<b>Small Deliberate Fires</b>	N/A	N/A	1963	48	1452	26

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

Table 6 Rate per 1000 Population

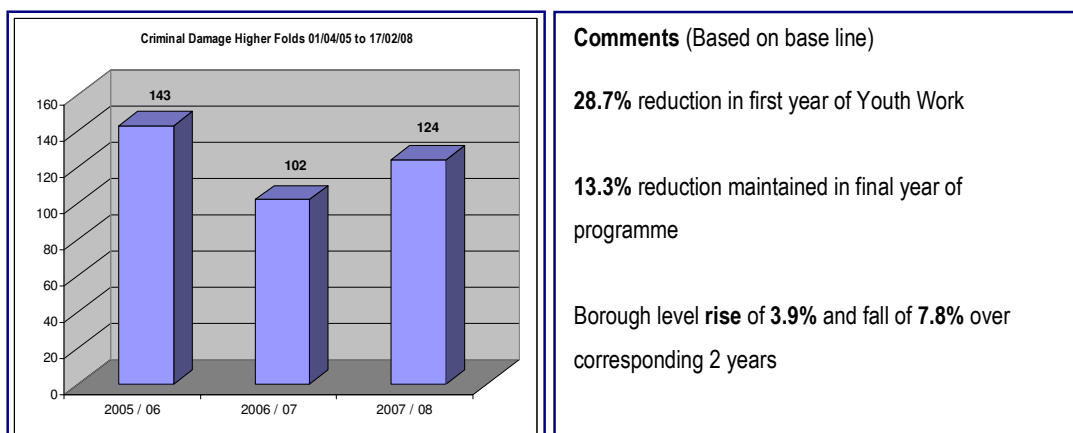
Category	01/04/05 to 17/02/06		01/04/06 to 17/02/07		01/04/07 to 17/02/08	
	Borough	Higher Folds	Borough	Higher Folds	Borough	Higher Folds
Criminal Damage	20.7	46.9	21.6	33.5	19.1	40.7
Anti-Social Behaviour	92.8	220.1	77.7	124	99.4	203.3
Youth Causing Nuisance	37.6	106.3	37.9	53.1	35	56.7
Small Deliberate Fires	N/A	N/A	6.5	15.7	4.8	8.5

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

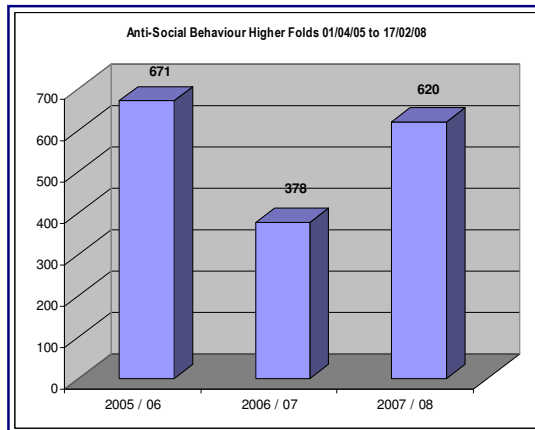
## 9.16 Statistical Analysis

Figures 4 to 7 provide an overview of outcomes linked to crime and anti-social behaviour outcomes.

Figure 4 Criminal Damage



**Figure 5 Anti-Social Behaviour**



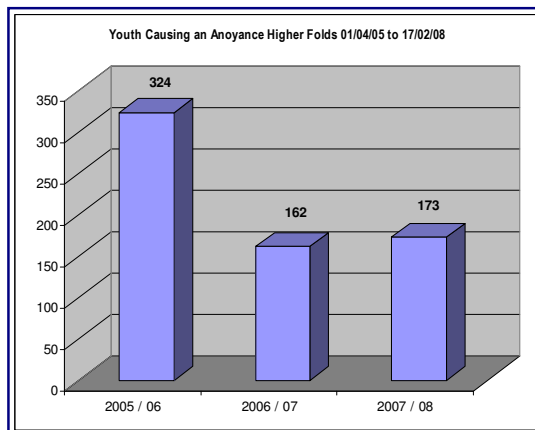
**Comments** (Based on base line)

**43.7%** reduction in first year of Youth Works

**7.6%** reduction maintained in final year of programme

Borough level fall of **16.3%** and **rise** of **6.6%** over corresponding 2 years

**Figure 6 Youth Causing an Annoyance**



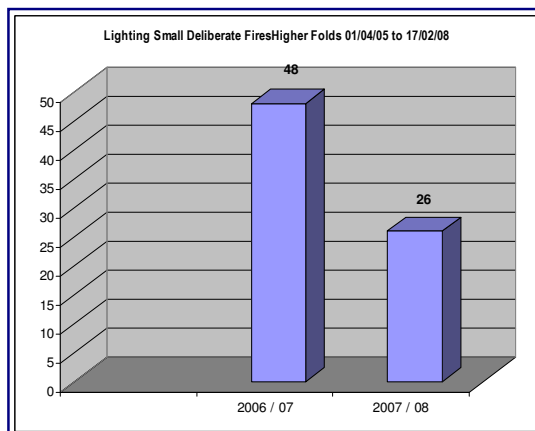
**Comments** (Based on base line)

**50%** reduction in first year of Youth Works

**46.6%** reduction maintained in final year of programme

Borough level fall of **0.8%** and fall of **6.9%** over corresponding 2 years

**Figure 7 Lighting Small Deliberate Fires**



**Comments** (Based on base line)

**45.8%** reduction in final year of Youth Works

Borough level fall of **26%** over corresponding year

Reduction of fires on Higher Folds estate represents a cost saving of **£39,400**

**Source:** John Harding Wigan Fire & Rescue Borough Commander)

## 9.17 Interviews with Community Representatives

### Young People

Whilst paragraph 9.18 will concentrate on young people's case studies in some depth, it is worth noting that those young people interviewed by Wider Impact Consultancy generally felt safer on the estate when the Drop-In Centre was open. The following comments were noted:

- *There is no bullying in the Underground, there are rules and Ian and Steph look after you. You can always go to them with a problem*
- *When the Underground is open the Shoppies [local name for young people who hang around the shops] keep away and don't bother the older people*
- *A lot of younger kids are learning to respect others and not drop litter or cause damage*

### Community Representatives

We were pleased to have the opportunity to meet in some length with **Mona Fallows** (Residents Association) and **Eileen Waldron** (Community Centre), who paint a positive picture of the Youth Works programme.

It is apparent that apart from Youth Works, there are very little other opportunities for young people to meet socially on the estate outside school hours. *'The Underground Drop-In Centre provides the bulk of youth activity on the estate and when it is open, there are noticeable reductions in anti-social behaviour; particularly during winter months and early evenings. We have heard older people comment on how good it is to see young people taking note of their feelings, rather than swearing, messing about and drinking alcohol from cans'.*

*'The Youth Works staff are well known by local community groups and organisations; they attend partnership meetings and seem to know most of the young people and their families. We are worried that things will revert quickly back in the event of the Youth Works programme coming to an end'.*

When asked about residents' apparent reluctance to volunteer to support Youth Works, neither are surprised. Both face apathy within their organisations, pointing out that, *'people would rather complain than do something positive'.*

### Local Police Officer

**PC Pete Stafford** is well aware of the higher levels of crime and anti-social behaviour on the estate compared with the Borough as a whole. He seems philosophical about the Higher Folds estate, citing apathy from parents and the community as a whole for most of the problems on the estate.

He is aware of the Youth Works programme and staff, but cannot spend too much time there because of operation targets, focussed on detecting crime.

He is however supportive of the Youth Works team and believes that they do make a difference when the Drop-In Centre is open and during holidays when activities and field trips are arranged.

### Local Business People

Two local business people were interviewed, the owners of the **Post Office** and **'Chippy'**, situated close to the Youth Works Drop-In Centre. Both were well aware of the Youth Works programme and the challenges the estate has faced and will face in the future.

Both are highly appreciative of the Youth Works team, understanding the role they play in supporting young people living on the estate. They have noticed a difference since the programme has been running. *'A number of the younger young people seem better mannered and seem to understand it is wrong to hang around and intimidate older people and their own peers. The troublesome 'Shoppies' seem to keep away when ever the Drop-In Centre is open'*.

The owner of the Chippy is finding it easier to communicate with young people and has for example arranged for them to *'return their litter to a dust bin in the shop'*.

Both have heard young people talking positively about the Youth Works programme and believe it is helping to make a difference to their trade and overall profits.

Both are concerned about the effects of the programme closing in the near future, believing that, *'things will quickly slide backwards if the kids are let down, with nothing of substance to replace the programme'*.

### 9.18 Aspirations and Appreciation of Young People Living on the Estate

Four young people have been interviewed. Due to their young age, apart from case study 4, were interviewed in the presence of Youth Works staff, who played no part in the interview process.

All volunteered to be interviewed and were active participants in the Youth Works programme. Two females and two males were selected for interview and they were encouraged by the interviewer to provide open and honest views and opinions. To encourage this, agreement was reached that their true identities will be withheld. Outcomes of each interview are presented in case study formats.

#### Case Study 1

##### **Leona**

Leona is 12 years old and has lived on the estate for all of her life. She lives with her mum, dad and younger brother. She enjoys living on the estate, as she knows everybody and has plenty of friends.

Before Youth Works arrived there was nothing much to do, but *'walk around trying not to get into trouble'*. There is no other youth provision for her and she is aware older young people cause a lot of trouble outside the shops when the Underground is closed. *'They drink, swear a lot and upset older people. I keep away from the shops when they are about'*

*'I enjoy going to Youth Works as the staff are nice and they listen to me'*. She feels able to share problems with them and describes them as *'happy'* and *'helpful'*. She feels they help her to *'believe in myself more'*.

*'I enjoy being at the Underground as it is safe and warm in winter. There are rules that prevent bullying and bad behaviour'*. She has been on *'loads of trips'* and is dreading it closing as *'there will be nothing to do again'*.

**Case Study 2****Chris**

Chris is 11 years old and lives with her mum, dad, sister and two bothers. Her Nan also lives on the Estate, along with a number of other relatives. Chris has lived on the estate all of her life. She enjoys living on Higher Folds, as *'all my family live here and I have loads of friends'*

On the down side, *'there is nothing to do apart from Youth Works and the Underground. The Shoppies are horrible as they drink and upset my Nan, who won't go to the shops when they are about. Us kids get bored and we just stay indoors most of the time playing on our computers, emailing and texting each other'*.

**During the interview she points out that she is currently in contact with a boy from another area via her computer, who she has passed on her personal details to. The female member of the Youth Staff present immediately makes note of this and acts upon this appropriately.**

*'The staff here are wonderful' she says, 'they are funny and listen to you. You can say things to them you can't say to teachers as they want to listen and never judge you. I feel safe here as they won't allow bullying or drinking on the premises.*

*I use the computers here, play pool, do arts and crafts and have been on loads and loads of trips. We have climbed mountains and patted animals'*.

Chris's main worry is the Underground closing and the Youth Works staff not being there. *'It is great to drop in straight from school and let the staff know what has gone on. We all love it here and I am dreading it closing down because there will be nothing to do again and no one*

**Case Study 3****Carl**

Carl is 12 years old and has lived on the estate all of his life. He lives with his mum, dad and brother.

On the whole he enjoys living on the estate, as *'My family and friends are here and you know everyone. People leave you alone'*.

He has however, no doubts about what is wrong about the estate, *'Apart from Youth Works there is nothing for young people to do. It's dirty, messy and the Shoppies drink, swear and upset people. There is graffiti about and no one seems to care. I don't like telling people I live here.'*

*'I love Youth Works and the Underground. We laugh there and there are trips and activities. It is warm and safe and everyone gets on. I have friends here and I wish it was open more'*.

*'I have heard it might close. I hope not cus we will be back where we were before. Just staying in, watching telly or playing on the computer'*.



**Case Study 4****Craig**

Craig is 17 years old and has lived on the estate all of his life. He lives with his mum, dad and younger sister. He has other relatives living on the estate. He has achieved two GCSEs.

He describes himself as an apprentice bricklayer, although this is on hold as his last job came to an end. He is however optimistic about his employment prospects, pointing out, *'Ian from Youth Works has helped me find another job, which I will be starting soon. He has helped me find the right courses and stuff'.*

Whilst he personally feels safe on the estate he is well aware of its problems. *'Young people having nothing to do. They drink cider and other cheap drinks and just hang about causing trouble. There is weed about (cannabis). The Shoppies are idiots with nothing to do. I know Higher Folds has a bad name, but it is not as bad as people make out. I just wish there was more for young people like Youth Works'.*

He has been visiting Youth Works since it came onto the estate. *'At first before the Underground opened, we played football on the green with the staff. Then when the Underground opened, we helped to name it and had a say on what activities such as pool came there. They are top people who run it. They are like mates, rather than teachers, but they know how to stop trouble and help us to enjoy ourselves'.*

*'We all feel safe at the Underground and it is helping to calm a lot of the young people down. A lot of the Shoppies come in when it is open and know they can't drink or be stupid when they are in here'.*

*'We go on trips and even if you have no money to pay, Ian seems to find a way to make sure you don't miss out. I have been to places I never knew existed. There is a world out there apart from Higher Folds'.*

*'I hope it does not have to close. That would be stupid as things will go back to how they were'.*

### 9.19 Summary

### 9.20 Outputs Agreed with Coal Fields Regeneration Trust (CRT)

There is clear evidence that the programme has achieved the majority of outputs agreed with the CRT (see paragraph 9.2):

- **Jobs created** (4) - has been fully achieved
- **New volunteers** (20) - has not quite been achieved
- **People benefiting** (250) - has been fully achieved
- **Young people benefiting** (250) has been **over achieved** by 60%

### 9.21 Youth Works Aims and Objectives

There is no doubt that the programme has achieved the aims and objectives of the Youth Works programme:

1. **Youth nuisance will be reduced by providing a range of community based activities and access to a range of recreational activities and facilities** – as highlighted with paragraph 9.8 young people have had access to a wide range of activities, a number of which, they would not normally experience
2. **‘At risk’ young people will have improved opportunities to fulfil their potential and reduce the risk of offending behaviour** – as outlined within section 9 young people have had access to a wide range of activities and the support of committed Youth Works staff
3. **Young people will benefit from enhanced employment opportunities through access to training and educational activities** – young people have received training, specific support and advice from the Youth Works team (see paragraphs 9.12 and 9.18) and have had direct access to Work Solutions (see paragraph 9.7). Participants in the programme have also had access to Groundwork staff and the wide range of projects and initiatives managed by Groundwork Lancashire West & Wigan (see section 5).

**4. Communities will benefit from reductions in crime rates, youth nuisance and the fear of crime** – within the life of the programme:

- Criminal damage reduced by **28.7%**
- Anti-social behaviour reduced by **43.7%**
- Youth Causing an annoyance reduced by **50%**
- Lighting small deliberate fires reduced by **45.8%**
- Reductions were maintained towards the end of the programme and remain significantly higher than Borough wide outcomes
- The young people themselves are stating they feel safer as a result of the programme (see paragraph **9.18**)

**5. There will be increased opportunities for young people and older residents to take part in decision making in their lives and become stakeholders in their communities** – supported by the Coalfields Regeneration Trust **Communities that Work** programme, the wider community have been directly involved in the regeneration of the Higher Folds estate (see paragraph **8.8**). It is also apparent that young people have been involved in setting up and delivering the Youth Works programme (see paragraph **9.18**)

**6. Improvements in the local environment will benefit all residents, both young and old, and will create the climate to attract business into the area** - local businesses have provided anecdotal evidence of business environments improving when the Youth Works Drop-In Centre is open and improved behaviour and conduct of a significant number of young people (see paragraph **9.17**)

## 10.0 Observations

There is no doubt that the Youth Works programme has achieved the majority of its objectives and all involved in delivery should be congratulated for the hard work, commitment and energy.

Outcomes are impressive and mirror similar outcomes achieved by other Youth Works programmes. Details of an evaluation carried out by Wider Impact Consultancy of **Youth Works Bridgend** (Wider Impact Consultancy, April 2006) can be found at [www.widerimpact.com](http://www.widerimpact.com)

There is however a cloud hanging over the Higher Folds estate. Since we visited the estate to carry out the final evaluation, the Youth Works programme has closed down due to a lack of continuation funding.

No criticism can be attributed to the Coal Fields Regeneration Trust, who made it clear from the start of the programme that theirs was a 'one off' grant and have provided on going support, advice and innovative training and workshops to local partners regarding succession planning.

Groundwork are operating in difficult and competitive times regarding raising funding for such programmes and despite their best efforts have been unable to secure sufficient funding for the Youth Works programme to continue.

The main losers are the young people and wider community members of the Higher Folds estate. A cruel blow has been delivered to the young people. They have been given access to first class youth provision and had it snatched away from them overnight.

They have clearly responded positively to the programme. As the statistics summarised within paragraph **9.16** highlight, youth related crime and anti-social behaviour has reduced by up to **50%** within the short life of the Youth Works programme.

There has been a cost saving of **£39,400** to the Fire & Rescue Service within a one year period. There is no doubt that such reduction and associated cost savings, linked to the impressive reductions in crime and anti-social behaviour, would go a long way towards funding the Youth Works programme on the estate.

It has been apparent to us that there has been a lack of a partnership approach towards the development and delivery of this Youth Works programme.

Despite their best efforts, Groundwork have delivered the programme almost single handed, without the direct support of key agencies such as local authority youth services and criminal justice agencies including the Police, Probation Service and Youth Offending Team.

Rather than criticism, such observations are intended to 'open the door' to the way forward on the estate in relation to meeting the aims and objectives of the Youth Works programme (see section 6) and the needs of young people and the wider Higher Folds community.

## **11.0 Recommendations**

- 1.** All those involved in delivery of the Youth Works Higher Folds programme should be congratulated for the hard work, commitment and energy.
- 2.** Opportunity should be taken to closely monitor crime and anti-social behaviour on the Higher Folds estate following closure of the current Youth Works programme. This will provide a useful indication of the role Youth Works has had on reducing crime and anti-social behaviour on estate.
- 3.** Copies of this report should be distributed to senior representatives of key agencies involved in youth / youth justice and crime prevention strategies in the Borough.
- 4.** Senior managers within Groundwork Lancashire West & Wigan should carry out urgent meetings with senior representatives of key agencies involved in youth / youth justice and crime prevention strategies in the Borough, with an objective of exploring the feasibility of re-launching the Youth Works programme on the Higher Folds estate.
- 5.** Subject to a positive outcome, any future Youth Works programme on the Higher Folds estate should involve the formal formation of a multi-agency steering group, with joint and shared responsibility for fund raising, programme development and agreeing / delivering aims and objectives.
- 6.** Future plans should involve active participation of young people and other members and representatives of the wider Higher Folds community.

## 12.0 Conclusion

There is no doubt the Youth Works programme has achieved its objectives and has played a significant role in reducing youth related crime and anti-social behaviour on the Higher Folds estate.

The job however is far from done and the programme and its hard working and dedicated front line staff will be missed by the young people. It is highly likely that crime and anti-social behaviour will return to baseline levels unless something positive is done.

Most significantly apathy amongst the young people and the wider community will continue to grow and outcomes are transparently obvious in relation issues such as:

- Active involvement in crime and / or anti-social behaviour
- Becoming involved in crime
- Truancy
- School exclusion
- Abuse from others
- Drug and alcohol abuse
- Poor health
- Teenage pregnancy
- Long-term unemployment
- Homelessness

It is hoped that this report will play a role in the way forward on the estate, with particular reference to its young people. To do nothing cannot be an option and those with the power to make a difference cannot walk away or turn a blind eye.

We have made a series of recommendations, which we recommend should be considered as part of existing, planned and future partnership initiatives under the banners of the Borough's Youth Justice Plan and wider community safety and well being strategies.

# Appendix A

July to September 2006

Categories	At Risk		Total	Total	
Total number of <u>individual</u> young people attending	84			84	
Total number of <u>individual</u> males	68			68	
Total number of <u>individual</u> females	16			16	
Ethnic breakdown of individuals: White UK White Other Black Asian Chinese Mixed Ethnicity Other	68   1    			68   1    	
Disability  With physical disability With hidden disability (e.g. dyslexia)					
Age breakdown of individuals: Under 10 years 10-13 yrs 14-16 yrs 17 yrs & over	18 46 19 1			18 46 19 1	
Number of young people attending for the first time					
	M	F		M	F
8-10	9	9		9	9
10-13	29	17		29	17
14-16	17	2		17	2
17+	1			1	
Name of Activity	Total hours activity provided in quarter		Total attendance		
			Young	Adult	
Summer Programme of activities including: theme park trip, seaside trips, Yorkshire Dales trips, etc.	127.5		250		
Tuesday Drop-In Sessions (Juniors)	6		23		
Wednesday Drop-In Session (Seniors)	3		23		
Total	136.5		296 young people		



# October – December 2006

Categories	At Risk		Other	Total	
Total number of individual young people attending	144			144	
Total number of individual males	99			99	
Total number of individual females	45			45	
Ethnic breakdown of individuals: White UK White Other Black Asian Chinese Mixed Ethnicity Other	142     2			142     2	
Disability With physical disability With hidden disability (e.g. dyslexia)	1			1	
Age breakdown of individuals: Under 10 years 10-13 yrs 14-16 yrs 17 yrs & over	24 72 38 10			24 72 38 10	
Number of young people attending for the first time					
	M	F		M	F
8-10	10	2		10	2
10-13	19	15		19	15
14-16	17	3		17	3
17+	6	1		6	1
Name of Activity	Total hours activity provided in quarter		Total attendance		
			Young	Adult	
Half-Term activities X 6	22		76		
Monday Drop-In Sessions (Juniors) X 8	16		127		
Monday Drop-In Sessions (Seniors) X 8	20		120		
Wednesday Drop-In Sessions (Juniors) X 10	22		184		
Wednesday Drop-In Sessions (Seniors) X 10	23		153		
Thursday Drop-In Sessions (Juniors) X 9	18		178		
Thursday Drop-In Sessions (Seniors) X 9	19.5		140		
Total	140.5		946 young people		

## January – March 2007

Activities	At Risk		Other	Total	
Total number of <u>individual</u> young people attending	138			138	
Total number of <u>individual</u> males	92			92	
Total number of <u>individual</u> females	46			46	
Ethnic breakdown of individuals: White UK White Other Black Asian Chinese Mixed Ethnicity Other	134     4			134     4	
Disability With physical disability With hidden disability (e.g. dyslexia)	2 1			2 1	
Age breakdown of individuals: Under 10 years 10-13 yrs 14-16 yrs 17 yrs & over	23 56 44 15			23 56 44 15	
Number of young people attending for the first time					
	M	F		M	F
8-10	3	1		3	1
10-13	6	1		6	1
14-16	9	8		9	8
17+	8	1		8	1
Name of Activity	Total hours activity provided in quarter		Total attendance		
			Young	Adult	
Half-Term Activities X 6	30.5		60		
Monday Drop-In Sessions (Juniors) X 11	22		173		
Monday Drop-In Sessions (Seniors) X 11	27.5		138		
Wednesday Drop-in Sessions (Juniors) X 10	20		175		
Wednesday Drop-In Sessions (Seniors) X 10	22.5		170		
Thursday Drop-In Sessions (Juniors) X 11	22		153		
Thursday Drop-In Sessions (Seniors) X 11	22.5		160		
Total	167		1029 young people		

# April – June 2007

Categories	At Risk		Other	Total	
Total number of individual young people attending	150			150	
Total number of individual males	100			100	
Total number of individual females	50			50	
Ethnic breakdown of individuals: White UK White Other Black Asian Chinese Mixed Ethnicity Other	145      5			145      5	
Disability  With physical disability With hidden disability (e.g. dyslexia)	2 4			2 4	
Age breakdown of individuals: Under 10 years 10-13 yrs 14-16 yrs 17 yrs & over	22 58 49 21			22 58 49 21	
Number of young people attending for the first time					
	M	F		M	F
8-10	15	7		15	7
10-13	31	27		31	27
14-16	39	10		39	10
17+	15	6		15	6
Name of activity	Total hours activity in quarter		Total attendance		
			Young	Adult	
Easter Activities X 9	45		156		
Monday Drop-In Sessions (The Monday Crew) X 9	18		99		
Monday Drop-In Sessions (Open Drop-in) X 9	27		54		
Wednesday Drop-In Sessions (Buzz Gang) X 10	20		128		
Wednesday Drop-In Sessions (Chill Zone) X 10	30		81		
Thursday Drop-In Sessions (The Art Group) X 10	20		150		
Thursday Drop-In Sessions (Pool Club) X 10	30		115		
May Half-Term Activities X 5	28		79		
Total	218		864 young people		

# July – September 2007

Categories	At Risk		Other	Total	
Total number of individual young people attending	211			211	
Total number of individual males	157			157	
Total number of individual females	54			54	
Ethnic breakdown of individuals:					
White UK	182			182	
White Other	18			18	
Black					
Asian	5			5	
Chinese					
Mixed Ethnicity					
Other	6			6	
Disability					
With physical disability	2			2	
With hidden disability (e.g. dyslexia)	4			4	
Age breakdown of individuals:					
Under 10 years	34			34	
10-13 yrs	93			93	
14-16 yrs	57			57	
17 yrs & over	27			27	
Number of young people attending for the first time					
	M	F		M	F
8-10	16	16		16	16
10-13	20	33		20	33
14-16	12	18		12	18
17+	24	31		24	31
Name of activity	Total hours activity in quarter		Total attendance		
			Young	Adult	
Summer Activities X 45	183		738	104	
Monday Drop-In Sessions (The Monday Crew) X 5	10		78		
Monday Drop-In Sessions (Open Drop-in) X 5	15		57		
Wednesday Drop-In Sessions (Buzz Gang) X 4	8		43		
Wednesday Drop-In Sessions (Chill Zone) X 6	18		71		
Thursday Drop-In Sessions (The Art Group) X6	12		78		
Thursday Drop-in Sessions (Pool Club) X 6	18		55		
Town Ship Visit	1		7		
Total	265		1120 young people		

# October – December 2007

Categories	At Risk		Other	Total	
Total number of individual young people attending	198			198	
Total number of individual males	123			123	
Total number of individual females	75			75	
Ethnic breakdown of individuals:					
White UK	192			192	
Black					
Asian					
Mixed Ethnicity	6			6	
Disability					
With physical disability	11			11	
With hidden disability (e.g. dyslexia)					
Age breakdown of individuals:					
Under 10 years	24			24	
10-13 yrs	56			56	
14-16 yrs	73			73	
17 yrs & over	45			45	
Number of young people attending for the first time					
	M	F		M	F
8-10	4	1		4	1
10-13		3			3
14-16	21	16		21	16
17+	15	16		15	16
Name of activity	Total hours activity in quarter		Total attendance		
			Young	Adult	
Half-Term Activities (X6)	15		51		
Monday Drop-In Sessions (The Monday Crew) X 11	27.5		182		
Monday Drop-In Sessions (Open Drop-in) X 11	27.5		143		
Wednesday Drop-In Sessions (Chat Room) X 10	25		170	1	
Wednesday Drop-In Sessions (DJ night) X 10	25		135		
Thursday Drop-In Sessions (The Art Group) X10	25		149		
Thursday Drop-In Sessions (Pool Club) X 10	25		105		
Breakthrough / Bedford Sessions X7	21		51		
External Meetings / Sessions X6	25		26	41	
<b>Total</b>	<b>216</b>		<b>1012</b>	<b>42</b>	

## January – February 2008

Category	At Risk		Other	Total	
Total number of individual young people attending	136			136	
Total number of individual males	79			79	
Total number of individual females	57			57	
Ethnic breakdown of individuals:					
White UK	131			131	
Black					
Asian					
Mixed Ethnicity	5			5	
Disability					
With physical disability					
With hidden disability (e.g. dyslexia)	8			8	
Age breakdown of individuals:					
Under 10 years	19			19	
10-13 yrs	45			45	
14-16 yrs	38			38	
17 yrs & over	34			34	
Number of young people attending for the first time					
	M	F		M	F
8-10	4	2		4	2
10-13		2			2
14-16	2	6		2	6
17+	10	8		10	8
Name of activity	Total hours activity in quarter		Total attendance		
			Young	Adult	
Half-Term Activities (X6)	27		47	3	
Monday Drop-In Sessions (The Monday Crew) X 3	7.5		93		
Monday Drop-In Sessions (Open Drop-in) X 3	7.5		45		
Wednesday Drop-In Sessions (Cha room) X 3	7.5		53		
Wednesday Drop-In Sessions (DJ night) X 4	10.5		61		
Thursday Drop-In Sessions (The Art Group) X3	7.5		67		
Thursday Drop-In Sessions (Pool Club) X 4	10.5		67		
Detached Sessions X 5	9.5		47		
Breakthrough / Bedford Sessions X2	5.5		8		
External Meetings / Sessions X 3	5.5			17	
<b>Total</b>	<b>98.5</b>		<b>488</b>	<b>20</b>	

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Widerimpact Consultancy

Unit 103  
Staffordshire University  
Business Village Stoke  
72 Leek Road  
Stoke On Trent  
ST4 2AR

0845 165 0491

[www.widerimpact.com](http://www.widerimpact.com)