Milford Youth Matters

Project Overview

November 2014
Introduction to Milford Youth Matters

Milford Youth Matters is a registered charity based at Milford Haven Youth Centre.

The object of the charity is:

To act as a resource for young people between the ages of 14-25 living in Milford Haven and the surrounding area by providing advice and assistance and organising programmes of educational, physical and other activities.

We currently have four Trustees and four paid staff members including a Project Coordinator (full time), a Targeted Outreach Youth Worker (15 hours per week), an Assistant Targeted Outreach Youth Worker (15 hours a week) and a Youth Support Worker (5 hours a week).

Milford Youth Matters mainly operates Monday to Friday between 9 am and 5 pm except on Fridays where hours are extended to 10 pm.

Milford Youth Matters relies on external funders to facilitate its projects. We have secured numerous funding pots since starting face to face youth work in January 2013 and are continuing to apply for funding to secure jobs, activity costs and building costs; but most importantly to provide support and encouragement to young people to achieve their full potential and become active members of society who are both valued and in turn add value to their communities.

We work in partnership with Pembrokeshire County Council Youth Service whom we share a building with. We work in partnership to deliver projects as well as sharing resources enabling young people to get a wider range of opportunities. We also work in collaboration with a host of local and national organisations including Job Centre Plus, Dyfed Powys Neighbourhood Policing Team, Milford Haven Comprehensive School, Milford Haven Business Circle, Milford Haven Port Authority, PAVS and other services to ensure we maximise the resources available to young people.
Chat and Chill

Chat and Chill offered a relaxed and fun environment for parents under 25 to access language and play session with their children, it was facilitated by Milford Youth Matters staff and delivered by Flying Start.

The sessions gave parents an opportunity to learn the importance of playing for the development of children with routine to prepare them for school. Activities included craft, music, singing and reading time.

Employment Skills Days

Employment skills day offered unemployed young people an opportunity to take part in team building activities, interview techniques workshops and group tasks to prepare them for work. Participants were referred by the Job Centre and delivered by Milford Youth Matters staff offering a variety of workshops which challenged individual skills transferable to the workplace. Some of the participants from this event signed up to other projects on offer at the centre.
The Get It! Project is a European Social Funded project managed by the WCVA through the Welsh Assembly Government. It operates twice a week and aims to support 16-25 year olds who are unemployed, move closer to the jobs market. The Get It! Project has engaged 33 young people achieve qualifications or accreditations in Essential Skills including literacy and numeracy, Food Hygiene Level two, First Aid, budgeting and compiling a CV.

The participants had the opportunity to organise and attend an over night camping residential in Pembrey where they had to plan, manage a budget, cook the food and take part in all camp duties. The residential developed independent living skills, numeracy and literacy skills and transferable work skills. None of the young people had been to Pembrey before and one female enjoyed it so much that she packed a tent and returned a week later!

Participants organised a jobs fair that saw 47 young people from the local community attend. They telephoned and emailed employers, prepared the venue, literature for the event and greeted guests on arrival. The fair was a great success and gave the group an opportunity to meet employers, apply for vacancies and ask any questions directly to the employers. The feedback from the employers was fantastic and all group members were pleased with the outcome of the day.

The Get it project has also been involved in numerous volunteering days including a dog walk at Green Acres and a beach tidy up at Dale.
The Open Air Fest took place at the Mackerel Quay in August 2013. The event was organised by young people and Milford Youth Matters staff and gave young musicians from across Pembrokeshire the opportunity to perform on stage to an audience. The Torch theatre and Milford Haven Port Authority supported the event. Young people volunteered their time to prepare for the event as well as volunteer on the day. Funding was made available through Milford Haven port Authority, Milford Haven Town Council, Youth Bank and Red Nose Day community cash.
MY Time (Milford Youth Time) is a volunteering incentive scheme for 16-25 year olds in Milford Haven. The projects is facilitated by Milford Youth Matters and Pembrokeshire Youth.

The programme offers a reward to the value of £20.00 in exchange for 20 hours volunteering in the local community. The vouchers can be spent in local shops that have signed up to the scheme.

Volunteering that has taken place so far included, litter picks, beach cleans, dog walking at Green Acres, being active members on Milford Haven Youth Committee, hosting a Christmas lunch for local pensioners, guides leaders and supporting children and young people at the local yacht club.
Buddies Café at Milford Youth Centre is a project facilitated by Milford Youth Matters and Pembrokeshire Youth. It acts as an eight week work experience placement for 16-25 year olds who are unemployed to develop and gain new skills. During the placement young people have the chance to complete a number of qualifications and accreditations.

Buddies Café was shortlisted for a Youth Excellence Award this year and two young people and staff had the chance to attend the awards ceremony in Llandudno.
**Drop in**

Milford Youth Matters offer a ‘drop in’ service for young people every Thursday from 1pm-5pm offering support with CV writing, interview techniques, completing application forms, job searching and other support. The job centre, Pembrokeshire Youth Service and other organisation refer young people to the drop in.

**MHYC—Milford Haven Youth Committee**

MHYC meet weekly and is made up of young people from across the town. They are currently working towards raising money through fundraising events to purchase equipment to clean off graffiti in the local town. There first fundraiser is outside Tescos in Milford Haven where they will get to meet local MP Stephen Crabb and the second is a family fun day at the youth centre opening its door to local families.

**Future Projects**

Milford Youth Matters is always looking for new project ideas to meet the needs of the young people in the area. These examples are of work completed over the past 18 months. We are now opening the centre on Friday nights and have access to a room at Cedar Court, to try and tackle anti-social behaviour in the Town, offering a safe environment for 14-18 year olds.

We are delivering an innovative 10 week scheme to give young people practical business experience as well as help build footfall into the High Street of Milford Haven. The 10 weeks will include 2 training sessions to be held at Milford Youth Centre and ongoing weekly support from youth workers. The sessions will be held at Milford Haven Youth Centre and times/days will be negotiated after the information session.

‘Business in a Box’ is a project created by non-profit organisation Heartstone designed to aid the development of basic employability, communication, presentation and social skills of young people aged 15 and over. It will give young people a real experience of running their own business; serving customers, understanding profit margins, as well as the opportunity to meet new people and develop transferable skills to the workplace.

The project is designed to build:

- Employability skills with young people.
- Intergenerational contact.
- Build footfall into high streets and town centres.
- Profile for individuals, businesses and organisations connected with the marine environment locally.