



Providing Positive Options for Young People

Reaching Out

A three-year plan for the further development of The Mill
February 2008

Summary

Introduction

- This plan outlines how we intend to build on the firm foundations laid by Richard Whitwam, the center's full time youth worker and manager over the past three years, to reach out to even more young people and to help them make the sometimes traumatic transition from adolescence to adulthood.
- The plan reviews the existing relationships with the various bodies and agencies The Mill now works with and looks at how those relationships should be developed over the next three years.
- The various bodies and agencies with which The Mill now works are grouped under the headings:
 - Churches Together in Bramhall & Woodford
 - Education & Services for Young People (Stockport Youth Service)
 - Social Care & Family Support
 - Administration
- The plan reviews the financial aspects of the centre's work over the past three years and projects figures to cover the continuation of existing work and the implementation of proposed work.

Main Proposals (bullet points)

- Churches Together in Bramhall & Woodford
 - Individual churches
Funding: Seeking an increase in revenue support from the Churches from an average of £25000 to £40000 per year. The £15,000 increase is approximately £2,000 per Church in additional support for the Mill.
Volunteers: More volunteers are needed, particularly for the 'after school' sessions.
Relationships with Churches: The Mill should be seen as a 'fresh expression' of church, but ways of improving the process of introducing young people to the established churches needs to be sought.
 - Church Youth Groups
Use of premises/equipment: Local Groups and Uniformed Organisations to be encouraged to utilize the premises and equipment more.

Visits to Youth Groups: Richard and Denise to make occasional visits to church youth groups, to join activities and to talk about The Mill and what there is to offer.
Centrepont: Occasional use of Centrepont by The Mill to be investigated for 'indoor sports' activities.

- **Bramhall Youth Leaders' Forum (BYLF)**
HOPE 2008: The forum to be the focal point for any youth activities associated with HOPE 2008.
Help/Advice: Richard available to all youth leaders for advice and help on many matters relating to youth work in a Christian environment. This advice can also relate to funding information.
- **Teen Spirit**
The Mill to support this initiative, Richard and Denise available to help.
- **Education & Services for Young People**
 - **Bramhall High School**
Youth Inclusion Programme: Development of this new provision is to provide social education for young people who are at risk of temporary or permanent exclusion from main stream education. The provision supports up to six young people at each session (two sessions per week).
Funding to be sought from sources such as: BHS, Stockport Education Authority and possibly Connexions, as well as other funding bodies.
 - **Services for young people**
Finance: Investigate appropriate funding opportunities available.
Outreach Session: Services for Young People (Youth Service) has expressed an interest in developing a specialist service for disengaged youth.
- **Social Care & Family Support**
 - **Social Care**
Disabled Access: During the course of the next three years investigate the need, practicalities and cost of installing a lift to the first floor.
 - **Beacon 2:** Implement the three month trial with a young persons' counselor. Seek funding to make this a permanent facility at the sessions for the older young people
 - **Family Support:** The Mill is currently in partnership with Bramhall High School, social services and other safeguarding agencies offering support to young people and their families.
- **Administration**
 - **Office**
Seek more help with office/administration work, freeing up more of Richard and Denise's time for youth sessions and planning.
 - **Volunteers**
Student Placements:
Seek to establish whether we have anything to offer students from local colleges, and take on students as 'placements'.
 - **Neighbours**
Empty Shop Unit: A longer term aim.
The possibility of The Mill renting this unit, could be done in conjunction with others such as; The Youth Services, CTiBW, The Bible Society, who have all expressed an interest in having a presence in the village. External funding would be sought to launch the project.

Background

- The Mill - a centre for the young people (11 to 17 years) of Bramhall and surrounding neighbourhoods - was opened in September 2002 with backing from local churches.
 - In September 2004 a three-year plan for its future direction (Moving On) was published.
 - In July 2005 sufficient funding from the local churches was promised to enable the Trustees to implement the main objectives of 'Moving On' which primarily centred around the employment of a full time Youth Worker and Manager, and Richard Whitwam was employed.
 - In June 2006 a second Youth Worker (Denise Archer) was employed on a part time (12 hours per week) basis. This allowed more flexibility in the use of Richard's time, particularly around the issues of a lone worker and back up.
 - In April 2007 an 'After School Club' (The HUB) was started, operating between 3.30 – 5.00pm. This 'project' was funded by a grant from the Youth Opportunity Fund (Government Funding) which paid for the refurbishment and re-equipping of the bar area and for the extension of Denise's hours (to 20 hours per week).
 - For a full report on The Mill activities see Annual Report April 2006 – March 2007
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Main Proposals (in detail)

- **Churches Together in Bramhall & Woodford**
 - **Individual churches**

Funding: The churches within Churches Together in Bramhall & Woodford (CTiBW) are the mainstay of funding for The Mill and it is hoped that they will continue to support this 3 Year Plan.

The costs of over the next three year period are expected to remain broadly stable. During 2007 there was funding for increased working hours from Stockport MBC. This needs to be met by increasing the funding from Churches and organizations from an average of £25000 to £40000 per year. This equates to approximately £2000 per church in additional donations, whilst maintaining existing commitments.

Volunteers: The churches are the main providers of our most valuable asset – volunteers. Without the continued commitment of these hard working individuals we would not be able to operate.

We currently have 25 helpers on our rotas, mainly from the churches within CTiBW and more volunteers are needed, particularly for the 'after school' sessions.

As we implement this plan we will also look to source volunteers from other areas, particularly the provision of 'student placements' from the various colleges in the area.

Relationships with Churches: The Mill has always done its best to feed young people into the established churches, but this has proved difficult where they are from families with no existing church contact. Ways of improving this process need to be sought, and Teen Spirit is an example of how the process could develop, along with The Mill bringing some of their young people to other church events. It has already been agreed that The Mill will produce, and have readily available, a leaflet describing what each church has to offer to the young people.

The Mill can, and should, be seen as a '**fresh expression**' of church. The Saturday evening session usually contains a short 'faith based' talk and the Monday evening youth discipleship sessions are run to help those young people interest in the

Christian faith on their journey, as are the Wednesday lunch time Christian Union sessions at Bramhall High School.

As the three year plan is progressed it is intended that these relationships will be made clearer and be developed further. One new initiative will be involvement by The Mill leaders and young people in the new **Teen Spirit** youth worship sessions at Centrepont.

Church leaders are encouraged to visit The Mill during any session to reinforce with the young people the support the project has from all the local churches.

Richard, Denise and any of the Trustees are available to visit any church to give talks and information on the work and background to the project.

- **Church Youth Groups**

Use of premises/equipment: Currently, groups from the Methodist and Baptist Churches use the premises on a fairly frequent basis.

As we move forward, other groups should be encouraged to consider utilizing the premises and equipment. Also, local Uniformed Organisations could be encouraged to utilise the facilities and the premises can be hired by families for parties. Of course 'bookings' will have to fit into the schedule of The Mill activities.

Visits to Youth Groups: Richard and Denise are available for occasional visits to church youth groups, to join activities and to talk about The Mill and what there is to offer.

Centrepont: Occasional use of Centrepont by The Mill should be investigated. The Saturday night session could use the premises for indoor sports with additional helpers.

- **Bramhall Youth Leaders Forum (BYLF)**

Youth Leaders: This forum, for all the youth leaders within CTiBW, has existed for a number of years and has until recently been lead by Amanda Cross.

Richard and Denise have now taken the lead and all those involved in youth work within CTiBW are encouraged to attend, or to at least receive the notes of any meetings.

The aim of the forum is to help each other with ideas and to try and ensure that there are no clashes with major/special events.

HOPE 2008: During 2008 it is proposed that the forum is the focal point for any youth activities associated with HOPE 2008.

Crackerteria: For many years the forum has been the driving force behind the 'Crackerteria Cafeteria' held at Centrepont on the two Saturdays leading up to Christmas. It is intended that this will continue with, it is hoped, increased interest/involvement from all the church youth groups.

Help/Advice: Richard is available to all youth leaders for advice and help on many matters relating to youth work in a Christian environment. There are various sources of funding and opportunities to develop children & young people's work; which Richard will be happy to 'sign post' or offer support and guidance for any groups wishing to apply.

- **Teen Spirit**

This is a Methodist Church initiative, providing a worship opportunity for local young people and it is hoped will give Christian young people support and also give outreach to others.

The Mill is keen to support the initiative and Richard and Denise are available to help.

- **Education & Services for Young People**
 - **Bramhall High School:** During the past two years Richard and Denise have forged very strong links with the staff at Bramhall High School, and are both highly respected there. Both are given permission to visit the school and to chat with students at lunch and break times, which means that they can forge links with them. These relationships allows Richard and Denise to provide pastoral support and encourage where appropriate to attend the Christian Unions
 - **Christian Union:** Richard took over the running of the lunch time Christian Union sessions (Pure) two years ago. Richard now runs the sessions with Janet Starkie, and 10 – 15 young people attend each week.
Richard is also supported by a worker from Christians in Schools Trust, with whom strong links have also been developed.
 - **Youth Inclusion Programme:** The Mill was approached by the learning support department from the High School, towards the end of 2007, requesting if we could provide informal support for students with behavioural and educational needs. The provision offers young people alternative education (Ae) such as life skills, social education, confidence & self esteem building during the student's timetable (Monday & Wednesday Morning). After a brief trial period, Bramhall High School has asked The Mill to commission this service on a more equal footing. The Head Master (John Peckham) will in time be willing to release teaching / support staff to solidify the link between the Inclusion Programme and the High School's curriculum. Young people who participate in the Inclusion Programme will be able to gain accreditation through the Unit Award Scheme (AQA) which will provide evidence to employers of key skills & knowledge which they have gained.
The Inclusion Programme will be seeking funding from Stockport Education, Services for Young People and other relevant bodies.
 - **Services of Young People:** Richard came to The Mill with strong links to SFYP in place, and these have been built on during his three years with us. These links has allowed the Mill to tap into funding, sports equipment, transport facilities and support in terms of youth work practice and professional development for Richard.
 - **Youth Worker Support:** For a number of years we have enjoyed the help of a worker from the Services for Young People, first at the Wednesday night sessions, and now at the Saturday lunchtime sessions (Lee Bassman), and it is hoped this support will continue in the future
 - **Finance:** We have also benefited from a number of financial grants from Services for Young People, which have helped us operate Summer Fun Week activities and the After School Club. As we move forward, there are further possible funding opportunities which we can tap into, and these will be taken advantage of where appropriate.
 - **Outreach Session:** Currently there is some initial discussion taking place with the youth service regarding them operating an 'Outreach Session' from 'The Mill' premises, one evening each week, which they would staff, although attendance by someone from The Mill would be required.
- **Social Care & Family Support**
 - **Social Care**
 - **Substance Abuse:** During the past year sessions have been run, with the older Wednesday night group, covering substance abuse issues, and will be continued to be presented when appropriate in the future. Smoking has always been banned on the

premises and this year we extended the ban to the car park area (as best as we can supervise it). We now have very few young people requesting to go out for a smoke.
Disabled Access: We are aware that we do not cater well enough for any young person with disability who finds it difficult to climb stairs. During the course of the next three years it is intended to investigate the needs, practicalities and the cost of installing a lift to the first floor.

Family Support: The Mill also offers holistic support for young people and their families and currently provides a safe place for a father and son to develop their relationship after the family unit has broken down. This service runs for a couple of hours each week and stems from Bramhall High School recommending The Mill at a Child in Need Meeting for the above case.

- **Beacon 2**

Beacon 2 is the young person counselling service of Beacon, the confidential counselling service set up many years ago by CTiBW, for anyone in the Stockport area. Beacon 2 already operate within certain schools in the area, and following a visit to The Mill have offered to place a counsellor within the Wednesday night session, to help with any issues individual young people may have. We are now awaiting selection of a suitable young persons' counsellor for a three month trial to begin. If this is considered a success, funding will be sought to make this a permanent facility at this session for the older young people.

- **Safeguarding**

The Mill has had a Safeguarding Policy from the outset and all workers and volunteers are required to get a CRB check, which is paid for by the Services for Young People. As the policy was drafted three years ago, it should be reviewed and updated during the coming year.

- **Administration**

- **Office**

Currently, Richard and Denise do much of their own office/administration work, and more recently Gill Day is spending half a day per week helping with the registration of young people onto the data base.

As we move forward with this new three year plan, more help with office/administration work would be beneficial, freeing up more of Richard and Denise's time for youth sessions and planning.

- **Volunteers**

Churches: As mentioned elsewhere, volunteer helpers are the backbone of our provision, and without those who give their time week by week we would not be able to continue our work. We appeal to anyone who has a heart for working with young people to come and see us and look at how they may be able to help us. We need all kinds of help, from hands on work at the after school sessions, to working behind the bar and on the door, to working in the office. There's something to suit everyone and lots of time options too and we appeal to all those in the churches of CTiBW to consider whether they can help in any way.

Student Placements:

An avenue of help we have considered before, but not been able to follow up until Richard 'qualifies', is that of student placements from the various colleges in the Greater Manchester area, particularly those offering Christian studies.

As we move forward with this three year plan we will seek to establish whether we have anything to offer students from colleges such as Nazarene Theological College, Luther King House, Cliff College, Manchester Met, Stockport, Huddersfield.

We feel we could give valuable experience to students working towards qualifications in theology, youth work and social care.

- o **Publicity**

This is an area needing attention and development.

We do update flyers on a regular basis, which are distributed to the churches. It is suggested that we also get these into the Information Centre at the Library.

We try to produce a regular News Letter but need more help in putting this together on a regular basis (say termly).

We have a presence on the local SK7 Web Site, but our own web site needs a lot of work (just a holding page at present), and volunteer help in this area would be of great benefit.

- o **Neighbours**

Butcher & Wok's Cooking: Relationships with the Butcher's and Wok's Cooking are now pretty good, following bridge building work by Richard/Denise.

Costa Coffee: Relationships with our new landlords have got off to a good start, with friendly contact with the Manageress. There are still issues which need resolving with their Estates Dept. which were there before they took over the tenancy.

Primarily these are the state of the car park and the condition of the roof/gable end of the building. Efforts will continue to be made to make contact with the appropriate staff to resolve these problems.

Empty Shop Unit: This is part of Cost Coffee's tenancy and there is interest in The Mill renting this unit. This is a long term aim and could be done in conjunction with others such as; The Youth Services, CTiBW, The Bible Society. All have expressed an interest in having a presence in the village at some time during the year. Initial enquiries are being pursued regarding availability and costs. It is understood there could be funding from Stockport Youth Services to launch the project.

- **Financial Aspects**

The following is a brief annual Income vs. Expenditure budget for the next three years

Income

Individual Donations	4300
Churches and Organizations	40000
Sundry And Other income	2250
Tax refund	1000
	47550

Expenditure

Rent ,rates and water	5900
Light and heat	750
Insurance	900
Salaries and associated costs	32500
Equipment & maintenance	4500
Other	3000
	47550

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