

Team Brief

Community Cycle Safety Fun Day a success



Volunteer Lauren



The bungee run



Practising with OzBox



Andy Price on the bronco bull



Sue Griffin gets into the spirit



The Community Cycle Safety Fun Day held at The Campus in Derby on 17th September was a great success, bringing together our own residents, local councillors, the police and members of the local community.

The focus of the event, which was funded by the Prince's Trust and the Alvaston Neighbourhood Board, was on safe cycling. There was advice on keeping bikes safe, bike safety checks and a bike doctor workshop, together with a chance to have a go on various 'silly bikes' courtesy of Cycle Magic.

The event also included displays by the 3SIXTY Bicycle Stunt Team, a bungee run and bronco bull, a tombola, face painting and the opportunity to practise some boxing skills with OzBox.

Among those attending the free event were local City Councillors Paul Bayliss and Linda Winter. Cllr Bayliss, who is Leader of the Labour Group on the Council, said: "We like to support all the community events, not least those organised by the YMCA because their focus is on helping young people.

"YMCA Derbyshire looks after mainly young and vulnerable people in the local community and helps them to have a great start in life."

Rachel Morris added: "We are really pleased that this event has proved such a success, and also that the weather stayed mostly dry. We take our relationship with the local community extremely seriously, and it is very pleasing that so many local people came to support the event."



Fun on the 'silly bikes'



Volunteer Ashley



Marc Stevens has a nervous moment

A message from the Chief Executive

The news that Derby City Council intends to cut the Supporting People budget for housing related support by 50 percent for the coming three years has come as a shock to us all. This reduction will clearly have a serious impact on a number of much-needed services across the City.

Which services will have their funding cut, and to what extent, is still to be finalised by the Council's commissioning team and they have given a commitment to reach their conclusions in partnership with providers and in an inclusive and transparent manner.

We simply do not know at this stage what the implications will be for us, although it is true to say that the funding we receive through Supporting People is very important. What I can assure everyone is that we will be transparent and open about this matter. I will make sure that every member of staff is kept up to date with any developments, and we will all do our utmost to make the case for the maintenance of our vital services in Derby and the value we add to the contracts we fulfil.

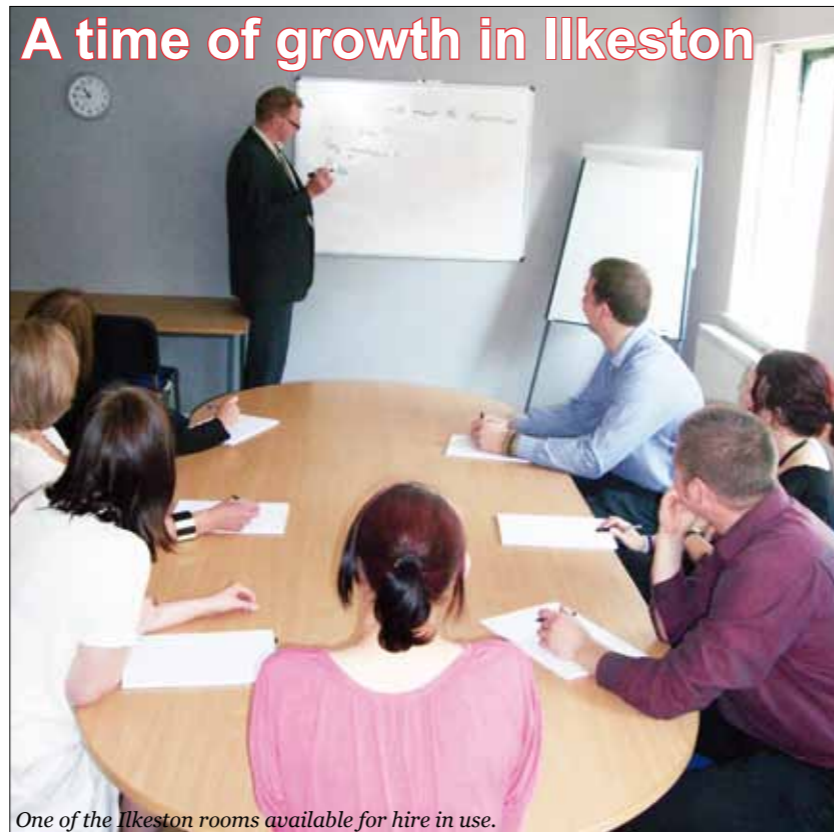
As I have said so many times before, our team is characterised by commitment, dedication and a spirit of innovation and genuine care. Together we are making a real difference to the lives and prospects of vulnerable young people. As locality manager Rachel Morris put it in her communication with the staff team, "YMCA Derbyshire is a flagship service for quality and professionalism".

The 'Celebrating Achievement' event being held at The Campus on 4th November is a great opportunity to showcase our work to key decision makers and demonstrate its vital importance to the local community – and so I urge all team members to consider nominating service users for one of the memorial awards.

This is clearly a challenging time for us, but we should also be confident that what we are all achieving together is quite extraordinary.

Gillian Sewell

A time of growth in Ilkeston



One of the Ilkeston rooms available for hire in use.

A new drive has been launched to promote room hire services at our base in Ilkeston town centre. Rooms at the centre can accommodate up to 22 people for meetings, with Wi-Fi, disabled access and catering all offered at affordable rates.

The Ilkeston centre will also be delivering a new 'Preparing to Teach in the Lifelong Learning Sector' qualification soon, making further use of the centre's facilities. On top of this, there has been a large intake of learners on Foundation Learning programmes throughout recent weeks.

Tenancy Sustainment

The last month has seen the Tenancy Sustainment Service cope admirably with various staff shortages. Both the Chesterfield and Ilkeston teams have worked extremely hard in maintaining their high standards of support to allow us to maintain our contractual obligations to Supporting People.

All the staff are continuing to work hard to ensure that service users' goals and aspirations are realistic and achievable, despite the often chaotic situations in which the young people find themselves. They constantly go the extra mile to provide support and guidance.

So a big thank you to everyone, and we look forward to achieving all our outcomes in the coming quarters!

Mark Love

New course for assessors

We are now delivering the new TAQA qualification on Wednesday evenings in Derby. TAQA has replaced the old D32/33 and A1 qualifications and is the new national qualification for assessors. It is good news for us because we are one of the first centres in the country to be delivering this award.

Most of the first cohort will be from local nursery Derwent Stepping Stones, with some from the Derbyshire Learning and Development Consortium (DLDC) and a few of our own team members.

We hope to start delivering more of these courses in the future so they will be available to everyone who carries out an assessing role.

Julia Hodder

School presents welcome Harvest gift



Pupils at Derby Grammar School have donated items they collected for their Big Harvest Collection for use by our residential members at The Campus as well as to Derby's Night Shelter.

The items included food and drink, cleaning products and toiletries. In the photo (above) Chief Executive Gillian Sewell gratefully takes delivery of the donations. A big 'thank you' to all those involved in this project.

Nominations open for awards

Nominations are invited for the three memorial awards to be presented at the Celebration Event on 4th November.

Criteria for the Alan Hart Award for a 'positive contribution', the Keith Lewis Award for 'achieving economic wellbeing' and the Sue Howard Award for 'enjoying and achieving' are available by following the link on the homepage of our website. The closing date is 21st October.

New trustees

Three new members joined YMCA Derbyshire's Board of Trustees at last month's Annual General Meeting.

They are: Mary Gordon, formerly Head of Operations and Commissioned Services at Connexions Derbyshire; Richard Swainson, Corporate Development Manager at Rolls Royce; and Liz Fothergill, Chief Executive of Pennine Healthcare.

We wish them a very happy and fruitful time on the Board.

Hospitality Service

Room hire bookings at The Campus have picked up considerably and October and November will be particularly busy. This is great news, although we are sorry to say farewell to the Shaw Trust and thank them for using the Campus as a base for their advice and support sessions.

We have now started to retail full cakes for £10 (like the one in the photo), and we also have a refreshed weekend menu which includes the option of creating your own delicious burger from a number of options. Food and drinks are served on both Saturdays and Sundays from 10am until 2pm.

The Hospitality Service pages on the website have been refreshed, with a new navigation bar and additional information. The pages will be further refreshed in the weeks to come, so check them out when you can.

Rachel Bradley



Tina with a delicious decorated cake

Renew Maintenance



Renew Maintenance has worked with sub-contractors to replace all windows in Hilton Court, Douglass Court and Devonshire House in the grounds of The Campus.

Work is also continuing to promote the company to more potential customers, such as at the Local Landlords' Forum in Chesterfield.

The company now has a contract to provide ongoing maintenance for Derwent Stepping Stones, a large nursery in Derby, in addition to its ongoing work for Derby Homes. More contracts are in the pipeline.

Marketing and Communications

In uncertain economic times, we are pushing to promote our various services to new customers. We are also planning a new push to promote Project 165.

The forthcoming 'Celebrating Achievement' event on 4th November will also be a key opportunity for us to showcase our services and tell our good news story.

Reflection of the month

The more we let God take us over, the more truly ourselves we become – because He made us.

He invented us. He invented all the different people that you and I were intended to be.

It is when I turn to Christ, when I give up myself to His personality, that I first begin to have a real personality of my own.

C S Lewis (1898–1963)

Fun and finger painting at Forman St



A fun time was had by all at an activity afternoon for children organised and run by learners enrolled on the Foundation Learning Caring for Children programme at Forman Street on 11th October – with help from coordinator Rebecca Elliott.

The event formed part of the unit on keeping children safe and learners were responsible for undertaking a risk assessment, identifying and mitigating risks, ensuring all relevant paperwork was completed and providing a homely and safe environment for the children aged 0 to 3 to enjoy themselves.

Learner member Mabel, 17, said: “It’s been good because all the kids meet each other and it’s beneficial for us as we gain good experience and confidence. We play with the children and communicate with them. We also understand everything that needs to be organised and what our own role is.”

Fellow learner Kieran, 16, added: “This experience is very practical and we’re gaining confidence. I’m very impressed by what the YMCA is doing to help us and give us these opportunities.”

Children and Young People

We have now started delivering a variety of PE lessons during PPA time at two local primary schools in Derby – Firs Estate Primary and St Josephs Catholic Primary.

As well as over 11 hours of PE, we are delivering three after school extra-curricular sports clubs. In addition to these, we are also in the process of developing Firs Estate Primary School’s first ever football team to play and compete against other local primary schools within the area. This has created a huge buzz and interest within the school!

Amy Allen and I have begun planning our holiday provisions with both a Y-Play playscheme and Babington Extended Services Camps due to take place throughout the October school holidays.

All provisions will offer sports, arts and crafts, day-trips and many more fun activities for children to take part in.

Michael Smith



Bringing the generations together

An inter-generational day was held at Handyside Court on 1st October. Junction 16 learners gave up their Saturdays to serve brunch to 25 residents and spent time chatting to them about their experiences.

Jams and chutneys made by learners were sold at the event, and there was also a cake stall, gift stands and a tombola.

The event was part of a series of inter-generational activities at Handyside Court in partnership with Housing 21 that have brought national recognition. We will be presenting the work next month at the ‘Awards for All Ages’ event in the House of Lords – an event that highlights innovative programmes to bring generations together and enrich both.

In our entry for the awards, we note that “all involved have learned to work in partnership with those on the receiving end of services, to value and respect them and to help them do more for themselves and each other”.

