

Impact Report 2011/2012

Surrey Youth Focus has three roles:



- Representation and advocacy of Members interests
- Networking, brokerage and promotion
(promotion, communication and innovation)
- Support to Members

There is no doubt that these are difficult times, and that they will continue for some years yet.

But the voluntary youth sector does have a huge reach to young people in Surrey, and should be proud of its achievements in improving the lives of young people.

Surrey Youth Focus exists to support the efforts of our members in improving the lives of young people.

✓ We support 85 member organisations, who work with 20,000 young people every week

✓ We worked with 2 struggling youth groups to support them so they could stay open.

✓ We helped to found a new organisation. The Jellytots comprising young parents eager to share their experience with others, and to run training sessions

✓ Our website had nearly 10,000 visits

✓ We ran two public debates about "Young people and society" attended by some 100 people

✓ Training we ran 4 sessions of the "Youth Work the Basics" course which were completed by 42 people who provided great feedback

✓ We held 4 briefing sessions for uniformed and sports organisations

✓ Established 6 new youth clubs and activities involving 124 young people

✓ Launched "4x4 Scheme" linking 4 member organisations to 4 businesses, and are developing links to business through Surrey Chambers of Commerce.

"The Basics"

Our FREE training workshop has gone from strength to strength and is regularly oversubscribed.



Volunteering

To find suitable volunteers the best way is to advertise your vacancies on our [volunteer](#) pages. We now provide a matching service for volunteers and projects.

As at June 2012, Surrey Youth Focus had nearly 90 fee paying members.

This peak in numbers reflects very well on all involved with Surrey Youth Focus.

Financially we finished 2011/12 with a smaller deficit than expected, and like many other charities have set a deficit budget for 2012/13. We are acutely aware this cannot continue and bids to grant- making trusts for projects are currently being made.

We are particularly grateful to those who funded us during 2011/12, notably to Surrey County Council, and The Coleman Trust. The funding contributions of Proctor and Gamble in sponsoring the Celebration of Youth events are appreciated, and also the support of the Mayors of Runnymede and Elmbridge in whose boroughs the events were held.

This has been a year of re-orientation of Surrey Youth Focus towards the business and corporate sector, securing both financial and other support. This was initiated following an awayday in September 2009 when we concluded that these new strategic relationships had to be formed as central and local government spending had reduced, and was unlikely to recover in the foreseeable future. Our success in building links to businesses has only proved possible having established Surrey Youth Focus as a company limited by guarantee.

The Business Plan for 2011/12 had a theme of “stick to the basics and innovate” recognising that greater priority needed to be given to retaining existing members and improving services to them, whilst also innovating and maintaining a high profile.

SPREADING THE WORD

Our Website had nearly **10,000 visits**

1,200 followers on Twitter,

A blog read by **3,000 people**,

A fortnightly e-bulletin up to the minutes news and information to **over 400 readers**

Produced three issues of Surrey Youth News circulated to **2,500 people, at 1,600 different addresses**

Maintained a high public profile through events such as the Celebration of Youth, **attended by over 200 guests.**



Celebration of Youth Event



We maintain a high public profile through events such as the Celebration of Youth, attended by over 200 guests.

Comments from attendees:

“Our guys just loved the event and one of the speakers, who had never ever spoken before in front of an audience, said how much he enjoyed it and how he would like to do it again. It has just been fabulous for their confidence and also helped so much listening to what other people have experienced too”

Of the event, Stewart said **“I enjoyed the event because it gave me the opportunity to stand in front of an audience and speak; something which I thought I would never have the confidence to do. It was amazing to see the youth of Surrey performing and sharing their talents. I look forward to being involved in an event like this again”**

Danny, who has been with Amber since September last year said **“Attending this event about the celebration of youth has enabled me to share my experiences with others as well as learning from other peoples experiences. At Amber I have learnt that the only limit to myself is me and I can do anything.”**