

Canongate Youth Project Annual Report



2009

Foreword

People will not need any reminding of the world economic situation, but the situation on the local scale also remains critical. There is no doubt that Council funding to statutory and voluntary organisations will be cut drastically in the coming years. Various doom laden scenarios have been anticipated for the future of youth work organisations amongst others. We at CYP have lived within our means for some years and are continuing to resource funding for all parts of the Project wherever possible. We continue to talk to our partners in the Council about the implementation of a new Service Level Agreement which will hopefully commence in April. Negotiations also continue around the Early Intervention Funding which we receive to provide support to vulnerable young people. We also have made applications to various funders to keep the youth work funding at it's present level. Funding has been secured from the South Central Neighbourhood Partnership (Fairer Scotland Fund) which will allow a worker from CYP to carry out work with young people based in the Braidwood Centre. Skills Development Scotland have still to make decisions on the contracts for Training Services and Options Plus. The funding situation regarding CAST remains in a precarious state. As I indicated, discussions are ongoing with relevant partners and we will strive to continue to provide a comprehensive service for young people.

It will come as no surprise that the Project remains both busy and innovative. All four parts of the Project continue to achieve outcomes and goals, all the while maintaining very high standards. It is important that we involve the opinions and views of the local community and this is why we carried out a parents' questionnaire. The responses we received were very positive about the service we provide and gave us some useful suggestions as to how we can improve our service. It is also gratifying that the Project has formed stronger links with the police. This has provided positive benefits for young people and the local community. For example, officers have attended youth clubs to establish positive relationships with members, Training Services have had police input into their training sessions with young people, we have had some valuable advice and assistance with regard to the ongoing problems with building security and there has been a senior officer attending our Management Committee.

The core and pivotal ethos of CYP remains that we will provide a quality service to children and young people and help them to reach their full potential. No one in the organisation or the wider central Edinburgh area would want to see the work of the Project diminish, so there is no doubt that we will endeavour to meet future challenges head on. I would like to thank everyone currently connected with the Project, in particular all full time, part time and sessional staff, our dedicated army of volunteers, including the Management Committee, together with our partners in the statutory and voluntary sector.

Finally, it goes without saying that we pay tribute to the young people who make the project so lively, exciting and interesting.

- Ronnie Wilkes, Chairperson, Canongate Youth Project



Sophie Newell-Brown - Wednesday club member Age 12

- 1. What is your first memory of CYP?**
Coming and meeting Tamika and Alanis, we all cooked and done art.
- 2. What is the best thing that you have done with CYP?**
Thursday Club camp and going to Perth Leisure pool
- 3. What is the funniest thing that has happened when you have been at CYP?**
When we had to do the talent show and I forgot the dance!
- 4. Where is the best place to be at CYP?**
On a trip - probably trampolining.
- 5. Describe CYP in three words**
Fun! Exciting! Unpredictable!

Youth Work

It's been another extremely busy and productive year for the Youth Work team. Our traditional weekly youth and children's clubs, holiday programmes, residentials, ongoing school based group and individual support work services continue. A large number of children and young people have once again brought huge amounts of energy, creativity, enthusiasm and commitment to the initiatives and activities they have been involved in. Our weekly youth and children's clubs have played host to a fantastic range of social, educational and developmental opportunities for children and young people. These have varied from art and music activities, such as the Thursday Club Christmas talent show for 8 to 11 year olds, the weekly Music Club for 12 to 18 year olds and regular use of the art room to our cross- Project healthy living action plan, including the provision of free fruit and vegetables for all and employment seeking advice for older young people attending the Tuesday Club. As well as these and many other weekly club based opportunities, all children and young people attending clubs at CYP this year have had the chance to attend a weekend residential trip or full away day trip. These included the annual five day Isle of Mull adventure for primary 7's and several club specific weekend stays at the Pilton Retreat Centre in Ratho.



Kieran Milazzo - Age 14 - Tuesday Club Member

- 1. What is your first memory of CYP?** - Coming in and seeing loads of faces that I didn't know, meeting Mike and Suzanne and doing something in the art room.
- 2. What is the best thing that you have done with CYP?** - Definitely the Mull trip - the best part was the rock climbing!
- 3. What is the funniest thing that has happened when you have been at CYP?**
- The Halloween party when I was in P.7. - seeing the girls crying when they realised it was their last Thursday club Halloween party.
- 4. Where is the best place to be at CYP?** - The coffee bar and games room
- 5. Describe CYP in three words** - Fantastic, Brilliant, Superb.

During each of the school holiday periods, apart from Christmas, we ran a selection of extremely successful holiday activity programmes for each weekly club age group. Activities on these programmes ranged from go-carting, trips to M&D's fun park and mountain biking to beach barbeques, arts projects and surfing. The school based support we provide has continued to form a vital component within the wider pupil support services of the individual schools benefiting from our input. The professional working relationship between CYP and James Gillespies High school, our main partnership secondary school since the catchment area boundary changes in 2006 has continued to develop in a positive manner. The nature of our service in this regard remains consistent with previous years, consisting of individual work support for students referred to us by the school's Pupil Support Group. The formal structure of this work at a Local Authority level has changed and developed significantly from the former Working Together service into the new Early Intervention service. There also exists the capacity to carry out a variety of group work programmes in partnership with the school. As well as our core service provision within James Gillespies we have continued to enjoy a positive, professional working relationship with both Boroughmuir High School and St Thomas of Aquin's High School. Our primary school based work, which also operates within the parameters of the new Early Intervention Service, has been a very significant part of our over all work programme this year, involving very positive professional partnerships with Royal Mile Primary School, Preston Street Primary School, Sciennes Primary School, James Gillespie's Primary School and Tollcross Primary School. The main aims and desired outcomes of all CYP's school based work are directly associated with improving the school experiences of all children and young people involved. These desired and expected outcomes are worked towards via the provision of individual and group work support to children and young people identified as facing significant challenges to their educational experience. Such provision ranges in nature from specific,

referral based individual and groupwork programmes, such as the very successful single gender female groupwork programme that took place within Boroughmuir High School, to whole class transition groupwork support such as that which took place within Preston Street Primary School and Royal Mile Primary School. The latter of these involves the annual delivery of structured group work programmes to children in Primary 7 who are about to make the very significant transition into a secondary school environment. These group work programmes offer children an opportunity to look, in some significant detail, at their hopes and concerns in relation to this transition. Our transition groupwork programme also

perhaps, be seen as a core philosophy inherent in all the work that we do.

Our positive working relationship with Project Scotland continued to flourish, with another 2 Project Scotland volunteers completing very successful full time placements this year. Hopefully both volunteers benefited as much as CYP did from their involvement, each of them making a very positive impact across the project as a whole. Their input ranged from running specialist music sessions to helping design CYP's Personal Development Plan for volunteers. Many more significant pieces of work were also undertaken and successfully completed as part of their respective placements.



Angela Smith - Age 20 - Parents Group member, CAST user and former trainee

- 1. What is your first memory of CYP?** - Coming for an interview - I was really keen to get started.
- 2. What is the best thing that you have done with CYP?** - Attending the Parents Group
- 3. What is the funniest thing that has happened when you have been at CYP?** - The Parents Group B-B-Q at Longniddry in the pouring rain - brollies and taking shelter in the minibus!
- 4. Where is the best place to be at CYP?** - Doing different activities in the building.
- 5. Describe CYP in three words** - Helpful, friendly environment.

included, for the fourth year now, a referred transition group made up of pupils from the three James Gillespie's cluster, feeder primary schools that CYP offers Early Intervention support to, these being: Sciennes, Tollcross and James Gillespie's primary schools respectively.

In 2009 we were involved in planning and delivering a groupwork programme within the Royal Mile Primary school that turned out to be somewhat different from the norm. This particular piece of work was quite unique in that it began life as a referred group of children identified as being in need of some extra support and evolved into a whole class piece of groupwork which, ultimately, on this particular occasion, enjoyed greater success in terms of participation by pupils and positive outcomes. This demonstrated the great need for flexibility with regards working with children and young people. It also clearly demonstrated our ability as a staff team to offer such flexibility in the best interests of the children and young people we work with. This can,

This year also saw us facilitate a three month full time practice placement for a Social Work Student going through the German higher education system. This was extremely successful and provided a fantastic opportunity for the exchange of different cultural experiences.

Input from volunteers generally has remained vital to the Youth Work services that we offer and across the Project as a whole. A huge thanks must be extended to all volunteers who have contributed to the work of the project.

In relation to the employment advice mentioned earlier which has been central to our Tuesday Club provision this past year, the extremely unstable global financial situation has placed increasing amounts of pressure on young people from this particular age group. The subsequent anxieties and in some cases desperation felt by many of these young people have proven to be a significant influence on the decisions and choices they have been faced with making. An example of this might be seen in the far greater amounts of young men who have considered committing to a career in the army in

the past year. A significant number of young people considering this avenue stated their main reason for doing so was the thought that their was nothing else for them. We have worked hard as a staff team to try and fully understand the current challenges faced by young people in this regard and to provide the necessary professional support and guidance they deserve. In these times of continuing economic uncertainty and instability this aspect of our work looks set to become increasingly relevant and vital.

Volunteering with Canongate Youth Project - Alan Beveridge, local parent, volunteer in the Thursday Club and with CAST

After working in area management retail for the last 16 years, I realised that it was no longer a challenge and a job my heart was in. I began the re-evaluation of my thoughts regarding career opportunities. I realised that as my son grew older, I enjoyed more and more the activities we shared together with his friends. I came to the conclusion that I would love to work in a social work/youth work capacity but in which area I didn't know. I got tremendous help in this respect from Christine Meldrum, a volunteer organiser with Volunteer Scotland, who suggested I do some volunteering work with children and young people to check my suitability before committing myself to applying for training courses or jobs. She recommended Canongate Youth Project. It sounded fantastic so a meeting was set up with Suzanne, one of the Project workers. That was three months ago and I can honestly say, hand on heart, that I've loved every minute of it. The kids are great, so full of energy and life and no matter what kind of day I have had, their enthusiasm and energy is infectious. The advice and support from full time staff and other volunteers is absolutely fantastic. The CYP has made a big difference in my life regarding opening my eyes to what's out there career wise and I now hope to go to college or university next year.

As a local parent, I think it's great to have CYP providing a safe and fun environment for kids. The activities I have seen on offer give the kids the chance to do things they wouldn't have the opportunity to do elsewhere. My eleven year old son Reece has attended the Thursday club a few times and thoroughly enjoys the activities on offer. It's a great club with a wonderful team of staff and volunteers.

The local community should be proud of Canongate Youth Project and I am sure they are.

I am very thankful for the opportunity the CYP has given me in respect to learning new skills and guiding me in the right direction regarding courses I would like to do in order to work in youth/social work in the future.

The community based nature of service provision within the Youth Work Team has continued to be central to our ethos and professional practice. The strong and progressive links that have been built up with families, young people and other organisations throughout the years make this commitment to our local community a very active, dynamic and constantly evolving one. It really does lie at the heart of the youth work services we deliver, adding great strength and depth to the outcomes we are able to achieve in partnership with local people.

As a staff team we are very optimistic and positive about the differences our services can continue to make to the lives of children and young people living within Edinburgh's South Side/Old Town community. Between the Youth work Team and the local community we hope very much to go on developing and delivering new, relevant and exciting services for children and young people that will serve to improve the quality of life for individuals and ultimately strengthen the fabric of the community as a whole.



Callum Stobie - Age 6 - Banana Club

- 1. What is your first memory of CYP?** - The colourful badges that everyone wears at the Banana Club
- 2. What is the best thing that you have done with CYP?** - Playing games in the coffee bar
- 3. What is the funniest thing that has happened when you have been at CYP?** When Suzanne was pretending to be a witch at the Halloween party!
- 4. Where is the best place to be at CYP?** - The music studio.
- 5. Describe CYP in three words** - Best, Friendly, Super!

Get Ready for Work

The past year has been eventful and challenging for the Get Ready for Work Team. The economic downturn coupled with changes to programme rules from Skills Development Scotland have resulted in new hurdles to overcome. Despite this we continue to strive to provide a dynamic, multi faceted and relevant programme to facilitate positive transitions for young people and build on previous success.

A key addition to the programme has been the use of the Health Scotland events calendar. Following the health events calendar of the year has enabled us to introduce a new element to the programme. Activities have focused on raising awareness, challenging myths and increasing knowledge of topics including cervical cancer, world aids day, breast cancer, 'Fruity Friday' and sexual health. This has proved very successful and is a vital health promotion tool for the programme.

A further addition to the programme and a first for the Project, was the facilitation of the nationally recognised Sports Leader UK Level 1 Award run as a partnership project with Edinburgh Leisure. The five week programme involved a group of 10 trainees developing communication and leadership skills through the medium of sport. This culminated in the participants running a sports session in the Thursday Club. All the sessions were very successful and evidenced the vast progression in confidence and ability of the trainees.

Placements continue to be an integral and invaluable aspect of the programme. Throughout the year we

have worked with and strengthened our links with long standing providers such as Charlie Miller, Edinburgh University Maintenance Department, British Heart Foundation and Fox Covert Nursery. The team have worked hard to establish new links with employers to expand our work experience provision. These include among others, Edinburgh Leisure, John Lewis, Jenners, North Berwick Nursery and Au Naturelle. The wide array of placement providers is an asset to the programme and assists in providing trainees with the opportunity to develop a variety of skills.

In addition to formal training, the trainees have also been involved in events such as Street League's annual five aside tournament in Glasgow. The tournament involved over 30 teams from around Scotland and with determination, a great attitude and excellent team work the team was hugely successful in winning the overall tournament. The boys did an exceptional job of representing the Project and were very proud to bring home the trophy on the train. In addition the trainees have been busy fundraising for Comic Relief and Children 1st, holding bake sales and a car wash for users of South Bridge Resource Centre. Good preparation and strong team work resulted in over £200 being raised for each charity.

As ever, the Get Ready for Work team has enjoyed a very interesting and diverse year, with inevitable highs and lows. Despite these being difficult times, both the trainees and staff have faced challenges head on and continue to develop, inspire and achieve.



Alana Cormack - Age 17 - Trainee, Get Ready for Work

- 1. What is your first memory of CYP?** - Everybody introducing themselves, everybody being happy.
- 2. What is the best thing that you have done with CYP?** - The bake sale - it was amazing, we raised £217 for charity.
- 3. What is the funniest thing that has happened when you have been at CYP?** - Clare being Santa at Christmas and Susie v's Rowan - The Final!
- 4. Where is the best place to be at CYP?** - The coffee bar at the breakfast club, chilling out before work.
- 5. Describe CYP in three words** - Amazing, Encouraging, Supportive


Options Plus

The success of Options Plus and the young people who have passed through it over the past five years has been built on an ethos of flexibility and sensitivity. It meets and challenges young people through individual and corporate group settings. It seeks to promote medium and long term sustainability for the young people it serves, not just offering quick-fix solutions – though, sometimes these are needed and appropriate. The Project wants to allow young people the necessary space and time to become more familiar with who they are. How they react. How they respond. The things that ignite desire and motivation while also exploring barriers to development and progression.

Below is a brief summary of some of the new initiatives that Options Plus has been fortunate to include into the programme over the course of the past year.

Residential

Support from Skills Development Scotland allowed Options Plus to enhance our budget to include residential as part of overall experience. These have typically taken place over the course of a weekend. The Project was fortunate last year to be able to take a group away on two residentials, one to Glasgow and the other to Innerwick and the impact that these had, in terms of positive progressions for the group, was astounding. On both occasions groups that had been together for about five to six months went on the trips and while they would have progressed eventually, the impact of being on the three day residentials proved a huge turning point. Within four to five weeks of returning from the residentials 80% of the two groups had progressed onto training,



Shaun Newman - Music and Tuesday club member Age 14 years

- 1. What is your first memory of CYP?** -Getting on with everyone from the first day.
- 2. What is the best thing that you have done with CYP?** - Surfing and banana speed boat!
- 3. What is the funniest thing that has happened when you have been at CYP?** - When I laugh at myself for getting something wrong on the drums.
- 4. Where is the best place to be at CYP?** - The music club
- 5. Describe CYP in three words** - It Is Brilliant!

education and employment opportunities. The experience of these residentials hastened their resolve and commitment to both Options Plus and their own individual goals. Being away for three days was a steep learning curve. It was, for many, the first time they had been away from home without their family. Very often, the young person's family situation is a barrier to progression and being away from that allowed them to be more objective and rational about their home situation.

Volunteering with Canongate Youth Project - Zoe Jones

"I began volunteering with Canongate Youth Project's after-school clubs in November 2008. I help out with the Thursday Club attended by 8-11 year olds from the surrounding areas.

Although I worked in Health and Social Care I had no experience of working with young people and was quite nervous to begin with. Gradually my confidence has increased through shadowing more experienced volunteers, attending CYP's training courses and the professional example staff set.

The Thursday Club is attended by local children towards the end of primary school and activities include cooking, music, art, football, dancing, computers etc. I really enjoy seeing the children try new activities and feel pride in their achievements, especially when it challenges their preconceptions (e.g. boys doing cooking!). There is a great atmosphere at the club with a large variety of activities on offer.

Volunteering with CYP gave me an insight into the issues and practices of Youth Work and I am now enrolled on the MSc in Community Education at Moray House. I really enjoy the course and am able to draw on my continuing experience at CYP."

Employment not always the most appropriate outcome

For many young people that Options Plus work with who are not in employment, education or training the initial destination may not be employment. Fast tracking them into low skill/low pay jobs without appropriate support options is only likely to see them leave that job and be recycled through other training schemes in the future. For those young people with the most complex support needs we must take account of the broader range of options available to them which will help build their skills and confidence and strive towards sustained economic activity.

Throughout the life of Options Plus the Project has used both the function of the PEST (*Peer Education Skills and Training*) and The Volunteer Centre Edinburgh to enhance the development of the young people by offering sensitive, supported full-time training and volunteering opportunities.

The Volunteer Centre Edinburgh

Over the course of the last year staff have built up a positive relationship with The Volunteer Centre. The young people who attended Options Plus, for the most part, have no professional experience and, given the recent economic climate, find themselves pushed further down the hierarchy as more people with years of experience, skills and qualifications are entering the unemployment market. Volunteering is an excellent tool for giving the young people the opportunities to take risks and experiment with jobs and careers that they may not have previously considered or been able to access. The demands are often much less than those involved with full time equivalents and this has allowed young people to learn things in more supportive and understanding environments. The last year has seen some of the young people volunteer successfully with The Risk Factory, Teens Plus, Venture Scotland, The British Heart Foundation and the Grassmarket Mission.

PEST

The PEST group work was delivered on one additional day a week and allowed the group to focus on an activity that brought together the diverse skills gained

from the other two days learning and add a very practical opportunity for the young people to practice and improve these skills.

PEST offered accredited Peer Education training to the young people attending Options Plus. The programme ran over 6 months and equipped the young people with the skills and knowledge necessary to construct a Peer Education project based around the theme of 'Identity'.

This theme was very much in response to the growing number of non nationals living in Scotland and the stigmas and stereotypes attached to these groups. It had a dual purpose:-

to develop their understanding of their own identity – *What does being Scottish mean? Scotland's history and the movement of people from Scotland over the past couple of hundred years (Highland Clearances etc), their own family history;*

and to explore the cultures and identities of people from other countries, the impact Scotland has made on these cultures and vice versa.

The group developed a variety of media to help

formulate a training package around this theme, with the main form of media being a DVD focusing on five sub themes: *Music; Food; Sport; Language; and Entertainment*. The DVD was used to enhance the awareness for both people who are new to Edinburgh and those who have been born and raised in Edinburgh, to challenge their opinions, to offer them new insights into the range of activities available throughout the city and the range of different influences that have come together to make the city what it is today.

The skills and experience offered through participation in these programmes serve to further meet the social and professional needs of the group and we shall be looking to continue these relationships with these providers while looking to expand the range and diversity of training opportunities for the young people on Options Plus in the future.



Tia Aitken - CAST and Young Parents Group, Former trainee and youth club member.

- 1. What is your first memory of CYP? - I remember painting bikes on the mural in the coffee bar - and they're still there after 12 years!**
- 2. What is the best thing that you have done with CYP? - Definitely the CAST residential to Fort William.**
- 3. What is the funniest thing that has happened when you have been at CYP? - Going to East Links Farm with the Parents Group when I was eight months pregnant and trying to drive a kids go-kart.**
- 4. Where is the best place to be at CYP? - The CAST office - you always get a good chat!**
- 5. Describe CYP in three words - Eventful, Helpful and Fun**

Canongate Advice & Support Team (CAST)

The past year has been a difficult one for CAST, primarily due to funding issues. The Project managed to secure an additional year of funding from Children in Need, although it's contract with the City of Edinburgh Council to provide housing support for young people was reduced both in hours and in value. One notable result of the funding issues was that CAST was forced to operate with a part time member of staff down for the latter part of the year, leaving just the Development Worker and the Part Time Project Worker to run the programme.

Despite this it has been a busy and successful year, which has seen the continuing development of the Health & Home small groupwork programme and an increase in the demand for individual supports from young people.

Volunteering with Canongate Youth Project - Kerry Thomson: Music Club

I began volunteering in August 2009 and have thoroughly enjoyed it. CYP offers their volunteers new learning experiences, such as child protection training. The staff are very supportive, always working with the best interests of young people in mind. There is quite a mix of young people at the music club and I was a bit nervous about this at first. The staff are very supportive, however and understand how it can be nerve racking. They make sure that you are not in a position as a volunteer that you feel uncomfortable in. Over the past few months I've enjoyed working in the Music Club. The young people seem to really enjoy themselves and are allowed to show their creativity on a wide range of musical instruments.

The 'Open Door' drop in facility has once again been well used by young people and whilst by far the biggest area of demand is for housing support, staff are always ready to respond to whatever issues the young people bring. Common issues raised are concerning sexual health, budgeting and money, general mental well being and relationships.

The Health & Home programme continues to be well received by young people and is primarily attended by trainees on the Get Ready for Work programme. Health and Home is a six-week programme of small groupwork, three sessions a week and normally around 8/9 young people attending each session. There are three strands to the programme: - Issue based sessions (e.g. drug and alcohol awareness, sexual health, housing options etc.); Mental well being sessions (which cover a wide range of issues including stress management and relaxation, self esteem and confidence, anger management and relationships and families); the third strand of

sessions has been cooking skills (including cooking on a budget, healthy eating and practical skills).

The Health and Home programme not only offers a 'taster' for young people on the sort of issues that they can get more in depth support with from CAST staff, but also allows staff to build positive relationships with young people so that they are better placed to offer advice and support if young people come across crises.

The housing support element of the work with young people can take a variety of forms and will cover housing options, support to access tenancies as well as in-tenancy support to those young people trying to establish their first tenancies.

A typical scenario is that of a young person arriving at CAST's door asking to speak with one of the workers – they will report that they have been asked to leave the family home by their parent(s) or that they have been kicked out and have been sleeping on their pals sofa for the past week.



Megan Slater - Options+ Age 16 years

- 1. What is your first memory of CYP?** - Walking up the stairs being very nervous and walking into a room full of guys.
- 2. What is the best thing that you have done with CYP?** - Started volunteering work with TeensPlus - I wouldn't have done this on my own.
- 3. What is the funniest thing that has happened when you have been at CYP?** - When I kicked Andy's butt at Ministry of gaming - it was a great day.
- 4. Where is the best place to be at CYP?** - The games room 'cos it's more relaxed.
- 5. Describe CYP in three words** - Fun, Relaxed, Interesting.

Firstly CAST staff will examine all their housing options both in the short term and also the longer term. The preferred option, if possible, is always to see whether something can be sorted out so that they can remain at home – It is very difficult for young people to access suitable housing at the current time in Edinburgh! If this is not possible then all other options are explored. Unfortunately the private sector is often (but not always) out of the young person's grasp financially and application for social housing through the Council or a Housing Association is more often than not the preferred option.

Staff at CAST and the young person agree a housing support plan and CAST will offer support until that young person is settled in their own tenancy (this can take up to 8/9 months). Often young people will require temporary accommodation until they are able to access their own tenancies and CAST will help them find the appropriate accommodation and offer emotional and practical support whilst they are there.



Kaya Brown - Thursday Club member, age 10 P7 Royal Mile Primary School

- 1. What is your first memory of CYP?**
Getting to meet all the new people and the staff.
- 2. What is the best thing that you have done with CYP?**
Going to camp because you get to do exciting activities - mountain biking especially.
- 3. What is the funniest thing that has happened when you have been at CYP?**
When someone pushed me by accident and I broke my wrist!
- 4. Where is the best place to be at CYP?**
The coffee bar 'cos there's loads of seats and you can talk to your friends, go on the computer and eat lovely fruit
- 5. Describe CYP in three words**
Exciting, Random and Funny

Over the year staff have been successful in applying for grants to help young people who have found themselves homeless and in temporary accommodation or just moving into their new flats with little or no furniture. Several grants of up to £150 have been secured to allow young people to get some new clothes as well as new items such as washing machines, fridges and cookers. CAST can also access second hand furniture and small household items from a variety of other voluntary organisations operating throughout the City. The emotional and physical support, as well as the practical help on offer, can often be the difference between a successful move to independence and a failed tenancy.

CAST has continued, over the past year, to develop its partnership with Castle Rock Edinvar Housing Association and, although it has been a slow process, are almost at the point where they can start to offer a new independence training programme in their own training flat, in one of Castle Rock Edinvar's own flats. This is a much awaited and exciting development for CAST and if it comes to fruition in the coming months would offer a positive new service to young people. Staff have also been in discussions with Impact Arts' Fabpad project, which helps young people make the most of their new flats through the creative use of interior design techniques and this developing partnership will prove invaluable if the training flat finally gets off the ground.

Unfortunately, all the exciting potential developments may be jeopardised by a lack of funding. To date, despite a wide ranging intensive funding strategy and applications to many trusts and funds, CAST has only guaranteed funding post March 2010 from Edinburgh Council for the housing support work. Without other funding in place, CAST will not be able to fulfil that contract and the project would need to close. This would have disastrous effects across the whole of Canongate Youth Project. One application is outstanding but we do not expect to hear finally whether that is successful until mid March 2010.

Volunteering with Canongate Youth Project - Matthew Fortune

I started volunteering with CYP when I was 16, I'm 17, going on 18 now.

I have been working for CYP for the last year and a half and it has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my life. The staff and young people have been amazing and given me lots of help. As I would like to become a primary school teacher this has been great experience and I have loved every minute of it. The young people are always up for some fun and taking part in the activities. They made me feel very welcome when I first became a volunteer and I have become good friends with many of them. The staff at CYP are a lot of fun and have helped me to work better with the members of the club and improved my skills to help me become as good a volunteer as I can. Canongate Youth project offers such a friendly environment and I can't imagine having to leave it. I would miss the staff and young people so much.

**Training services had 53 positive outcomes ;
31 young people into employment
and 6 young people into Mainstream
Skill Seekers and 16 young people into
further education**

**CAST staff provided 24 hours
a week housing support to 34
individuals**

**Number of leavers from Get
Ready for Work - 84**

**Youth Work worked with 56
referred children and young
people**

**Training Services had 70
new starts**

17 starts on Options Plus

Some Statistics

**90 children and young people
participated in groupwork
sessions offered by Youth
Work**

**CAST helped 14 young people access and
establish new tenancies**

**There was an average of 33
young people in training on the
Get Ready for Work programme
at any one time**

**There were 469 attendances
at CAST's Home & Health
groupwork sessions**

**367 children and young
people using Youth Work
services**

**221 different children and young
people attended the youth clubs**

**168 different young
people attended
CAST's Home &
Health group sessions**

**Options Plus had 13 positive outcomes:-
7 young people into Get Ready for Work
2 into employment
3 into college
and 1 into further training**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Project would like to acknowledge the support of the following in the funding and development of the programme during the course of the year Oct 08 - Oct 09

YOUTH WORK SERVICES

City of Edinburgh Council: -

Children & Families Service Level Agreement
Children & Families Community Learning & Development
Children & Families Early Intervention
South Central Neighbourhood Partnership
Central Neighbourhood Partnership

Daisy Chain Trust
Laidlaw Youth Project
Circus Starr
The Cruden Foundation
Edinburgh Children's Holiday Fund
John Watson Trust
Braidwood Neighbourhood Centre

CANONGATE ADVICE & SUPPORT TEAM

BBC Children in Need
The Robertson Trust
City of Edinburgh Housing Support
Housing the Homeless Central Fund
Morrisons
Scotmid
Tesco
Sainsbury
Frank Buttle Trust

OPTIONS +

Skills Development Scotland
Careers Scotland
PEST (Peer Education Skills Training)

TRAINING SERVICES

Skills Development Scotland
Standard Life
Lothian & Borders Fire & Rescue Service
British Army
Careers Scotland
Youth Coaching Scotland
Women's Aid
Clan
Telford College
Duke of Edinburgh Awards
Living Memory Association
British Youth Council
Fairdeal

Fast Forward
Work Track
Crew mind altering

Placement Providers

Bank of New York
Blossom Day Nursery
British Heart Foundation, Nicolson Street
Cargo
Craigentinny Primary School
Crewe Road Nursery
Edinburgh Leisure
Edinburgh University Maintenance
Elysium Hair Salon
Ethel Austin, Leith
Farmer Autocare
Fox Covert Nursery
Gorgie City Farm
Gregor Shore
Indigo Yard
Inter Auto Windscreens
John Lewis
Marks & Spencer
Pumpkin Patch Nursery
Pure Spa, Ocean Terminal
RD Joinery
S.K. Chase
Standard Life
Strawberry Hill Nursery
The Drum Riding Centre

GENERAL PROJECT

RCAHMS
NHS Lothian
Mrs Rankin & Mrs Oliver (Project Knitters)
Edinburgh Voluntary Organisation Trust
Dynamic Earth
Project Scotland
Scottish Business in the Community
Grant Anderson (website Development)
Ponton House Trust
Edinburgh Leisure
Brownlee Old Town Trust
White Horse Bar
South Side Association

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The Rock Trust
Edinburgh Voluntary Organisations Council**

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