

Impact Initiatives

The end of an era in Whitehawk

After over 13 years of supporting young people in Whitehawk, Impact's Whitehawk Play & Adventure Project (WPAP) will close at the end of March 2005 when its three-year grant from eb4u comes to an end. The project has provided holiday and term-time activities for 9 – 16 year olds, which have been hugely popular, and the GAP and WHAT'S TO DO schemes will be greatly missed by young people and their families.

WPAP has given young people the opportunity to use their time positively, especially during the long summer holidays. Through programmes of adventurous activity, young people have gained confidence, developed new skills and learned about team working. The programmes have been of great support to vulnerable families and have had a role in preventing young people from becoming involved in crime and anti-social behaviour.

WPAP has also supported young people in setting up their own independent activity groups. Young people have organised programmes of term-time adventurous activities for themselves, and groups of young people have been formed to develop their skills in different areas, such as motorcycling and dance.

Services Manager Moira Blake says;

“Although there has been strong local support for WPAP for many years, the eb4u grant has been the sole funding source for its work, as other sources of statutory and charitable funding have dried up. We have had to take the very difficult decision to close the project, but we hope that current discussions between Whitehawk residents, eb4u and the City Council may lead to new provision being set up to take WPAP's place”.

Chris Peters, Impact's Chief Executive, expressed her gratitude to the staff and volunteers;

“The project has had an important place in the local community over many years and this is a testament to the skill and dedication of our staff and volunteers. We are very grateful to them all, but I would particularly like to thank Sue Barnes, the WPAP Team Leader, who has been involved with the project since 1991. Sue's commitment and hard work has been instrumental to WPAP's success and she has made an enormous contribution to the development of provision for young people in Whitehawk”.

Last year.....

- Thirty young people were involved in planning and booking their own programmes of adventurous activities.
- Twenty play places per day were available at the term time after school club with forty-eight children registered. Twenty places were available per day at a four day Easter Playscheme with 21 children registered.
- Over eight hundred activity places were utilised by more than 100 young people on GAP and WHAT'S TO DO summer schemes.
- Twenty older young people able to organise their own semi independent groups including forming committees, planning and costing activity programmes, fundraising, keeping accounts and writing reports.