

## Re. WNF Consortium for Great Yarmouth Community Trust Projects 56, 60 & 61

### Blue Cat Initiative

A case study demonstrating the good work being done at Street Life Soccer.

I have been working with Blue Cat since I began working in Great Yarmouth in February 2010 providing support and progression routes (towards work and further training) for the clients attending the programme.

The client I have written a case study for is Stephen he is 24 and first accessed the WNF through Target Opportunities (Ben Sampson) outreach at Beulah House where he found out about the Street Life Soccer programme ran by Blue Cat and FITC.

He began attending regularly and has taken an active part in both the learning and the football, including attending a number of tournaments. Whilst at Street Life Soccer Stephen has also spoken to Target Opportunities (Brenden Hardy) about Coaching qualifications and also his interest in alternative therapies. As a result of this, Stephen has reserved a place on a Reiki First Degree course and is also looking into attending an FA Level 1 qualification.

When attending Street Life on 14 May 2010 Stephen spoke to Mike (Blue Cat) and told him that he has recently been evicted from Beulah House and had been sleeping rough for the last few days and had approached the Council who had told him there was nothing they could do as he was 16-24 with no health problems. He had also approached the local hostels but could not find any spaces.

As part of the Street Life sessions workers from Target Opportunities (Brenden), MAP (Karla George) and Aspire (Simon) attend to offer advice and support. Having these workers here meant that Stephen could access support quickly and easily. He spoke to Brenden who passed on the details of the Salvation Army drop-ins so that Stephen had somewhere he could go to shower, clean his clothes and get something to eat. He met Simon from Aspire who helped him with temporary accommodation through the Benjamin Foundation to ensure he had somewhere to stay in the short term. Karla also arranged an appointment with Stephen on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> May so they could sit down and fill out an application for St Matthews Housing Trust to find medium term accommodation and receive support in finding a long term place to live.

The outcomes for this client are as follows.

**Outcome 1:** Target Opportunities supported Stephen to access Street Life Soccer and training courses

**Outcome 2:** Stephen received advice on how to access support from the Salvation Army

**Outcome 3:** Stephen has met with Aspire about temporary accommodation

**Outcome 4:** Stephen has completed an application for St Matthews Housing

After working with Blue Cat's Street Life Soccer for the last 4 months I have seen first hand how well the project works. It is an excellent way to engage vulnerable people with the services on offer in the local area as it is a relaxed and fun environment to come into and really helps to build the confidence of the service users taking part. As part of the project Mike is also very keen to include workers from different organisations so that when problems do arise there are people on hand with the expertise to help. If the service users do decide that they would like to progress and take part in further training or require support accessing employment, housing or other organisations in the area the expertise is there to do so and it removes many of the barriers normally faced when trying to access new services.

On a personal note I have been made to feel very welcome and have been encouraged to take part in all the sessions which has helped me to develop good relationships with many of the service users. This has been really useful as it has also helped as people will now approach me if they want assistance with anything.

If any further information is require on this I can be contacted on the details below.

Yours sincerely

Brenden Hardy  
Target Opportunities Worker  
07947 227728  
[brenden.hardy@voluntarynorfolk.org.uk](mailto:brenden.hardy@voluntarynorfolk.org.uk)