

## Informing Communities Case Study: Get Smart, Get Help, Get Safe

Informing: Providing clear, relevant and accessible information about services and decisions



**Project:** This project was established from an event at which children and young people discussed their thoughts and feelings and identified that 'staying safe' was an important concern that young people struggled to address. Through further discussions, looking for potential solutions, it was decided that information gathered from the young people could be used to raise awareness and tackle areas of concern.

**Design:** The themes of Crime & Anti-Social Behaviour, Education & Learning and Health, Wellbeing & Lifestyle, were deemed appropriate to develop and cover the issue of staying safe.

**Method:** West Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service, West Yorkshire Police, British Transport Police, Lifeline, Young Peoples Service, Yorkshire Ambulance Service, Kirklees Road Safety Team and Break all offered their time to work alongside steering groups of young people to deliver workshops to their peers.

**Results:** In pre-workshop development it was identified that the topics of prominent concern, broken down from the three key themes, were: gang culture; street safety, and community cohesion; the risks which can occur with consuming drugs and/or alcohol; being the victim of street violence, robbery or verbal abuse; travelling safely on public transport; crossing busy roads, pedestrian safety and being offered lifts in cars; being taken away by somebody. The young people in the steering groups had a clear idea of what they wanted to achieve and developed 5 young person led workshops with the partner agencies (a sixth workshop was completely adult led by Break). The planning and delivery of the workshops used a variety of skills including: communication (with young people and professionals), planning, organising, acting, team work and commitment.

**Outcomes:** Evaluation of the workshops by the steering group, the professionals and participants explored the positives and negatives of the method of providing practical information around the themes. Positive feedback included participants feeling more informed about their own personal safety. Both the professionals and participants felt the workshops could last longer, develop further on the topics and potentially culminate in a final, inclusive, workshop. Ongoing work from the workshops includes:

- The Development of Young People's Road Safety Champions
- Young people's campaign to promote the reporting of crimes in their communities
- Young people led project in partnership with TRA to improve relations between young people and other residents in the Ashworth Area of West Town.



**Conclusion:** This project is a fantastic example of the local authority and partner organisations working to inform a targeted part of the community about an issue, and use different methods of involvement activity in a clear, relevant and accessible way. It also looked closely at feedback to best improve future informing work.

For more information on this project please click on this [Involve link](#)