

Gateshead Young Women's Outreach Project

YOUNG WOMEN'S OUTREACH PROJECT

THE YOUNG WOMEN'S OUTREACH PROJECT HAS BEEN RUNNING FOR 25 YEARS. WE WORK WITH YOUNG WOMEN AND YOUNG MOTHERS IN THE NORTH EAST AGED 11-19YRS.

WE SUPPORT, GUIDE YOUNG WOMEN THROUGH CRISIS IN THEIR LIVES. THESE CRISES CAN BE FINDING OUT THAT THEY ARE PREGNANT, PROBLEMS OR STRUGGLING IN SCHOOLS, MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES, RAPE, SELF HARM, LACK OF CONFIDENCE AND SELF BELIEF, VIOLENCE OR SEXUAL EXPLOITATION, THE LIST GOES ON AND ON. MANY OF THESE YOUNG WOMEN AND MOTHERS ARE REFERRED INTO THE PROJECT BY A VAST RANGE OF PROFESSIONALS, SUCH AS SOCIAL WORKERS, TEACHERS, EMOTIONAL WELLBEING, FAMILY INTERVENTION TEAMS, YOUNG WOMEN OFTEN REFER THEMSELVES, OR RING IN WHEN THEY FEEL THEY ARE IN CRISIS OR NEED SUPPORT THROUGH A PARTICULAR IS-SUE.

WE ARE OFTEN INVOLVED WITH SAFEGUARDING AND WE ENSURE OUR ROLE IS ABOUT SUPPORTING THAT YOUNG WOMAN THROUGH THE PROCESS, WITH OPEN AND AN HONEST APPROACH NO MATTER HOW DIFFICULT.

WE OFFER ONE TO ONE SUPPORT AND OFTEN SIGNPOST AND (HAND HOLD) YOUNG WOMEN TO OTHER SERVICES AND PROFESSIONALS WHO WE FEEL MET THEIR NEEDS. YOUNG WOMEN AND YOUNG MOTHERS ALSO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO JOIN BESPOKE GROUPS; SOME GROUPS CAN BE AS SMALL AS TWO GROUP MEMBERS TO TWELVE GROUP MEMBERS DEPENDING ON THE LEVEL OF NEED AND THE ISSUES THAT NEED TO BE WORKED ON.

MANY OF THE YOUNG WOMEN AND MOTHERS WHO ARE REFERRED TO US DO JOIN OUR GROUPS; THE FOCUS OF THESE GROUPS IS MAINLY ABOUT PERSONAL AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT. ONCE IN THE GROUPS MANY YOUNG WOMEN SAY THEY FEEL LESS ALONE, LISTENED TO AND SUPPORTED IN THE ISSUES THAT ARE AFFECTING THEIR LIVES AT THE TIME. THEY DEVELOP POSITIVE RELATIONSHIPS, GAIN SUPPORT FROM OTHER YOUNG WOMEN; THEY LEARN COPING MECHANISMS AND STRATEGIES. WE SUPPORT THESE YOUNG WOMEN UNTIL THEY FEEL THAT THEY ARE READY TO TAKE THE NEXT STEPS IN LIFE.

WE LOVE WORKING WITH ANY PROFESSIONALS WHO ARE WILLING TO ENHANCE THE LIVES OF YOUNG WOMEN AND YOUNG MOTHERS, WE OFTEN HOST INFORMATION MEETINGS FOR STUDENTS AND PROFESSIONALS, WHERE YOU CAN VISIT THE YOUNG WOMEN'S PROJECT, MEET ONE OF THE WORKERS AND FIND OUT WHAT WE DO IN MORE DETAIL. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO COME ALONG TO ONE OF THE MEETINGS THEN PLEASE GIVE US A RING ON 0191 4777759 AND ASK TO SPEAK TO JULIE STOTT, PROJECT MANAGER WHO ORGANISES THEM.

ABOUT ME

JOANNE JOPLING CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF THE CHARITY THE YOUNG WOMEN'S OUTREACH PROJECT. I HAVE WORKED WITH CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE FOR TWENTY FIVE YEARS, AND HAVE A BACKGROUND IN YOUTH & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND INFORMAL EDUCATION.