



This project is funded by:



### *Project Case Study*

## **Streets Ahead; Chester, rural Cheshire, Ellesmere Port and Neston**

### **Project Overview**

'Streets Ahead' is a project aimed at young people aged 14-16 from schools in the Chester, rural Cheshire, Ellesmere Port and Neston areas who are at risk of becoming Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET). Funded by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) as part of its 2007-10 European Social Fund (ESF) Co-finance Plan, the project runs throughout the academic year to support the learners and ensure they remain in education.

The contract is delivered by YMCA Training and Building Young People's Potential (BYPP), providing activities and programmes to raise skill levels and prepare each learner for a successful, healthy and fulfilling adult life.

### **How it works**

The programme is designed to engage young people who have previously been unresponsive to educational discipline and who struggle to develop relationships with adults and those in authority. The training providers work together to encourage the learners to overcome their problems and maintain their attendance at school.

Streets Ahead operates two days a week, from September to June, with learners attending mainstream school for the remainder of the week. Currently 38 young people are involved with the project, following referrals from schools for reasons such as behavioural issues and communication difficulties, which were affecting their development and success within education.

The programme works to increase independence and confidence, in addition to raising skill levels in literacy, numeracy and IT. Each learner's plan is tailor made to

maximise their progression over the year, and their programmes includes individual one-to-one sessions with tutors to aid personal development.

Throughout the year, the learners work towards gaining qualifications in Employability Skills, Personal Development Levels 1 - 4 and Practical Work Skills. These will prepare learners for a range of career directions after compulsory education.

With such a variety of progression paths available to the learners, planning for the future is a key aspect of the course. Many intend to go to college, while others are interested in joining the army and some are planning to enter employment. Learners have the opportunity to find out more about the options open to them by visiting career conventions, service open days and Higher Education institutes.

### **Impact and Success**

Since the start of the project in September 2008 there have been many success stories. The young people who were initially identified as potentially NEET are maintaining their attendance within education, and each learner is visibly developing as an individual and fulfilling their potential.

Developing a close relationship with schools has enabled the project to adapt to the requirements of each learner, with constant feedback in between sessions. Teaching staff have commented on the programme's impact, with many seeing the changes in behaviour and attitude during lessons, and the improvement in interaction between the learners and their peers.

One of the project's female participants experienced difficulties at school and was at risk of being permanently excluded. She had a low attendance record and struggled to interact positively with peers and teachers.

Since joining the project, she has achieved 100% attendance and has dramatically changed as a person. Her confidence has increased and she has completed Practical Work Skills qualifications and is currently working towards her ASDAN (Award Scheme Development and Accreditation Network) bronze qualification. With the help of her tutors and peers the participant is now in the position to continue with education at college and has a bright future ahead of her.