



Better outcomes for vulnerable young people

Base 33 provides an open door through which young people aged 13 -24 experiencing challenges can find a welcome, specialist support, guidance and training to help them achieve their potential.



We help disadvantaged young people transform their lives.

We have a strong record of achieving this through our programmes which:

- Reduce criminality and anti-social behaviour
- Reduce drug, alcohol and substance misuse
- Motivate young people back into education
- Help them obtain training and employment
- Support teenage parents
- Increase awareness of health issues
- Support young people who are homeless or at risk of being homeless.

Contributing to:

- Enhanced life opportunities for young people
- Improved community cohesion
- Reduced cost to public finances.

"I for one am someone who has benefited massively from what Base 33 have done for me. I would probably have 3 kids and be living off the state now if it wasn't for their help. I was a troubled youth and didn't see any other option. Base 33 helped me tremendously with finishing my education and finding myself a great career. I am forever grateful for what they have done for me and I know that I speak for so many of the youths in Witney over the years." (Caprice).

About Us

Base 33 is the working name of the Witney Ecumenical Youth Trust. We are a community-led youth charity (Charity No 1075908) based in Witney, West Oxfordshire. We offer targeted and holistic youth support to young people that

- are not engaging in full time education, employment and training (NEET)
- have drug/alcohol/substance misuse issues
- are experiencing chaotic lives due to a broad spectrum of social problems (youth homelessness, teenage pregnancy, offending, family breakdown).

Base 33 is a vibrant charity and is well known in the community for its work over the last 12 years with young people that are viewed as challenging, disaffected and difficult to engage.

Through projects, face to face and group work we aim to support and empower young people to make informed choices, we challenge young people to think about negative/risky behaviour, the effects of drug and alcohol abuse and we help them at times of crisis to access housing, pregnancy support and other specialist support. We are open four days and four evenings a week and through a variety of projects we work with around 150 young people each week.

Base 33 is governed by a Board of Trustees and employs a Director/Manager, 4 Youth Workers, an Administrator and 12 volunteers. Base 33 has been awarded the Queens Award for Voluntary Service and in 2010 we were awarded the title of *'Best Community Group'* at the National Kids Count Awards. This was in recognition of our *"consistent and truly inspirational dedication to the future development and well-being of young people."*

Each year we need to raise £100,000 to fund our programmes.

We are:

Proactive - We go out on the streets at night and engage with young people that are experiencing problems and recruit them to our programs.

Innovative - Unlike standard youth centres, we tailor-make a bespoke individual mentoring program for each young person.

Transformative - We have a strong track record in supporting vulnerable young people to gain the skills, confidence and enthusiasm to feel able to access opportunities and feel part of their community.

Holistic – A vulnerable young person can suffer from a variety of issues. Through our different programs we take an integrated approach to deal with all of these.

Determined - We believe passionately that young people on the margins of society must be provided with opportunities to effect change in themselves, in others and to the community of which they are part.

"Base 33 plays an important role in the community and offers hope and support to young people who have lost their way" – David Cameron, Prime Minister.

Our Projects

The Issue

Despite West Oxfordshire's image of a rural idyll, life for young people can be very difficult. Witney has the highest levels in the District of youth offending and young people not in education, employment or education. 31% of Job Seeker Allowance claimants in the town are aged 18-24. Witney is ranked 5th for youth homelessness in Oxfordshire. Poverty and social exclusion for young people can be a hidden and often overlooked issue. Our projects aim to address this.

Crime & Anti-social behaviour

We have delivered detached youth work in Witney on behalf of West Oxfordshire District Council's Safer Communities Partnership for the past seven years. In 2010 we also won the tender to deliver a new service in Carterton. Detached youth work takes place outdoors and is targeted at vulnerable and excluded young people that mainstream youth work and other services may not reach.

Our work involves working on the streets of Witney and Carterton, meeting young people on their territory and developing positive relationships and trust with them. We aim to understand their needs and issues (often drugs, homelessness, anti-social behaviour and lack of places to go and things to do) and offer support, guidance and information. We develop projects with the young people that divert and distract them away from risky/criminal and anti-social behaviour.

Outcome: According to the police *"Base 33 played a large role in reducing our incidents of anti-social behaviour by 21% in the last year".*

Mark's Story

Mark is Senior Youth Worker at Base 33. He leads our outreach work on the streets of Witney and witnesses daily how poverty and social exclusion can be a hidden and often overlooked issue. This was his experience in June 2011.

"This week I dealt with the overdose of a young female who was in contact with me immediately after she'd done it. If I hadn't have been there, what would have been the consequences? We do deal with the most challenging people in Witney."

Drug, alcohol & substance abuse

An early intervention project aimed at challenging young people involved in risky drug/alcohol behaviour and raising awareness of the risks/issues associated with substance misuse through targeted individual support.

We provide individual youth worker support through a bespoke mentoring package. This aims to de-normalise risky behaviour, provide access to alternative positive activities, raise awareness through informal education, offer targeted support and reduce the risks associated with drug, alcohol and substance misuse.

Outcome: The participants have set their own targets for risk reduction; have put in place strategies for diversionary activities including volunteering, gym membership and joining a ladies football team; and 60% of participants have reduced their usage of alcohol and substances and have found employment or are attending school/college more regularly.

"Base 33 helps those who have fallen through society's gaps, picking them up and getting them back on the right path. Without the centre, the problems for Witney would be far-reaching and profound." Witney Gazette.

Education

We have been commissioned by Henry Box Secondary School in Witney to work with a caseload of young people who are at risk of exclusion. This work involves individual one to one mentoring work and small group work. We work with young people to identify problems and reasons for non-attendance or difficulties engaging at school; we develop a set of objectives with young people that will help reduce these problems; we identify strategies to meet these objectives through alternative activities; and we develop a re-integration plan with the school and young people and encourage re-attendance.

Outcome: We have been able to identify young people's barriers to learning and put in place strategies to deal with issues and support them to re-attend school; we help the school to understand why young people are not attending or are displaying negative behaviour in school; and we work in partnership with them to achieve re-integration. As a result we have helped prevent participants from exclusion, successfully reintegrated them back into school and supported them to undertake GCSE's.

"Base 33 helped me stay in school, helped me get my education and helped me with family issues." 17 year-old.

Training & Employment

Job Base is our new mentoring project for young unemployed people aged 16-24, providing education and support to young people that lack the skills and confidence needed to access employment. The focus of the project is to work with young people to develop a bespoke mentoring package in which participants can identify the help and support they require and the key outcomes they would like to achieve to enable them to become job ready.

Participants learn employment skills such as communication, time keeping, self-presentation and CV writing and access Job Centre Advisors who visit Base 33 and educate young people on how to identify job vacancies and advise on current opportunities.

Unemployment is just one of several issues that the young people we work with are experiencing. Young people experiencing low self-esteem, lack of confidence and chaotic lifestyles are less likely to find and maintain employment. Our project supports young people to find ways of dealing with the issues they are experiencing and focus on improving their capacity to be ready for and find employment.

Outcome: In the first three months of operation we worked with 23 young people. Three are now employed, 9 are in training/further education, 3 are actively participating in job/training interviews and 5 are applying for or have been offered apprenticeships.

In addition, we hold an annual summer project, with 500 attendances, that engages young people in activities that are educational, challenging and fun. We provide Health and Safety, Food Hygiene and Manual Handling Courses to NEET young people.

Outcome: We have supported 48 young people to learn new skills, achieve accreditation and build CV's, learning valuable job application skills.

"I didn't have a clue what a CV was let alone how to write one. Base 33 helped me understand what I needed to do and now I have my first ever job interview!"

Young mothers

We run a weekly drop-in for young parents and their children. This started as a response to a group of young parents who felt excluded from local traditional toddler groups. We provide advice on childcare and parenting, money management, going back to work/education and housing and invite guest professionals to offer on-site support

We have almost completed a video diary project called, 'A day in the life...'. This highlights the 'pro's and cons' of being a teenage parent and the young mothers have asked us to show it in schools as part of our outreach education work.

Outcome: We have helped young mothers into further education and training. We have supported mothers facing unsuitable accommodation and eviction notices to find new homes. We have helped those in debt to secure manageable repayment plans.

Jacky's Story

Jacky first came to Base 33 for support when she was 15 and suspected she was pregnant. Unable to talk to family or school she came to seek support from a Youth Worker. Youth workers at Base 33 are trained in sexual health and follow the same protocols for giving advice as nurses. Jacky was very clear she wanted to keep the baby and wanted us to help her tell her mum and school.

The following nine months were hard for Jacky; her mum died of cancer and she didn't have the support of her father, she felt alone and confused. Base 33 worked with Jacky and helped her find accommodation within a Supported Housing Scheme. Youth workers attended appointments with her and helped her to access information and support.

Now aged 20, Jacky was instrumental in the development of Base 33's Young Parent Group and she offers support to other young women experiencing similar issues. This year her son started school and Jacky came to us for support with an application to college. Despite leaving school without qualifications she has enrolled on a course to learn how to be a Hairdresser.

Jacky says:

"If you would have said to me when I first found that I was pregnant, that at 20 years old I would be a great mum and a hairdresser I wouldn't have believed it!"

Health

Our Youthzone project is a weekly health drop-in service run as a partnership between Base 33 and a school health nurse. We offer information and support to young people aged 13+ in a youth centre environment, providing a non-judgmental space in which health and wellbeing issues can be discussed with youth workers and direct support and interventions can be provided by an on-site nurse.

The service was launched in response to discussion with young people, local schools and other partners and an identified need to provide an alternative health service for young people that find it hard to visit their doctor. We know from experience that young people involved in risky behaviour can be reluctant to visit a doctor's surgery for fear of questions from the receptionist and/or seeing someone they know.

Outcome: From January – September 2011 we have supported 86 young people with issues including sexual health, contraception, smoking and anxiety.

"When I thought I was pregnant Base 33 was the first place I went to get advice, I knew that the staff would be supportive, not judge me and support me to get the help I needed".

Homelessness

Base 33 supports young people whom for a variety of reasons are not able to live at home. Homelessness and family rejection can lead to drugs and crime. We take time to discuss with these young people the reasons for their homelessness. In some cases we have effected reconciliation with the family; in others we work with other agencies to arrange appropriate accommodation.

We have delivered a homelessness prevention project to 450 young people across the District as part of our outreach education work.

Outcome: In the first nine months of 2011 we have helped seven young people to find appropriate accommodation. Our early intervention work helps to prevent young homelessness in the first place.

"Base 33 helped me when I had nowhere else to go, they put me in touch with someone at the council and I now have my own place and are sorting my life out. I know I can always go to Base for a chat and a cuppa." – Homeless young person.

Ashleigh's Story

Ashleigh came to Base 33 when his parents kicked him out of home because of repeated problems with the police and drug use. Aged 17 he didn't have any relatives he could stay with and his drug use was escalating, he was involved in low level crime and becoming more chaotic in his behaviour.

Staff at Base 33 enrolled Ashleigh on a mentoring programme and worked with him to identify why he was involved in risky and negative behaviour. Having been excluded from school he told us he felt 'thick and useless' and that no one would even think about giving him a job, he was bored and frustrated and drugs seemed like an easy option.

Youth workers supported Ashleigh to join in projects at Base 33, build new skills and gain accreditation. We also worked with his parents and encouraged them to let him move back home. Ashleigh has just completed an apprenticeship as a Bricklayer and hopes to find a job soon. He is currently on Base 33's JobBase pre-employment training programme.

"Without Base 33, I would probably be in prison and I would not have a family. Base brought me closer to my family and showed me how to deal with situations correctly. Without Base a lot more people would be back on the streets and a lot more trouble would happen."

How You Can Help

Donations

Each year we need to raise £100,000 to fund our programs.

Make a donation. Please print and complete the gift aid declaration attached and send with a cheque, made out to 'Base 33' to: Base 33, 4 Welch Way, Witney, OX28 6JF.

Regular giving. Become a Friend of Base 33 by printing and completing the gift aid declaration and the standing order form attached.

Business giving. Become a Corporate Partner of Base 33. Please phone Claire Dowan on 01993 777870 or email 'claire@base33.org.uk'.

Volunteer fundraisers

If you would like to help us to raise funds for Base 33, please phone Claire Dowan on 01993 777870 or email 'claire@base33.org.uk'.

"Base means everything to me – it is like my family" – Jesse, 18.

Gift Aid Declaration

Base 33 – Witney Ecumenical Youth Trust

Title & full name

.....

Address.....

.....Post code.....

Email.....

I wish Base 33 to treat all gifts of money I have made in the past six years and all future gifts I make from the date of this declaration as Gift Aid donations.

Signed.....Date.....

1. You must pay an amount on Income and/or Capital Gains Tax for each tax year (6 April- 5 April) that is at least equal to the amount of tax that Base 33 will reclaim on your gifts for that tax year.
2. Base 33 will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 you give.
3. If you pay income tax at the higher rate you must include all your Gift Aid donations on your Self Assessment tax return if you want to receive the additional tax relief to you.

Please return this form to:

Base 33, 4 Welch Way, Witney, Oxon OX28 6JF

Banker's Standing Order Form

Please complete your details below in block capitals, sign & date the form then return it to: Sharon Wise, Administrator, Base 33, 4 Welch Way, Witney, OXON OX28 6JF

Full Name:.....
 Title:.....
 Address:.....
 Postcode.....
 Name of your bank
 Full address of your bank

 Postcode
 Sort code - - Account number

Please pay from the above account to:

The Witney Ecumenical Youth Trust	
Sort code:	40-52-40
Account number:	00016090

The sum of:

£2 £5 £10 £15 £25 £100 £_____ Other

Amount in words:

Frequency of payment:

Every month Every quarter Annually

Starting on the (day) of (month) (year)

(Please allow at least one month from the date of sending this form to Base 33)

Signed Date

Thank you very much for your support

For Office Use only:

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