

FOR YOU, FOR OTHERS



Annual Review
05/06

What we're about!

Solent Youth Action provides young people with **fun volunteering opportunities** that benefit both the volunteers themselves and the wider community.

We started life in 1999 as a Millennium Volunteers project run by Eastleigh Community Services. It became clear to us that there was a **huge demand for youth volunteering** from all ages right across South West Hants. We also saw the benefits volunteering could have for young people who didn't think they could get involved.

To address this, we **started new schemes** to run alongside Millennium Volunteers and set up Solent Youth Action as an organisation in its own right. We registered as a charity and company limited by guarantee in 2005 and on 31st March 2006 Solent Youth Action became an independent organisation. We would like to thank Eastleigh Community Services for their support.



Millennium Volunteers



This last year has been an exciting time. We held a well attended **launch event** at Harbour Lights in November 2005 which was organised by our volunteers and we obtained three year funding from the Big Lottery Fund for Take Action, our newest scheme. We also secured ongoing funding from Connexions to continue to run the youth volunteering schemes: Millennium Volunteers and In-Clued.

2006/7 brings new challenges. We want to expand the number and reach of our programmes and continue to build relationships with partner organisations. The key challenge for us is to achieve financial security by winning longer term funding for In-Clued, building up our reserves and ensure we are ready for new Government initiatives aimed at young people.

Andrew Sjurseth
Solent Youth Action Chair



Millennium Volunteers



Millennium Volunteers

What is it?

Millennium Volunteers is a **national** youth volunteering scheme. Participants gain recognised awards after 100 and 200 hours of volunteering.

Who is it for?

16 – 24 year olds in Southampton, Eastleigh, Winchester city and south of Test Valley.

Solent Youth Action's Launch Event: Young volunteers; Clive Webster (Head of Children's Services, Southampton City Council) and Councillor Edwina Cooke (Mayor of Southampton).



What is offered?

Young people '**build on what they're into**' and choose the type of volunteering that interests them. Opportunities include:

- **Placements:** volunteering regularly at charities, community groups, schools or hospitals.
- **Short Term Volunteering:** helping at one-off events. Volunteering during vacations.
- **Youth-Led Projects:** setting up and running a mini-project (such as teaching children how to juggle) or volunteering on a youth-led project that is supported by Solent Youth Action (see page 3).
- **Mentoring:** supporting other young people to volunteer and mentoring children (see pages 4 & 5).
- **Communications Group:** acting as a youth forum and being involved with the management and marketing of Solent Youth Action.

Youth Led Projects

Solent Youth Action supports volunteers to run youth-led projects:

- **Youth Clubs:** Three fortnightly youth clubs for teenagers with disabilities or support needs. The volunteers provide participants with an equal opportunity to enjoy activities such as bowling, theatre, quizzes and cookery.

Club Flash on Monday evenings in Shirley Warren, Southampton.

SLAMS youth club on Tuesday evenings, in Eastleigh Town Centre.

J's youth club on Thursday evenings, in Eastleigh Town Centre.

- **Playscheme:** A **summer playscheme** in Eastleigh. This provided young volunteers with a holiday project and they enjoyed organising activities including model making, sports and jewellery design.

‘I’m involved in a fortnightly youth club for teenagers with learning disabilities. I’ve had a fantastic time volunteering and learnt a lot about myself. Volunteering has given me better social skills and I have more confidence – I’d recommend it to anyone!’
Solent Youth Action’s 200th young person to achieve 200 hours of volunteering - Ian Gowans, 19.



Ian Gowans volunteering at SLAMS youth club

Key successes in the last 12 months:

- Millennium Volunteers expanded to **include Southampton**.
- Young people given the opportunity to join Millennium Volunteers via their place of study and at Southampton's **Connexions centre**.
- More than **150 young people joined** Millennium Volunteers.
- **50 achieved** their 200 hour award.
- Solent Youth Action announced its 200th young person to complete 200 hours of volunteering.
- Communications Group organised and hosted an **event to launch** Solent Youth Action.
- Volunteers supported to set up two new youth-led projects; a **youth club** in Southampton and a **playscheme** in Eastleigh.



Mentoring:

- **buddies** In September 2005, Solent Youth Action launched a mentoring scheme which trains Millennium Volunteer participants to 'buddy' primary school children during out-of-school activities. The aim is to encourage the children to interact with their peers so that eventually they may be able to attend independently.

Volunteer assisting at
Solent Youth Action's Summer Playscheme





What is it ?

In-Clued is an **alternative volunteering scheme**. Participants have the option of working towards accreditation but **don't have to commit** to a set number of hours at the start. It is ideally suited to those who are **new to volunteering**, or who would prefer not to volunteer alone and would benefit from **additional support**.



Volunteers painting a school mural at a primary school

Who is it for ?

16 – 24 year olds in Southampton, Eastleigh, Winchester city and south of Test Valley.

What is offered ?

In-Clued participants can choose the type of volunteering that is right for them:

- **Task Force Projects:** one-off volunteering days held twice a month. Minibus transport and refreshments are provided. Small numbers of participants ensure high levels of assistance. Examples of Task Force Projects include holding a summer BBQ for children with learning difficulties, planting a sensory garden and community painting.
- **Supporters:** an initiative which provides In-Clued participants with a peer mentor who supports them to volunteer at a placement of their choice such as a charity, community group, school or hospital.
- **Group Youth-Led Projects:** running a volunteering project with assistance. A self-expression project is planned for the coming year.

'I was told about In-Clued by an agency that supports people with learning difficulties. On every Task Force Project I have learnt something new, gained confidence and had a whole lot of fun!'

**Kat Duggan – left,
Task Force Project volunteer.**



Key successes in the last 12 months:

- 87 young people supported to volunteer. Most had **never previously volunteered.**
- Working partnerships with organisations such as Connexions, Prince's Trust and City Limits ensured young people were provided with a **consistent level of support.**
- 19 In-Clued participants achieved 200 hour Millennium Volunteers awards.
- 8 Task Force Projects featured in the local newspaper – **raising the profile** of the contribution young people make to the community.



What was it?

An 18 month youth-led project initiated by a group of Asian girls who wanted to spend social time together and explore their Indian heritage, focusing on dance, fashion, body art and cookery.

Who was it for?

11 – 16 year old girls interested in exploring their Indian heritage.

What was achieved?

The group put on two fashion shows and produced an information booklet summarising their project. This booklet has been requested by over 20 primary schools in Southampton and Eastleigh for use in educating their pupils. Supporting the Desi Girlz project helped Solent Youth Action develop a scheme called Take Action - specifically for 11-15 year olds.



Desi Girlz practising and undertaking their fashion show.



*"It's important to learn about your culture.
It's what makes you the person you are." Amanpreet Dosanjh*

Take Action

What is it?

In January 2006, Solent Youth Action received 3 year funding to run a volunteering scheme for **young people of secondary school age**. It was launched in May 2006.

Who is it for?

11 – 15 year olds from Southampton.



What is offered?

A range of fun opportunities, ideal for young people who are **volunteering for the first time**.

- **Taster Days:** groups of young people enjoy a volunteering day. Examples include: creating a wildlife habitat at a primary school and hosting a bingo afternoon for older people. Minibus transport, adult assistance and refreshments are provided.
- **After School Volunteering Clubs:** groups of young people with similar interests are helped to carry out different types of volunteering that they find enjoyable. For example an after school volunteering club for young people interested in sports could involve marshalling at an event, hosting games for local children and undertaking a sponsored sporting challenge.
- **Youth-Led Projects:** running a volunteering project with adult supervision.
- **Peer Support Scheme:** young people trained to support their peers at school or during their volunteering.

Financial report:

For the year ending 31st March 2006

During this year the majority of funds to support Solent Youth Action's activities were managed through Eastleigh Community Services.

In the lead up to financial independence, Solent Youth Action's

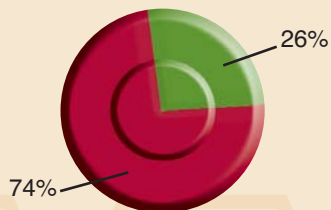
- **Income** reflects:
Fundraising efforts towards raising unrestricted reserves.
Grants - mainly to undertake activities from April 06 onwards.
- **Expenditure** was associated with preparation for launching as an independent charity.

Full financial statements can be obtained from the address on the back cover.

Income received during year ending 31st March 06

■ Grants £13,300

■ Donations £4,742



For the year starting 1st April 2006

- Contracts have been transferred from Eastleigh Community Services.
- Additional grants have been awarded and results of further applications are pending.
- Solent Youth Action has secured funds of almost £185,000 from the funders detailed.

Income received to date year starting 1st April 06

Big Lottery Fund	£47,158
Connexions	£13,935
Department for Education and Skills	£97,754
Eastleigh Borough Council	£500
Hampshire County Council	£6,060
Lloyds TSB	£4,000
Local Network Fund	£5,789
Outer Shirley Regeneration Board	£3,000
Primary Care Trust	£2,000
Southampton University	£2,000
Southampton Voluntary Services	£2,800

Solent Youth Action aims to continue being pro-active in seeking funding security for its activities. We are looking forward to the exciting challenges ahead. Thank you to our funders and all those who have made the launch of our charity and the achievement of financial independence possible.

Andy Keating, Hon Treasurer

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A Keating', is written over a faint, stylized background graphic.

Contacting us

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Management Committee

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Chris Vine, Trustee	Dale Lane, Deputy Chair	David Wilcox, Trustee
Kerry Smith, Trustee	Melissa Lewthwaite, Trustee	Zara Cotten, Secretary
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Desi Girlz Support Worker

Harjit Dulay*

*Has since left Solent Youth Action

#Has subsequently joined since the reporting period ended



Solent Youth Action empowers young people to develop as individuals, enjoy new challenges and make a positive contribution to the community through volunteering.

Thank you to our supporters and funders.....

Big Lottery Fund

Connexions South Central

Department for Education and Skills

Eastleigh Borough Council

Eastleigh Carnival Association

Eastleigh Community Services

Hampshire County Council

Hampshire Youth Service

Hampshire Council for Voluntary Youth Services

Heritage Lottery Fund

IBM

Local Network Fund

Outer Shirley Regeneration

Princes Trust

Southampton Voluntary Services

Youth Action Network

A big thank you to all the individuals who have fundraised for us and donated their time and skills to help us set up and launch.

Solent Youth Action

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