



*M13 Youth Project  
2011-2012*



## M13 Youth Project

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Longsight

Manchester

M13 OBU

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Expenditure was very similar in total to last year, with a small reduction due to lower staffing costs when a worker left the project. Spending on activities with young people remained at roughly the same level, and we were able to increase support to workers on professional/academic training and to trim office costs this year.

We finished the year with a small surplus of £8,671 (just under 5% of the year's expenditure), largely as a result of reduced staffing costs, balancing out last year's deficit.

Trustees have maintained the Designated Redundancy and Notice Fund, to cover the Charity's obligations in the event of closure. At year end, this sits at £37,809 and we are grateful we have not had to use it.

At the end of March 2012, our general fund remains within policy level, approximately 4.75 months of current running costs, putting the project in a good position to withstand challenging financial times.

In 2011-2012, M13 gratefully received funding from individuals, local groups and from the following granting bodies:



# Accounts

<b>INCOME</b>	<b>Re- stricted</b>	<b>Unre- stricted</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>2012</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2011</b>
	£	£	£	£
<b>Grants</b>	148,114	0	<b>148,114</b>	<b>136,027</b>
<b>Commissions</b>	0	29,300	<b>29,300</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Donations &amp; Gift Aid</b>		5,746	<b>5,746</b>	<b>25,032</b>
<b>Interest &amp; Misc. Income</b>		211	<b>211</b>	<b>133</b>
<b>Fees</b>		120	<b>120</b>	<b>6,230</b>
<b>Young People's contributions</b>		2,201	<b>2,201</b>	<b>1,427</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	148,114	37,578	<b>185,692</b>	<b>168,849</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>			<b>Total</b>	<b>Total</b>
			<b>2012</b>	<b>2011</b>
			£	£
<b>Salaries</b>			<b>138,661</b>	<b>142,046</b>
<b>Student Placement Scholarship</b>			<b>2,200</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Staff Support Costs</b>			<b>4,953</b>	<b>4,826</b>
<b>Youth Work Activities</b>			<b>19,330</b>	<b>19,839</b>
<b>Administration / Office Costs</b>			<b>7,137</b>	<b>8,812</b>
<b>Insurance</b>			<b>1,774</b>	<b>1,646</b>
<b>Governance Costs</b>			<b>1,487</b>	<b>1,019</b>
<b>General expenses</b>			<b>911</b>	<b>546</b>
<b>Depreciation</b>			<b>568</b>	<b>1,032</b>
<b>Total Expenditure</b>			<b>177,021</b>	<b>179,766</b>
<b>Surplus / Deficit</b>			<b>8,671</b>	<b>-10,917</b>

It is very encouraging to report that this year has again been a time of financial stability and increase for the project, despite the national economic downturn. We have continued to draw on three year grant funding, have secured some one-off grants for specific work and have established new funding relationships. Our overall income increased by nearly 10% compared to last year, ensuring that we could continue current levels of work and develop new work. Thanks goes to all our funders and supporters for this.

# Welcome

Welcome to M13 Youth Project's Annual Report for 2011-12. We are delighted to be able to share our work, vision and the achievements of local young people with you. Thank you for your interest. If you don't know much about M13, here's a brief introduction.

M13 Youth Project is a community-based youth project, working with young people in the inner-urban areas of Ardwick and Longsight in Manchester. Established in 1995 by Helen Gatenby (the current Manager) and local churches, we specialise in long-term work in small communities, meeting young people out on the streets, and developing relationships with them which offer them support and which, through conversation and negotiation, lead on to further work together. These activities and projects are developed in response to young people's circumstances, interests and concerns and through them, we create opportunities for young people to enjoy themselves, learn, take action and make change, which promotes both their own and others' well-being.

Our work is motivated by our faith in God and in young people and is underpinned by inclusive Christian values, guiding us to continually seek the best in and for young people. We believe all young people deserve to be treated with respect and dignity and that each young person can love, think, create, reflect, enjoy, achieve and make a positive difference to their world.

There are many stories in the pages of this report which testify to young people's huge potential. We hope you enjoy reading about them. Thank you.



# Introduction

Once again, it is a great pleasure to be writing about a full year's worth of work. We have been delighted this year to receive significant three-grants from new funders - Henry Smith Charity and Comic Relief - and renewed grants from the Manchester Diocesan Council for Social Aid, BBC Children in Need and Tudor Trust. We also received significant new support from the Greater Manchester High Sheriff's Police Trust and Grove Village as well as ongoing support from Lloyds TSB and Manchester City Council. This funding has enabled the project to plan ahead and to continue our consistent work with young people in the M13 area.

This year we have found ourselves contacting young people out on the streets (as we expected) in all weathers, as well as, surprisingly, running more drop-ins and sports-based work, both at young people's request. This report tells a little about our time on the streets and about some of the larger and more 'visible' elements of our work with young people. But there is much that goes on both before and after these projects, regularly through relationships and conversations, together on the streets and one-to-one, which can remain hidden to many except the young people themselves and those who see a difference in them.

M13 workers continue to offer the opportunity for enjoyment, learning, action and change to young people through offering ourselves; our relationships, our support, encouragement, vision, hope and belief in young people's capacities. We believe it is this approach that has supported young people to achieve and make a positive difference in their own lives and communities.

This report is testament to the commitment of a passionate and dedicated staff team and to envisioned young people who have helped in promoting and engaging in all aspects of our work. They are our best advocates. Thank you to everyone who makes working at M13 such a pleasure.

Helen Gatenby



going success of Helen, working at PhD level and both Nicola and Gabriel studying for their degrees. This is our future: to have thoughtful, reflective professional workers delivering the strategy of the Project. We are grateful to all our funders who recognise the value of this too and continue to partner with us in the work.

**Be effective, responsible and accountable:** Primarily we are accountable to the young people and our funders. Any occasion that brings us together with our young people is particularly a pleasure. For example the involvement and the contribution of our young women whilst we were attempting to recruit a female lead worker this year was of real value. Their insight and enthusiasm was most appreciated and aided our decision making process.

At each of our meetings we find out about the work of the Project and the issues and challenges of that from our staff. We have benefited from hearing in person from Diego and Gideon as they have joined us in our meetings. This gives us the opportunity to journey with them in their work and to pray for them. Helen attends every meeting and then meets with myself and Andy Poole (a former Management Group member) for regular line management discussions.

All these opportunities for 'conversations with a purpose' increase our understanding and enable us to be effective, responsible and accountable in our practice.

**Make sure that the board of trustees functions effectively:** We have met four times during the year as a full Management Group with specialised sub-groups for finance and personnel issues and for reflective practice of theology and youth work at additional times. Each of our meetings is minuted by our efficient Secretary Deirdre, chaired by myself and contributed to by Louise, Addy and Tim as Treasurer. We have lively conversation and explore and challenge decision making to ensure we function effectively.

I and my fellow trustees commend the work of the M13 Youth Project to you: thank you for your interest and on-going support.

Max Rawlings, Chair of Trustees



# Chair's Report

As you will see from this year's Annual Report, the M13 Youth Project has had another successful and eventful year. To achieve this, thanks must go to the dedicated team of staff under Helen's direction and to the young people we serve in the Ardwick and Longsight communities.

Behind this success is also the work and support of the Management Group – the trustees of the M13 Youth Project. Based on the National Occupational Standards framework for trustees and management committees, here is a brief insight into the role we play:

**Safeguard and promote the values and mission:** Each of our trustees gives his/her time to the benefit of the project - using their particular skills and experience, such as youth work practice (Louise and Addy), spiritual insight and wisdom (Deirdre), financial awareness (Tim) and management and personnel (Max), to hold in trust its founding principles. This requires courage, commitment and co-operation to ensure that we steer the right course particularly through the choppy waters of the current climate. We thank God that this has been a successful year yet we acknowledge that the challenges are on-going.

**Determine the strategy and structure:** The M13 Youth Project has history. It has been successful for over 15 years. Keeping focused and continuing to be successful is dependent on doing the right things at the right time in the right way. This has been achieved by a combination of committed, talented staff, visionary yet grounded trustees and funders who realise value and professionalism in the work we do. The golden thread running through the project is, as ever, the guiding hand of God and his mandate to 'act justly, love mercy and to walk humbly with him'. The outworking of this is seen in the relationships that are fostered, the activities engaged in and the incarnational role that each worker takes in his or her life.

We were delighted to celebrate the 5 years of both Nicola's and Gideon's time with us in January and pleased that Sally too has reached that milestone this September. Our strategy is entwined with staff that commit to each other and the people and communities they work in. We hope to continue to see staff flourish and take on new challenges and responsibilities and are encouraged by the on-

# Statistics

April 2011- March 2011  
in numbers

- 456 Detached sessions
- 420 Young people engaged
- 77 Drop-ins
- 42 Young mums' sessions
- 41 AFC football training sessions
- 41 1-1 & small group support sessions
- 39 Basketball training sessions
- 35 Community football sessions
- 30 Competitive football sessions
- 21 Trips and activities
- 17 Youth work sessions per week
- 8 Young mums' drama project sessions
- 8 Girls' group sessions
- 7 AQA Unit Awards
- 6 StreetLife summer sports sessions
- 6 Consultation meetings with young people
- 5 basketball matches
- 3 Young women's relationships sessions
- 1 6-week photography project
- 1 Awards Evening
- 1 Launch Event for DVD and Report
- 1 League Promotion



# M13's work

When talking about how we work, we find people are often surprised to discover that we don't own and run a 'youth centre'. "So how do you contact young people - where do you work with them?" is an often asked question.

## *Detached Work*

The answer to that is 'in our communities, wherever young people hang out,' so our primary place of work is the streets, wherever young people congregate - by shops, outside their houses, on benches, in parks, in McDonalds, or walking through on their way somewhere. This approach to working in the community is known as 'detached work' and it is the daily mainstay of our work whatever the weather - and you'd be surprised how many young people we find out in the rain! It is how we meet and maintain contact with young people and where we develop relationships based on mutual respect, trust and listening. Detached work provides an important opportunity to get to know young people, to listen and talk without pressure, to think through options, to offer support and advice, and to discuss important life issues. The street can be a great place to learn from one another.



## *Developing the Work*

From here we work together with young people to develop activities and projects that interest them: trips out, educational and skills-based workshops, arts and sports projects and residential trips, all based around young people's positive interests and circumstances. A trip bowling might seem just that to the young people, but we see it as a way of developing a shared history, a positive group identity and we are always on the look out for opportunities to help young people learn, whether that's about budgeting and working together to plan a trip, or conflict resolution and relationship skills.

# M13 Staff



Helen Gatenby  
Project Manager



Chris Macintosh  
Senior Youth Worker



Leancia Donaldson  
Female Detached Youth  
Worker (until Nov 2011)



Gideon Thomas  
Detached Youth Worker



Nicola Powell  
Female Detached  
Youth Worker



Diego Lopez  
Detached Youth Worker



Sally Jones  
Administrator



Gabriel Oyediwura  
Student Youth Worker

# Young Leaders



Aalanda

My name is Aalanda Mason I am 30 years old living in the Longsight area. I have known M13 Youth Project for a number of years as I grew up in the area where there work takes place.

I've been involved in M13 in a number of ways for example; me and a group of other girls were interested in teaching young people how to dance, and M13 helped us to gain an AQA in dance, which lead us to arrange a community dance club and show and perform the dance to the local community.

I then started a career in Huddersfield University, studying Youth and Community Work, and I choose to do my placement with M13 as I wanted join in with the work that they was doing so I could give back to the community that I had grew up in. I started my placement with M13 in September 2011 and in this time I have gained a lot of knowledge and understanding about youth work and I feel that I have chose the right career thanks to my experience with M13.

Aalanda Mason



Diego

After 5 years at the Nazarene Theological College, including two and half years of main placement and two other smaller placements, I graduated with B.A. (Hons) in Theology: Youth Work & Ministry! It was NTC that sent me to M13 in 2007 for my 10-month placement and I've been with M13, in one way or another, ever since. My graduation was a great day which some young people and M13 staff shared with me and my family.



## One-to-One Support

Through the conversations we have around these activities, young people will frequently talk with us about things that are of concern to them. Sometimes, they find a resolution within one or two conversations: other times, this leads onto more sustained, tailored one-to-one support of a group, around a particular issue, or of an individual, with a personal concern. Here, we seek to listen carefully, and to help young people reflect on their actions, explore their options, choose an appropriate course of action, consider the possible consequences, take action and then reflect further. The aim in all of our activities and conversations is to support young people's learning about themselves and life, through deliberate thinking about their life, so we all increase our practical wisdom for living well.

## Young People's Projects

Young people are full of creativity and often have ideas for projects they would like to do with us, to enhance their own skills or learning, or to help others. Working together with young people to help them realise their own ideas is an important part of our work., which supports them to become creators, rather than consumers. Over the years, young people have developed numerous projects, activities and pieces of community action for the their own benefit and for the benefit of other young people and their communities.



# Detached work

Street-based detached work allows workers to develop relationships with young people in a unique environment: neither young person nor worker have more or less legal right to be in the setting, which works to equalise the power dynamics between them: young people can easily choose to exercise their power to choose by walking away at any point and there is little power on the workers' side distorting the relationship and conversation. It is because of this that we prioritise detached work as our primary way of engaging with young people.

These good relationships, based on trust and conversation allow for deeper and more meaningful information, concerns and issues to be shared, and for young people to voice issues that are important to them. Our 'street-relationships' foster mutual respect and enable workers and young people to continue with productive conversations when we move relationships into a different setting, eg. drop-in.



Youth work requires workers to initially withhold their judgments about young people's actions in order to create an open environment where honest conversation can thrive and lead to better thinking, without being stifled by the fear of correction. The detached environment facilitates this. Here's an example:

"We had a conversation with a young man that started with him telling us about various sexual situations he had found himself in, some ok and some really not. We allowed the conversation to continue and the young man began to reveal more about his hopes and dreams and his frustrations with his current jobless situation. As workers asked questions, he started to reveal his view of himself and identified his own fear of failure and low self-esteem. We continued to help him reflect on whether this was true and what he was actually like."

# Young Leaders



Danny

I grew up in the Brunswick area of Ardwick and was a participant in the M13 Youth Project for a number of years. At the time I made some bad choices in life and was led astray down the wrong path. M13 staff were well aware of my bad choices and challenging life style, they always tried to support me and help/guide me through my problems. I moved away from my local area for a short while to get my head together.

Upon returning, I decided I wanted to get involved in youth work and help the local young people not to make the same 'bad choices' I made. I got in touch with Helen and Chris from M13 and told them of my intentions.

A few weeks later (May 2011) I was volunteering at the local M13 Drop-In working with young people. I had also got myself on a Youth Work NVQ course starting in the September. I initially worked 2-3 hours a week at the Drop-in and in November I started working at a football session once a week with the local Brunswick lads.

Early in 2012 I also started doing a detached session once a week in the local community. Upon completing my NVQ course, which M13 are supporting me through, I will be going to University to study Youth & Community work.

M13 are well established in the local community and well respected by everyone for how they have helped the community develop and the generations of young people they have helped, including me. I feel very fortunate and lucky and privileged to be able to come back to M13 after being a young person in the Project to now working with them and helping the community develop.

Danny Connelly

# Young Leaders

It has always been M13's vision to see young people taking a lead in making a positive difference in their own communities, which is why it is so great to be able to support Nicola, Gabriel, Danny and Aalanda, who are all ex-M13 participants who are doing just that. Nicola has been working with us sessionally and now full-time for 5 years and you can read about her work with M13 and young people in the young women's section of this report. Here, Gabriel, Danny and Aalanda tell you a bit more about themselves.



*Gabriel*

My second year of University placement at M13 has been a great learning experience that has allowed me to nurture the skills, theory and experiences I have gained from the first year of placement.

The way of life at M13 encourages me to increase my capacity in terms of commitment to young people and my work. This year has given me the opportunity to lead on projects such as the summer sports activities which has develop my learning of management, supervision and the responsibility I have to young people which will definitely aid me in the future. My co-workers have also helped me a lot through our detached sessions, helping create an environment where our contacts feel free to engage in conversation with us and allowing a reciprocal channel of reflection on our ourselves within our work with young people.

Again the project has helped me financially for my tuition fees to which I am thankful and have also supported me in life issues through the year. I would like to thank all the staff at M13 for the work and support they give.

Gabriel Oyediwura

## Snapshot of a Detached Session

Here is an idea of a standard detached session;

- 7.30pm Set out from the office.
- 7.35pm Walk past D's house. He's outside so we say hi and have a chat about his day. He asks about the basketball project he is involved with.
- 7.50pm We say our good-byes and move on towards one of the places young people meet up together. Two young people are there. They comment on how 'dead' it is (ie. quiet). We agree and have a conversation with them. One of the young men is unemployed and wants help writing his CV. We arrange a time to meet with him the next day at the M13 office.
- 8.10pm There is a break in the conversation that feels like a good time to move on. We say bye and walk towards the shops. We say hi to three people on their way home and see three young people we don't know.
- 8.20pm Arrive at the shops - we stay by the shops for a while, as there are one or two people coming and going. We end up in a conversation with J, a young man who's part of a larger group we regularly work with. He says the rest of the group is at a different location to their usual hang-out and that we should go there. We finish that conversation and another with a young man we used to do intensive work with, who is now 24, and then we set off to the location J directed us to.
- 8.50pm We arrive at the park where the young people are, say hi and start talking with the group. There is a lot of banter and joking, discussion of things that have happened during the day. The two young people we spoke to earlier arrive and they start talking about the CV - another young person talks about his worries about college - we and the group talk about this, helping them think about what's going on for them and sharing our thoughts and advice. We stay with the group until 10pm when a number start to go home. We decide it is also a good time to leave, say our goodbyes and head back to the office.
- 10.05pm Arrive back at the office and write up the session.

# Drop-Ins

## Brunswick

In response to work with a group over summer 2011, we set up a drop in once a week at Brunswick Parish Church for 13-18 year olds. When winter nights drew in, the young people asked to have a second drop-in evening, so in November we opened two nights a week.

We spent a lot of time in conversations with the group around life, exams, sexual health, mental and physical health, gender and gender roles. We also spent a lot of time supporting young people with CV's and job applications, helping them think through how they present themselves and their achievements to employers.

The drop-in was punctuated by a number of events including the Christmas Team Challenge, which involved reindeer racing (making reindeer antlers with tights and wearing them), marshmallow catching and dressing up the workers (Danny, Diego and Gabriel) as Christmas Trees.



## Grove Village

As part of our partnership working with Harvest Housing (now Your Housing) on Grove Village, they offered us free access to the Ida Kinsey Village centre for any youth work activities we thought would be useful for young people in Grove Village. As winter drew in, young people on the Grove estate started to ask about us running a drop-in for them to meet and with Harvest's support, in November we set up a 2-hour session on a Thursday, which continued through until April. Young people had access to the bank of computers already installed at the centre, an x-box and a makeshift table-tennis table, made from four large conference tables. It was a bit of an unorthodox affair, but was very popular in spite of its ramshackle nature. The Drop-In gave us an opportunity to maintain contact with young people over the winter months and through this, we developed trips such as the white water rafting.

# Basketball

The basketball project began through conversations with young people during detached sessions about their desire to play basketball and their observations (complaints!) that there was nowhere local to do this. M13 partnered with Longsight Community Church of the Nazarene to set up the project and in May we started weekly training, staffed and administrated by M13 workers, with volunteer support from LCCN members. The financial costs of hiring the Ardwick Sports Hall and a qualified coach have been met by a grant given to LCCN.

As well as running weekly training sessions, we have developed work with the young people outside of the sessions, which included seeing them out on detached sessions, holding four planning meetings, three trips out and two 'PlayStation Games Nights' in LCCN.

Before, during and after the sessions, as well as on detached sessions, we have been able to develop positive conversations with the young people about basketball training, their aspirations and many other aspects of their life, resulting in us helping the young people beyond sessions with issues which range from ill family members, conflicts with the police, their hopes for their future and support around college and work.

After six months' training, the group began to ask to play together in a league. We had a number of meetings to explore this with them, particularly thinking through ownership of the team and their commitment and responsibility. In February we worked together to enter a team into a local league.

Throughout the sessions and the league games, we have sought to strike a positive balance between basketball training and competition - where the coach might make all the decisions about the training and the team - and encouraging and enabling the group to take responsibility for themselves and to agree and then hold their own boundaries. There have been some challenging moments in this process, but it has created some great learning opportunities for the group.

We'd like to thank Orlando Grant, the coach who has been working with us, and Robert Forrester, a local dad, who has been volunteering with us.

Diego Lopez & Gabriel Oyediwura

# Football

## Brunswick Lads' Community Football

A group of lads from Brunswick had been 'informally' accessing a couple of local football venues to play when no-one else was using them. However, when security was tightened, the lads weren't allowed access at any time without paying significant money. They discussed this with M13 and we negotiated setting up weekly football where they each paid £5 up front for 10 sessions of football to cover the hire costs of a venue and we would subsidise the remainder. The group agreed and this approach has given the group a sense of ownership of this weekly session and led to them inviting other young people and friends.

Every week the teams are chosen by the young people, taking into account their skill levels and making it fair. Those with lesser skills have benefited from this. We have encouraged many of them try more competitive teams in the area but they have chosen to stay together to play as a group of friends. We wondered whether the session should be more about training and skills, but the group clearly did not want 'football training' and just wanted to play together, so we decided instead to focus the work around the group and their development.

We've had the opportunity to work with a number of issues and seen positive changes. In the first few weeks the guys did not start matches for the first 15 or 20 minutes while people arrived: now at least 10 young people are there ready to play 10 minutes early. At the end of one session, three of the young men tried to take one of Ardwick FC's footballs without permission. We explored with them the consequences of taking someone else's property and had two further conversations with these young men around this subject, which led to them voluntarily apologising. In general there is a friendly environment, but sometimes the lads will put each other down and then workers intervene to help them explore the consequences of such negative thinking.

They have thanked workers for these interventions and our support and the group often talk about their gratitude for this activity. F said "we look forward every week to coming and playing football with our mates." Referring back to when they used to play 'informally', K said "here we do not get kicked out", increasing their sense of ownership and involvement.

Diego Lopez & Danny Connelly

## CBT Project

One of the continued pieces of work that was maintained through drop-in contact was our work with young men around illegal driving. This work was well established in Grove Village last year and we had continued interest in it this year, supporting 3 young people to apply for their provisional driving licence and then helping them arrange their motorbike CBT training and test, which enabled further conversation with the group around illegal driving and the advantages of being legal for them and the community. During this year, a resident who was initially skeptical about the effectiveness of this work, changed his mind about it and told us that he thought it had really had a positive impact on local young men and was changing the culture of illegal riding. Young people tell us this too and are proud to own and insure their own motorbike and be independent and legal.

## White-water Rafting

As part of the work with the Grove Village group, we challenged them to think outside the usual rote of trip to choose something which would stretch their experience. The group ended up deciding on white-water rafting at Treweryn Canolfan in Wales. We took a group of 10 young people who spent two hours on the course, navigating the rapids. The young people enjoyed it - though most agreed it was a bit too cold to do every week.

Chris Macintosh



# Young Women

M13 has been extremely fortunate to have had six-years' funding from BBC Children in Need to support specific work with young women and young women with children. As well as regular community-based detached work specifically aimed at engaging young women, we have offered regular support to young women through a twice weekly drop-in on the Brunswick estate and through weekly support for young women with children at Marillac House and Mother and Bay support unit. Through this work and the relationships we have built, we have developed various projects together with the young women and young mums from all three areas, some of which have also partnered with other agencies.

## Work with young women with children

Each week, we dropped into Marillac House one evening and 'hung out' in the communal lounge. When mums had settled their babies, they'd come down with their baby monitor and we'd chat together about anything and everything! Getting to know each other in a relaxed environment helped build relationships and open up conversation about the young women's needs. Much of our work was focused around supporting the young women to build their confidence and to care well for themselves and their children - listening to them, encouraging them, helping them to access resources, manage finances, find new accommodation, move house and supporting them afterwards, helping with college applications and finding child care and offering other one-to-one support and mentoring as requested.



awareness, self-perception and wider life factors. These sessions have been very successful, prompting requests for further similar sessions and requests for one-to-one follow-up work with M13 staff.



Some players have progressed on to play semi-professional football at the end of the season, gaining employment through this. Others have used the skills learned to find employment in other areas. One player commented, "you always knew how to get the best out of me and I wouldn't be where I was today without what you have done."

We encourage the team to be positive male role models within the local community and we look for opportunities to have older players mentoring younger players and younger members of their community. Two of our Ardwick 1<sup>st</sup> team players were able to volunteer within the community leading summer multi-sport activity sessions with children from the Ardwick area.

We have 2 years left of Comic Relief funding for this work, and on completion of this season, we will begin working on an exit strategy that includes the team becoming financially self-sustainable in the coming year. We will also continue to seek opportunities for our local players to volunteer and work in the local Ardwick community.

Gideon Thomas



# Football

M13 has been running community football work in Ardwick for the last 5 years in a variety of formats as a smaller part of local area work. With our increased involvement in football work, we sought specific funding to support this, and received good news this year, when Comic Relief awarded us a three-year grant to support young people's life development through football activity.

## Ardwick FC 1st Team

We have completed nearly two seasons working in partnership with Ardwick FC, through coaching and working with the AFC Open Age 1st Team, through Wednesday evening training and Saturday league games in the Lancashire & Cheshire league.

Competitive football creates opportunities to support the young men to develop professional habits and understandings in a way that is not often possible in non-competitive sport. We have used the opportunities for learning created through the training and competing environment to support the players' informal learning about themselves and about life, and to develop skills that include: conflict resolution, punctuality, team work, effective communication, nutrition, and budgeting. This has been supported with more formal classroom sessions where we have helped the players to work as a group in a safe environment to explore areas such as: trust, performance inhibitors, planning, leadership, vision, self-



As well as weekly visits, we arranged some trips out and activities at the mums' request: a visit to mother and baby groups; to 'VIP' nights at a local church, where the mums themselves were pampered, cooked for and looked after; and a 'Hallowe'en Party', where the mums worked together to budget for, organise and buy food and run games (including making 'mummies'!)



We also developed a couple of projects together: the first 'Life, the Universe and Everything', where over five evenings, we chatted and explored the young women's questions about faith and life; and the second, a larger Drama Project, in collaboration with Manchester Art Gallery, where, over eight weeks and two visits to the Gallery with their children, the young women developed a 'photo story' about the life experiences of an imaginary young woman with children, working together with a drama worker from MAG. The photo-story was printed and exhibited at Manchester Art Gallery.

Unfortunately, despite a publicity campaign to the contrary, Marillac House funding was cut, resulting in its closure in March 2012. Central Manchester has sadly lost a valuable resource supporting vulnerable young women with children, putting even more pressure on young women and their children who are already often living in highly stressful circumstances.

# Young Women

## Work with young women

Through detached work and drop-ins, we maintained and developed our work with local young women across all three of M13's detached areas, developing project and activities, and offering lots of listening and one-to-one support. Here's a snapshot of the work we did this year:



## Relationships Workshops

Over the summer a group of young women from Brunswick, aged 16-17, took part in some relationships and sex education workshops, developed in partnership with an outreach worker from the Brook Education. The sessions covered everything that the girls' had questions about, including when to embark on relationships, pressure, contraception, identifying different S.T.I.s, pleasure, information about teenage pregnancy and legal responsibilities for a baby if the mother is also a minor. The girls particularly enjoyed using the 'special beer goggles', designed to imitate vision when drunk. They received further information about local services supporting young women, were given free contraception and made badges to promote safe sex.

# Sports Work

This year, we have found ourselves doing more youth work through sports activities, through requests from young people and through the invitation of the City Council, as they sought to commission out their service delivery. The 'formality' of these projects has varied greatly, from the hugely informal Community Football arranged with the Brunswick lads - which was really just about playing together once a week as a group - through the slightly more formal Basketball Training, which developed into playing in a local league, to the very formal training and competition with the Ardwick FC first team. Through each of these settings, workers seek to shape the environment to support young people's learning and development about life as much as about sports skills.

## Summer sports

When we were asked, in April 2011, if we could take on some summer sports work that the City Council had been delivering in Grove Village, we saw a three-fold opportunity: as well as providing summer sports activities for local children, we thought we could provide employment opportunities to local young adults, and use positive role models from the local community to work with the children.

M13 employed Gabriel Oyediwura and Eric Mondeh, two of M13's young leaders living in Grove Village, to run the sessions. The weekly 2-hour multi-sports sessions attracted around 30 children, aged six-ten years old, and consisted of football, dodge ball, basketball and quick cricket.

Our aim was to provide a safe, fun, enjoyable activity for children in the area, alleviating boredom during the holidays and more importantly, enabling us to build relationships with them, which valued them and the fun we had together. Although M13 don't usually work with children this young, we saw this as a valuable investment in our community, establishing relationships with children and parents which will prove fruitful in the future. Feedback from both young people and parents was very positive, with the desire for the sessions to be on next year.

Gabriel Oyediwura

# Photography



Through the Brunswick Drop-In we developed a 6-week, accredited photography project. We began with 20 young people, with 10 eventually completing finalised prints. This project included learning about using DSLR cameras, framing photos, looking at image and how image is used to create perceptions of self and others and how to read images, including exploring ideas of W H Mead on identity. This led to some really interesting conversations on how young people viewed themselves and

viewed celebrities. It also allowed young people voice their concerns about their own self-image.

We then had a two-day photo shoot together, finding various locations to take photos. We ended up at Projekts Skatepark, a Graffiti spot in Ancoats, in random car parks and at Alderley Edge. The final session involved using Photoshop to edit and fine-tune the photos to create the desired final image. The group were all given jpeg versions of their images on disk.

Chris Macintosh



The girls found these sessions very helpful, and since young women have continued to talk with us about their relationships and questions, both in groups and one-to-one, including concerns they may have about coercion, pressure and violence.

## Girls' Group

Through detached work, we got to know a group of younger girls from the Grove Village, Coverdale and New Bank estates. During October and November 2011 we developed a six-week girls club with them. We ran it at the Ida Kinsey Village Centre, who gave us access free of charge.



The girls opted to do a variety of activities, such as baking, making pizza, chatting and playing board games. At the end of the six weeks, we planned a trip together: the girls chose to go ice skating, to the outdoor rink at Spinningfields in town and to Nandos for a meal. These sessions helped us build relationships with the younger girls from the community that were not accessing facilities in the area.

Sadly, our lead female worker, Leancia, left M13 in November, so we were unable to continue the sessions, although we've been able to maintain the relationships through detached work and we hope to start up the group again as soon as possible.

Nicola Powell & Helen Gatenby



# Awards Night

M13 are an accredited AQA Unit Award Centre, enabling us to design and write tailored programmes of work, which are accredited by a national awards body. We have found AQA Unit Awards to be the most suitable and adequately flexible accreditations for our youth work. As a project we have progressed from 'New Centre' to 'Monitored Centre' status, with a review of 'excellent' from our Centre Assessor. For some of the young people we work with, the AQA Unit Awards they have received with M13 are the only educational accreditation they have received.

On 28<sup>th</sup> February we held an awards evening to celebrate all the young people who had achieved AQA Unit Awards awards throughout the year and to hand out their certificates. As with all celebrations we invited the community to come and celebrate the achievements of their young people, with food and presentations by young people on the work they had done to achieve the awards.

We invited James Gregory from Fathers Against Violence to speak at the event as special guest and to present the certificates. He shared about setting up FAV and the impact of the tragic death of his son, Guiseppe on him and the wider community. This was very poignant for many of the recipients of certificates who had been good friends with Guiseppe.

We presented 46 certificates in total to 23 young people, ranging from Fashion Design and Planning a Residential to Delivering a Youth Work Program. The event was really well supported by the local community, and by other young people we work with, who were inspired by what they saw of other young people's achievements, leading to them asking if they could do similar projects with us.

Chris Macintosh

