URPotential
Training - Volunteering - Research & Consultancy - Youth Work
Making a difference to people’s lives

2016-2017
Annual Report
This year has been a very exciting one for us; the company continues to grow and go from strength to strength. We have been able to invest in staff through exciting training activities and we have been able to recruit new members of the team for our new exciting projects. StepUp a pilot project funded through the DWP allowed us to recruit four new members of staff, three specialist support workers and a project manager. The BBO project has expanded and allowed us to take on additional transformational youth coaches. All new staff members have been local people from the local community.

This year our 5 year funded successful Fylde Coast Be Involved project has drawn to an end however with exciting prospects for the future with further continued funding to support younger people and young people with additional needs.

This annual report outlines our key achievements and demonstrates how we are making a difference to the lives of local people across Blackpool, Fylde & Wyre including adults, children, young people and their families. Our service continues to expand into the world of adult volunteering and supporting young people with emotional health and wellbeing needs. We have plenty to celebrate: new funding & commissions, business awards, and young people and adults continuing achievement of awards for their volunteering and learning.

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Pete Crossley  Deborah Terras  L Markey
Pete Crossley  Deborah Terras  Linda Markey
Chair of Steering Group  Director  Director
URPotential Staff structure 2017

Nina Beavers
Operations Manager

ADMIN VOLUNTEERS

Denise Parker
HR/Training/Office Manager

Lauren Croft
Administrator

ALL TUTORS

April Rankin
Participation Project Coordinator

Laura James
Research & consultancy

Ben Mathew
Stuart Dunne (MA)

Research & consultancy

Sue Littlefair
Project Manager

SUPPORT THE TEAM

Director
Deborah Terras

Finance Director
Linda Markey

Nina B LGB&T Lead
Louise H - LGB&T Worker, Qualified/Environmental lead/BBP IIY
Sam - Mental Health
Krysia - Adult Community Worker/BBQ AOP
Wendy - Girlswork lead & mentor
Amanda H - Schools Youth Worker
Sally - Adult community worker/Transformational Coach BBQ CF
Graeme - Youth Art Worker
Amanda C - Community worker/Transformational Coach BBQ CF

Step up Team
Community Workers
Sue Littlefair - manager
Dawn - Community worker
Andy - Community Worker
Samantha - Community Worker
Erin - Admin Assistant
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1. Volunteering

Youth volunteering

Fylde coat be involved

Fylde Coast Be Involved (FCBI) is our youth volunteering project aimed at young people aged 14-25, in the Fylde, Wyre and Blackpool (Fylde Coast) area. The project is funded through Big Lottery Reaching Communities (funds 3 p/t fieldworkers) & Tudor Trust (part funds coordinator post), to enable young people to prepare to become volunteers in organisations and make volunteering opportunities become more accessible to young people. We offer peer support where it is required based on individual needs for those volunteering. FCBI also offer accredited courses inc, moving into volunteering, employability, health & safety, food hygiene, babysitting and customer services. We offer support to organisations in becoming youth friendly and adaptable to accommodate young volunteers through change management, support with policies and procedures and training. We have youth led groups which provide stepping stones to building self confidence and support for them to be able to volunteer: Art Group, Peer mentors, Girls group, Gardening group, LGBT, Young Transgender group, LGBT family Support group, Blackpool Youth Voice, New group Breaking the Cycle Youthled Mental Health Forum and Youth Ambassadors.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outcomes and Indicators</th>
<th>Yearly</th>
<th>Q1</th>
<th>Q2</th>
<th>Q3</th>
<th>Q4</th>
<th>Annual Total</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Outcome 1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>‘Improve numbers of young people accessing volunteering’</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indicators for Outcome 1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</table>
## Outcome 1
### 1. Raising Awareness of volunteering. Number of young people involved in presentations, recruitment days, awareness raising events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>Annual total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>300</td>
<td>599</td>
<td>430</td>
<td>490</td>
<td>361</td>
<td>1880</td>
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### 2. New opportunities recruited

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>Annual total</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>60</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>70</td>
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</table>

### 3. Young people sign up and placed

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>Annual total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>150</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>380</td>
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### 4. Young people volunteering this quarter

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>Annual total</th>
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<tr>
<td>48</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>46</td>
<td></td>
<td>234</td>
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## Outcome 2
### Indicators for Outcome 2

#### 1. Increase number of Young people who have accessed ‘Move into Volunteer Course’ or Pre-volunteering course

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>Annual total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>99</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### 2. Increase number of young people who have accessed an accredited course

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>Annual total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>229</td>
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#### 3. Volunteers who have gained new skills

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>Annual total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>150</td>
<td>115</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>322</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
### Outcome 3

**'Better life choices for young people to move back into school, further education or employment'**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicators for Outcome 3</th>
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<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>Annual Total</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Reduce the number of young people who are currently NEET</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>11</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Increase the number of young people accessing FE/HE</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Increase number of young people accessing employment</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Outcome 4

**More peer supported volunteer opportunities for young people**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicators for Outcome 4</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>Over Achieved</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Increase number of volunteers recruited and trained as peer mentors</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Increase peer mentors actively supporting volunteers. 11 young people per year will have access to peer mentors to support them in placements</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Number of volunteers with additional needs who have accessed a supported volunteer placement to improve employability skills</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Impact difference made to young person

From October 2016- September 2017 FCBI has worked with a large number of young people across the Fylde coast. All individuals we work with have a variety of needs and require different support for their progression, we cater for all individuals and are inclusive of all needs, we have supported young people with training opportunities, activities and events and we award all young people who engage with an annual celebration event. Through summer this year we generated a summer programme that would be more fun and engaging, we had a Picnic in the park with sports activities for all which was very well received and a number of young individuals all with different needs attended, we arranged beach cleans across all areas, and even added crown green bowls taster sessions to our summer programme as a more diverse activity. Difference made to young people was that they were able to broaden their horizons and access activities and training that they would not be able to access anywhere else, all training and activities were at no cost to young people, so a financial barrier was not an issue.

The training opportunities give the ability to young people to enhance their CV’s and/or college or university applications, many young people we have worked with this year have been successful in seeking employment, further education, higher education and apprenticeships.

Adult Volunteering

Railway

The Railway is a new project that has been running since July, 7 volunteers have attended the project so far, with opportunities to take on more. The group litter pick, brush and maintain the platform weekly, alongside this they have moved concrete planter on to the platform and painted them. They have bought flowers and compost to plant in the planters and bought additional planters to put along the platform they have created a large planter out of pallets which took them some time as they had to measure the right sizes build the frame and saw the wood to the right length then nail it all together, paint it and line it.
Little projects such as building the planters from scratch means the volunteers are learnt transferable skills such as communication and team work in addition to these skills they are learnt simple D.I.Y and gardening skills. In the future the railway group will be building more planters and creating bird boxes to put up on the railway to make the station inviting to both people and wildlife.

The funding Is coming through the northern rail to fund the equipment and to buy flowers etc.

In the future the railway project is going to be run through step up and BBO projects as this gives their clients an opportunity to volunteer in a safe environment and build

Allotment

The allotment group have worked hard throughout the year redesigning the allotment. The allotment group came up against some challenges such as flooding due to poor weather, this halted progress on several occasions which meant the group were not able to do as much as they had originally planned. The group have recently had to focus on ways to drain the allotment of standing water.
The allotment offers the volunteers a chance to become less socially isolated, and teaches them transferable skills such as teamwork and communication. It helps with mental health issues and offers light exercise. The allotment is a peaceful and quiet place to be able to meet new people and relax.

The group have been nominated for 2 awards this year: one at our own URpotential Awards for the Best Group, where they came second; and a nomination for the Gordon Marsden Cleaner, Greener Champions Awards, where they were awarded a Certificate of Recognition. Alongside this, one of our volunteers JS was individually nominated for a Cleaner, Greener Volunteer Award and was given a Certificate of Recognition.

**BBO**

The Building Better Opportunities project is a new project this year which is funded for three years through the European social fund. We have three areas for the project: age of opportunity, change in futures and invest in youth, each targeting a different age range offering specialist support for the need. BBO’s main aim is to support people with multiple barriers back into employment, training or volunteering.
**Age of opportunities 50+**

The project is in its first year, and has been successful so far. Clients have gained new skills through accessing one to one and group sessions and additional training. Participants have gained knowledge and reported a boost in their confidence and self-esteem.

The biggest successes so far are gaining employment for 4 participants, participants have also accessed training course, gone on to volunteer or gained accreditation.

Age of opportunity workers are currently working with many organisations across Blackpool to raise the profile of the project and to liaise with other professionals to ensure the smooth running of the project and achieving the best support for participants.

**Case Studies**

*When they came to us…TS’s Story*

I first met T at Experience Pays job fair at the Job centre. She was looking for work and finding life very hard after losing her husband suddenly and then losing her job soon after. I invited T into the office at URPotential to tell her more about our Age of Opportunities Project. It became evident after working through the progress circle that T needed support in certain areas. T told me she was struggling with poor mental health, anxiety, poor motivation, lack of confidence and was falling deeper into debt, she felt there was no future for her and disclosed to me that she had in fact considered taking her own life on more than one occasion.

I referred T onto our AOP project where she would have the opportunity to work with other partners to help her. Over the months receiving support T managed to get her debt managed properly, she was then referred to me for employability support, and for help gaining confidence. Over the months I met with T, she attended 1-1s, support group and training. T enjoyed coming into the office and was keen to brush up on her computer skills, and employability skills.

*Working with them…*
T is a lovely lady, she was nervous and lacked confidence, over the months she became a happier, and a more confident lady she was happy coming into the office and was always keen to meet for 1-1 support. T was also working her way through an online computer course, when she was offered a job. T is once again feeling happy and looking forward to her future.

Their full potential...

T`s improvement in confidence, and wellbeing is evident with the intervention of a money advisor for her debt and the support and working alongside URPotential.

Highlights:

T gained more confidence.
T managed her money problems and became in control.
T gained employment and became a Nanna for the 1st time!!

**Change in futures Ages 25-50**

The participants that workers have been working with feel that their issues and needs have been listened to and that they have someone on their side. The BBO support group/health & wellbeing group has allowed some that would otherwise not interact with others, to try out some new activities e.g. bowling, table tennis and making fruit kebabs and thus make some new social contacts. The group is becoming established so that participants know there is always something on Thursday afternoons at URPotential. Workers have also made every effort to promote the IT Drop In, more and more people have been accessing this to complete LearnMyWay units, job search or update their CV’s. Wokers have also started a ReadWrite group after identifying a need for opportunities for people to boost their literacy skills and confidence. These sessions involve reading in a group, comprehension, discussions on English grammar and spelling and handwriting practice. Six of the people that have been working on the project have been empowered to access a volunteering placement. These opportunities have enabled participants to increase their skills, gain valuable experience and boost their self-esteem.
Case study

When they came to us

I first met L on the Reaching Your Potential Course in Fleetwood. She was very nervous and anxious and struggled to come into the building. After the course I signed her up to the BBO project. L has anxiety issues and is on anti-depressants. However, she feels she does not get any support from her doctor as she has been told that there is nothing wrong with her. She has seen several doctors but feels that she is in a vicious circle of worry, anxiety and negativity.

Working with them:

L has engaged positively with URPotential and since coming to the office for the first time, has been keen to come back. She feels comfortable here and now comes to the IT Drop In, the Health & Wellbeing Group and has done some volunteering in the admin department. Following an initial meeting with the Lancashire Wellbeing Service L has been referred for some therapy sessions with them.

Their full potential:

L has improved in confidence in the short time that she has been with us. Although, she still has a long way to go to feeling valued and positive about her life, I have seen a difference already. She has learnt some new skills already since volunteering with us in the office.

Highlights:

Client x now knows how to upload her CV onto job sites and has had an interview

Invest in youth Ages16-24

Throughout the year on BBO IIY there has been a lot of young people on the project who have anxiety and depression, to support them with this we have been setting little achievable challenges, for some of them it is to go to the corner shop once a week, for others it is a little bigger such as to volunteer in the office at least once a week, this gives them something to leave the house for and builds their confidence around other people.
On BBO IY II we have had many opportunities for young people on the project from CV writing and interview skills to volunteering opportunities in a variety of environments, alongside confidence building, looking at housing, relationships and family environment.

Each young person is helped on a case to case basis and takes part in a self-assessment right at the beginning of the project to assess what the barriers are for them from this we will discuss options for them and overcome these barriers, together we set out clear targets and explore options such as additional training and qualifications volunteering and short courses.

**Case study**

**Background information on person**

When CT came to us she was struggling with depression and had very little motivation to do anything for herself she was going through a rough divorce and had just had her child taken off her which affected her greatly she had little prospects for employment and wasn’t very confident in herself or her abilities her relationship with her family was very rocky and caused a lot of issues in her life and in her wellbeing and the area she was living in did not help her as her neighbours took CT for granted and caused her some issues, some of the barriers CT faced involved violence and often meant she would ring the police and be very upset.

**What the volunteer did, what you did**

CT became a digital champion and she would volunteer at the ict drop in unfortunately this didn’t work out, so we withdrew her from this, we found that CT was more suited to volunteer around the office doing admin work which she enjoyed, with some 1:1 work we were able to help CT overcome her personal issues we began looking at positives from the issues and barriers she was facing rather than focussing on the negativity around it, CT was then able to put it into perspective some of the problems she had, we looked at her family and worked on building a better relationship and also looking at her other relationships around her and what she could do to strengthen them, looking at her CV and interviews skill and also advising her on professionalism in the work place, we also looked at her housing situation and were able to get CT into a new building in a better area where she is now happily living we continued with each barrier and broke them down one by one.

**Where they are today**
I noticed with each barrier broken CT became much happier and also became much more confident in herself and her abilities, she eventually found the confidence to apply for some jobs and have an interview this was a huge progression for CT

CT is now employed and loves the job, she stays in contact with us and keeps us up-to-date her relationship with her family has improved and she is able to see her daughter a lot more. CT still volunteers for us when she is not at work

**StepUp Project**

URPotential were successful in receiving a grant from the DWP to work with ex-offenders from Blackpool, Fylde, Wyre and Preston for the year March 2017 to January 2018.

**Aim**

The aim of this project is to work with ex-offenders who are available to work and get them into back into employment.

The Project Manager was appointed in March 2017 and it was agreed that the first job would be to set up a small focus group of ex-offenders and set them up a customer user group to look at some of the issues and the needs of the potential clients. It became apparent during the discussions that a discreet course was required to look at disclosure, spent convictions and barriers to employment. Motivation and confidence was another issue that was relevant to this group.

During April a small team of four-part time workers was set up to work on the project and to undertake one to one assessments with clients who were referred from the work coaches at the four district job centres. Systems were set up using the Job centre one Note Diary and appointments were made directly by the Job Coaches.

The Step up Specialist Support Workers attend the Job centre where the referrals have been generated through the diary and they see the clients on an individual basis. They then create an action plan which is then shared with the JC staff via e mail and a plan of action for the clients is given to each individual to work on. The client is then followed up by the Step up team with numerous phone calls and meetings to support them achieve their goals.

The Stepup team offered the clients:
• The opportunity to attend disclosure courses, which are held in Preston and Blackpool.
• Offer support for CV’s
• Follow up work for employment and job opportunities
• Signpost to other agencies
• Offer other short course organised by URP
• Volunteering opportunities

Results so far: 

As at the end of September the team had 188 referrals and although there were some non-attendees they had a 75% turnout and this is fantastic as this provision is not mandatory. The team were recording the outcomes of the contract of getting individuals into employment but within three months this had changed to recording volunteering as well as Training and Education. There has been significant progress within 6 months and the results speak for themselves:

- 21 have gone into employment -14.8%
- 12 into volunteering – 8.5%
- 19 on to Government Funded training or College - 10.6 %

Overall the percentage figure for the journey travelled and offering opportunities for some of these challenging clients is 33.9%

Many clients that are referred from the work coaches have multiple social issues and time has been spent dealing with these problems as they are coming in from ESA and are not ready for work.

Case Studies

A: is in crisis especially with his current housing situation. Andy messaged to say he had no money for food, and a discussion was held on what he was spending his money on. It turned out that he is paying £72 a month for a lock up, to store his furniture which he needs. However, he is waiting for the landlord to clear the broken furniture out of the flat he is in before he can move it there. He has been signposted to the housing team to push on to the landlord, but in the meantime advice was given to apply for discretionary support. He had real difficulty in applying so the support worker was given his log in and went through the system and corrected all the mistakes he had made and added the accurate information. He also got a food parcel and £20 electric to tide him over.
D: has been seen on numerous occasions with his Step-up worker as he had had an issue with no payment from the agency Master staff. David also got a new phone and he didn’t know how to set it up or put the top up on so the support worker helped him in the office sorted this all out for him.

2. Targeted youth support

Referrals for all our youth groups continue to come from Children Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS), Lancashire Police, Schools & Colleges, Early Intervention Teams, Youth Clubs, Youth Offending Team, Homeless & Supported Housing Projects Units, Springboard, Awaken Team, Princes Trust, Fylde Coast Womens Aid, Substance Misuse projects, Churches, Parents, Carers, Guardians, Self-referrals and uniformed groups.

Artified- art group

The young people have been involved in smaller projects mainly this year; however they have been involved in a youth therapy consultation. Additionally, they have been involved in a consultation for the evaluation for FCBI project where the group gave their feedback about the youth volunteering project. The group have also taken part in creating things to sell at international women’s day event and have also face painted there. The newer group members have newly trained in face painting to support at other events. Some then supported at the Revoe Fun day event face painting. The group members have taken part in making the decorations for the Annual Celebration, they worked together to make the table decorations.

Individuals have built on self-confidence, team work and social skills. There have been a large number of new members, this at times has an effect on the group dynamics. The Art Group is made up of young people aged 12-23 from different diverse backgrounds and different individual needs. They work together on projects and offer support to each other and show initiative with different projects. With the young people that attend the group regularly you can see the development and growth with their skills, confidence and communication. The group members that attend also involved with other projects and training that are on offer.

The group have built and developed on their individual skills and faced challenges through art that they may not have had the opportunity to get involved in otherwise. The group are helpful and inspiring to other young people who may need the support and I feel that without the group some young people may be lost.
Qualifications gained/employment gained by individuals

Two members of the group have gained Peer Mentor AQA. Two members have gained a place at university.

Recommendations for future (evaluations by staff & groups/individual)

The group need to get stuck into a fun project that is going to boost the morale of the group and gain them new skills. Discussions need to be had around the group splitting into 2 sessions based on age range.

Girls group

Through the year the group has grown, 32 young women have attended for at least 6 months with a steady 8 to 12 a week attending regularly.

The group have developed their skills through a wide range of projects. AQA in Babysitting course then wanted to do more projects with UR Potential so came to girls group. Others were referred by CAHM’s carers associated and schools. This group is all about
trust so we do lots of team building games. Also explain how confident we are. They build on their confidence by quizzes/discussions on the skills relationships, school, drugs, alcohol, media and how that affects image, and how we feel about ourselves and others. Bullying is a big one both at school and online managing depression. How we can work to make ourselves feel better; music, friends. Friends discussing how we feel for the first 15 minutes’ watch week and share with each other. Part of the group is listening to each other and learning new coping strategies to cope with everyday life and supporting each other in the group.

In addition, the girls have a chance to attend art group, and other projects like first aid, mentoring, face painting, bike project gardening, been on a residential with Blackpool football club also summer programme, peer support beach clean, and had a visit to The Grand Theatre. Loads of opportunities for the young women to explore and learn new skills.

In the group some young women come to the group very shy with little confidence and over the weeks you see the young women develop confidence in themselves and go to other groups. They are keen to sign up to new challenges, working together, making new friends and come up with new ideas for the projects we could do and support new young women that join the group.

**Qualifications gained/employment gained by individuals**

12 young women have completed the babysitting course and revoked AQA certificates. 4 young women have gone on to do Social Care at Bispham College. 2 young women volunteers have gone onto university. 4 young women have gained employment.
Recommendations for the future

The group is wanting to get new members; it would be good to run a babysitting course as 4 young women have been waiting since September but at the moment we do not have funding for them in Blackpool. Unfortunately, we lost the funding in April from the Soroptomists so we lost a worker with an 18.5 hr post so we had to cut out women’s conference and lots of outdoor face paints, shabby chic and trampolining. We did manage to go ice skating before the money ran out completely so we do need to apply for funding for next year for residential etc.

Lesbian, gay, bisexual, Transgender & Family support groups.

Targets for the project

40 young people to engage in LGBT groups / 40 young people to engage in Trans groups

In total 60 young people in all have attended the LGB&T groups in this past year, in addition to this number we engaged with a further 50 at our LGB&T Fest, 30 at Blackpool Pride who joined us in the Parade (and supported us on our stalls and handed out leaflets), 100 at Blackpool Sixths’ Show Your Pride Day. and delivered LGB&T awareness training to a further 25 young people attending Princes Trust Courses.

20 family members to engage in family support group

21 Family members have attended the family support group, in addition to this number there have been 3 home visits to 3 families to support struggling parents who are unable to attend group. Support has also occurred through phone calls, emails and via social media platforms (i.e. private messages exchanged via our Facebook account and information sharing on our profile)

50 1to1 support/referrals

There have been 2 home/school visits per month and every referral/new group member has a 1 to 1 before joining group.

40 LGB&T young people to gain social skills / 40 young people receive an accredited outcome / 40 young people will gain life skills
Throughout the year numerous projects and events have provided plenty of opportunities for the young people to develop their skills. The LGB&T Fest alone enabled the young people to develop the following: confidence, planning and preparation skills, organisational skills, leadership, teamwork, group work, presentation skills, speaking in public, time management, and more. 2 older group members have completed ‘Youth Work-Level 1’, and other group members have participated in Peer Mentor Training, First Aid, Young Victims Support Training, Food Hygiene, and received accreditation for ‘Media Skills’ and certificates for volunteering, 1 member receiving 250 hours.

**Family Support Group**

Membership to the Family Support Group has tripled in the past year. Three years ago, there were only 2 members who came regularly. As the only Family Support Group in Lancashire other than 1 based in Manchester we have seen members from Lancaster, Morecambe and Blackburn travelling the distance to seek our support. We have helped siblings, mums, dads, uncles, foster carers and partners.
This year has seen the development of a ‘secret social media’ platform of communication for the members to contact each other safely outside of group, and for us to share information directly enabling discussion and support outside of group.

Members are willing to undertake training to become ‘befrienders’ to people interested in attending group but who are not sure what to expect and feel isolated in terms of accessing support.

**LGB&T Groups**

In November, we organised a trip to Manchester for a parent and their Trans son from our groups to be guest speakers at the Trans Day of Remembrance Event held in Sackville Gardens. This was a very emotional event attended by hundreds of Trans people and their allies with our group members taking the stage and sharing a little part of themselves with everyone.

In November, four young people attended the National Tans Youth conference in Durham for the first time. They attended workshops and listened to guest speakers and contributed their views on different topics as well as meeting other Trans young people from all over the country.

December to February the young people mainly focused on the planning and delivery of The National LGB&T Fest Conference for young people which took place on 11th February and was attended by 100 young people. This was organised and led by the group members here in Blackpool. The young people also planned a work shop called ‘Identity’, which they delivered themselves on the day. Every year we celebrate and support various LGBT campaigns and significant occasions such as LGB&T History Month raising awareness in the wider community.

In March the young people supported International Women’s’ Day as young volunteers, some were on stalls, some stewarding, with 3 group members also being nominated for an award. There are also 5 young people who have shared their experiences on camera, with several more who did the same during April for our Volunteer Voices project. These testimonies are very moving and provide an amazing insight into how our groups benefit from what we do.
In April members of the group attended the ‘Show your Pride Day’ at Blackpool Sixth which was supported by one of our adult volunteers, LGB&T young people as well as our project worker. This was also part of a campaign the group was involved in to raise money as well as awareness, and they managed to raise in total £365.00.

May saw our young people nominating their groups for the Being Proud Awards held in Manchester, they reached the finals with the Trans group coming second and the LGB&T group third. This was a great achievement as there were over fifty entries Nationwide.

In June 2017- At URPotentials Celebration Evening almost every young person from the LGB&T group received an award of some kind for courses/training they have done, and for their completed voluntary hours. The greatest achievement as Young Inspirational Volunteer of the Year was also awarded to a member of the LGB&T group.

Blackpool Pride was another amazing achievement for many of them, their behaviour was amazing-they were organised, supported each other, and ran both our stalls with excellent interpersonal skills. They raised money for group by running activities, raffles, and selling badges that they made in group sessions. The Parade atmosphere was electric, energised, vibrant, and they OWNED it and got other people to join them in the march. A great feeling of PRIDE and solidarity oozing from each and every one of them, some were so nervous to begin with and a little afraid of their first ever public self-chosen ‘outing’.

In July – SPARKLE. Altogether we jumped on the train to Manchester to celebrate all that is Trans and raise awareness about young peoples’ issues. Some young people attended workshops, and we all explored the Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Foundation centre.

In August-the LGB&T young people engaged in our summer program which offered training, fun days and social/community action events. The group members contributed to this by organising a ‘Picnic in the Park’ day for ALL young people regardless of their sexual identity or gender. They prepared the food and drink and organised games and
discussions, and set out a ‘chill out’ blanket so people didn’t feel pressured to join in the sports.

In September 2017 for the very first time the young people attended Preston Pride. We travelled together on the train and met Louise, our Fylde and Wyre LGB&T worker at our stall. For 3 of the 6 young people it was their very first Pride.

This year the project has also delivered 4 LGB&T Awareness Training sessions to 30 young adults and staff on the Princes Trust Scheme, and Groundworks-one locally, and one in Chorley, 20 adults at Addaction Lancashire, and staff based at the Lancaster Boys and Girls Club. These were delivered by the LGB&T workers and a young person who attends the Trans group.

The ‘Break the Cycle’ mental health project members from the LGB&T groups attended a Health Scrutiny meeting to have a voice in how the NHS prioritise their local services, and continually contribute at monthly meetings.

The Education Pack is another great achievement with the young people contributing to its input and design. 100 Education Packs have been produced for schools and orgs which contain session plans, advice and information, the DVD produced by the young people, their stories, poems and their Artwork.

The LGB&T group have helped to bring LGB&T issues to the fore both locally at youth summits and various other platforms including schools and colleges, but also nationally with their conference.

They have helped to put URPotential on the map as leaders in this area of expertise re LGB&T awareness, they have worked hard this year as a group-and individually achieved great things, they look forward especially to campaigning and delivering their second National Conference for LGB&T young people.

Case Studies – To Access Videos Use the Links Below
https://youtu.be/HHKrij3_dAA - Louise and Jimmy
https://youtu.be/XKqhnqqZUCM - Jamie and Jason
https://youtu.be/1tNXiQ6W1WY - Jayden, Toby and Darren
**LGBT Fylde and Wyre**

LGBT Fylde and Wyre have worked very closely with the Blackpool LGB&T Groups, attending and arranging events together bring young people from different areas together.

Within group the young people have expressed an interest in the history of LGBT and so we focussed on the Stonewall riots and them being the reason we have pride parades today, we have also looked at other key events and legislation that have come into place since these riots. Alongside this young people have been interested in sexual health specific to LGBT people and plan to have people from Horizon come and deliver a session on this in the next term. We have looked at HIV and the history of it, dispelled myths and found out facts. The young people found the documentary HIV and me very interesting, some young people expressed a need for education around transitioning so we have spent a number a week’s discussing transitioning the process, binders and packers and a lot more. Young people have come up with ideas to advertise the group.

The groups have researched the mental health and the history of mental health and LGBT people which naturally flowed into talking about the development of legislation for LGBT people.

We have discussed drugs awareness doing work especially around spice as the young people had questions about the dangers of the drug. Some young people have attended our break the cycle mental health group where they are able to access resources and information around mental health.

6 young people accompanied us to Preston Pride, unfortunately there was no parade for the young people to take part In however they did dress in bright colours and paint their faces to show their pride where they were able to access a variety of LGBT services,
information and make new connections with other LGBT young people from different parts of the country. Young people ran a stall where they sold rainbow sunglasses and gay pride badges that they had made. The money they raised is going towards resources for the groups. The young people enjoyed the day being able to get involved in activities, different stalls and most of all showing their pride.

Throughout the year we have been out in community making links with local business, schools and GP surgeries to promote the Fylde and Wyre LGBT Group and more recently the new family support groups.

The impact this has had
Young people have been actively involved in planning a LGBT Festival for other young people, helping to improve their transferable skills such as organisation, planning and communication skill etc. Young people delivered a workshop at the LGBT Fest this helped them improve their confidence, the 1 to 1’s are helping young people gain confidence and self-esteem this has been shown through several young people showing improvements in schools which is confirmed by teachers. In addition to this some are supported with the group where they have gained friends and feel less isolated.

Blackpool Pride has supported some of the young people to become more confident in their identity and who they are. A lot of the young people in the Fylde and Wyre groups had never been to a Pride event or any event like it where they could be who they are without being judged. From the feedback given this had a positive impact on them as they reported feeling confident, and proud of whom they are and fitting in. The group have developed strong and new friendships through the groups and feel less isolated and lonely.
Break the cycle

Overall in the past year there has been 40 young people attend break the cycle group, however attendance is not consistent, at best has been 17 young people.

The break the cycle group has been very active as parts of the Blackpool council’s health scrutiny meetings, young people have attended every panel since March this year and had an active say on concerns that matter to them. They have also had a private meeting with councillors at the URPotential office to advice on how the scrutiny meetings can become more young people friendly.

Break the cycle have also consulted with CAMHS and CASHER teams on a regular basis to gain support and to also advise on what is working and what isn't, different consultation work has been undertaken and valuable feedback has been submitted.

Impact/difference made to young person/adult/learner/group

Young people have been able to gain support from their peers. Young people have also been able to access support and also find out what support is available. Young people have had the opportunity to make a difference and scrutinise mental health matters that effect young people under the Blackpool council’s health scrutiny.

Recommendations for future (evaluations by staff & groups/individual

The group needs new direction and support from staff, the group is to support emotional health and wellbeing, however through discussions it would be an idea to do this through social action. There has been the idea from feedback from staff that there could be more of a focus on the bullying element of the group. From the meeting held at URPotential in regards to health scrutiny it was discussed with Headstart and Blackpool carers that this group could be there focus group for mental health, however
after this meeting and agreeing that it would be an ideal opportunity communication has seized.

**Blackpool youth voice**

Throughout the year the group has changed size a number of times due to people moving on and personal circumstances. There are currently 6 regular attendees, but have a large number of groups/organisation that the group have online correspondence with. The annual Make your Mark campaign saw the group gain just under 6,000. They also organised and held their first Youth Summit in April.

The group have developed their skills through a wide range of projects. They have pushed their boundaries and their comfort zones by working with new peers, new organisations and working with new ideas and skills. The group have planned and delivered a youth summit which saw 30 young people attend to participate in a Q&A session with specific panel members.

**Fylde Holiday club**

With funding from Fylde Schools Foundation, a partnership of organisations in Fylde worked together to deliver this project - URPotential, Home-Start Blackpool, Fylde & Wyre, Fylde Food Bank, Blackpool FC Community Trust (BFCCT) and Fylde Borough Council. Fylde Borough Council, as one of the partners, agreed to be the financial manager and banker for the fund and for audit purposes.

We provided funded summer activities for families and children with a focus on supplying a meal with food supplied by Fylde food bank. It has been highlighted recently that many children who receive school meals during term time miss out during the summer period as families just can’t afford to feed them. The impact of this is evidenced by children returning to school undernourished and underweight at the start of the September schools. (http://www.lboro.ac.uk/media-centre/press-releases/2017/july/holiday-hunger/) (https://www.tes.com/news/school-news/breaking-news/holiday-hunger-leads-five-week-learning-lag)
• We delivered cooking, art and sport activities to educate children in healthy living and eating while supporting their confidence to perform better in life and school and each child who participated in the activities was given a healthy lunch or tea that other children assisted in preparing.
• All the staff and volunteers who ran the activities and coordinated the project were fully qualified and DBS (enhanced) checked and 10 – 12 staff were in attendance for each session. In total this consisted of 10 volunteers and 19 paid staff.
• We worked in partnership to deliver a number of interventions to support families in Fylde. We delivered to almost 100 children aged 7 – 11 yrs of age, over a 6-week period. We offered 2 activity sessions, 9am-1pm and 4pm-8pm twice a week, in two different locations in St Anne’s and Rural Fylde areas, (identifying the areas with indices of deprived areas and greatest need).

Although the club operated between two different venues and locations the ethos remained the same.

After welcoming the children, they were encouraged to enter into a variety of outdoor team games encouraging working together, developing communication skills, problem solving, team building and exercise in a safe and nurturing environment. Some of the outdoor sports enjoyed by the children were; Football, Handball, Rounder’s, Cricket, Basket-ball, Dodgeball and Running games

• Blackpool Football Club Community Trust staff delivered the many sporting activities.
• UR Potential prepared the food and delivered cookery sessions, face painting and bike maintenance.
• Home-Start delivered the arts and crafts sessions.

All the activities throughout the sessions were differentiated to meet the needs of the children involved. Emphasis was placed on the importance of working with each other as a team, and also around what bullying is and how it makes other people feel.

Once the room had been prepared ready for the arts and craft activity and the kitchen ready for the cooking activity the children were given the choice of activity they wished to join.
Three to four children took part in assisting staff in the kitchen at each session to prepare and cook a meal which was a different healthy option each week with many new flavours for the children to experience. The children learnt how to chop and peel vegetables, fruit and making salads and desserts for the other children. When a meat dish was to be made the children were very much involved with the chopping and marinating and preparing ready for cooking. The children also learnt about general hygiene in the kitchen as well as health and safety and about the origins of the fruit and vegetables they were cooking. Each child attending the sessions received a recipe book to take home. Some of the dishes the children enjoyed cooking and eating were:

On more than one occasion the children working in the kitchen with the staff spoke about how they had cooked at home with parents after being to holiday club and one nine-year-old boy spoke about how he and his dad had cooked chick pea curry and carrot and coriander soup together at home.

Arts and craft activities were offered in the main and only room at both venues. The activities were varied and the children were encouraged to be creative whilst enjoying the activity offered, this also reinforced some of the skills learnt during the sport activities and in the kitchen, like problem solving and communication. Some of the art and craft activities enjoyed by the children were Paper Mache, Junk modelling, Drawing, painting, colouring, Origami and Collage making.

One of the art activities was planned to tackle bullying. Each child decorated their own hard boiled egg and looked after it keeping it safe and as the activity took place staff discussed the importance of helping each other by being kind, helpful and working as a team.

On the last day an art competition took place at Lower Lane - Robot Building, all the children were involved and made teams in order to produce an entry. This encouraged more of the skills already being developed through other activities but also imagination.
and creativity. At the end of the last day at each venue the children received a certificate of attendance to the Holiday Club.

In addition to the cooking, art and sport activities the children were also offered face painting by some young volunteers from UR Potential who had received an accredited certificate for face painting and bike maintenance delivered by UR Potential.

Hope Street club had 44 children registered and Lower Lane had 40 children registered. An average of 23 children attended each session.

Many of the children told us how much they had enjoyed the sport and arts and crafts; many enjoyed eating the food as well as being involved in the cooking. Many of the children told us that they had learnt new skills by participating in the sports and cooking and had gone on to use some of the skills learnt at home. The children expressed how they had enjoyed trying new activities in arts and crafts and had particularly enjoyed papier-mache and robot making.

All the parents commented how the exercise that the sports offered for their children had benefitted their children and had encouraged communication and team building.

All the parents were very eager to express through their evaluation how much their children had gained from attending the scheme and most parents stated how more holiday projects in the future would meet and support the needs of their children, however, they would like other children within their family to be included and expressed a wish for the age range to be extended.
3. Training

Adult Learning

Across Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre we were able to offer 400 learning places, and we actually delivered training to approx 270 adults from some of the most socially and economically disadvantaged communities on the Fylde Coast. Analysis of our enrolment forms shows the diversity of the people we have trained; the highest majority of these are: Disadvantaged, on low incomes, low skilled, suffering from a disability or difficulty of some kind, volunteering in the local community, vulnerable and LGB&T

Funding from two separate streams enabled us to:

Blackpool Council - offer 200 learning places and delivered training to 122 residents.

Lancashire Adult Learning Project - we were successful in our bid to continue our partnership working and were able to offer 200 learning places and delivered training to 144 adults from Fylde and Wyre.

We have worked in partnership with a variety of referring agencies including Job Centres, Social Services, Church and Recovery Groups to ensure that we target and encourage these priority groups.

We adapted the delivery style and content of some of the courses to suit the needs of the learners and attract and engage those hardest to reach groups ie the over 35’s/women only courses.

We have used feedback to develop new courses that fit with demand, and we now offer: Building Confidence Courses and Digital Champion Training. This project has cemented stronger links with the job centre and developed our offer to voluntary and community organisations to train up existing and new volunteers. We have developed a core of Volunteer Digital Champions who have been able to extend our digital inclusion outreach centres.

Our offer included: Employability Courses, Basic IT and Social Media, Basic First Aid, Basic Food safety, Youthwork, Customer Service and Surviving the Teenage Years.
Progression data shows that almost 50% of our learners have moved forward in a positive manner; into volunteering, employment or onto further learning.

**UKOnline Project**

We are part of an excellent UKonline project and received funding for a 2 year digital Inclusion project covering Blackpool Fylde and Wyre. Through this project we registered over 150 people, supporting 69 to access online digital support and 51 to access our basic online training. This project ended on 31 March 2017 and we have since secured continuation funding.

We made best use of community assets and embedded UKOnline training and resources in community projects and training, using community and outreach venues as well as working closely with voluntary and community organisations. We worked alongside the Job Centre to gain access to job seekers and those on long term benefits to establish what training/courses they required.

We continued to provide a weekly IT DropIn at our office on Central Drive - Tuesday 10am - 1pm and a weekly IT DropIn at St Peters Church - Friday 1pm - 3pm.

**LIF (Local initiative fund) project**

Five schools were involved in the LIF project for URPotential. In Fylde there was Lytham St Annes and St Bedes and in Wyre there was Millfield, St Aidans and Cardinal Allen. They undertook three AQA’s which were safety and hygiene awareness in the kitchen, customer service and first aid.

The majority of the young people identified for the project had additional support needs, ranging from ADHD to learning support, behavioural management and risk of becoming NEET.

The impact has raised the offer for young people when applying for summer/seasonal jobs. They have had the opportunity to access vocational skills which can support their CV and careers prospects.

It enabled the young people to work in a team and address conflict and resolution.
As the project drew to an end 81 pupils succeeded in gaining an AQA qualification, that will benefit them with in the future, they also gained access to cv writing and interview skills and access to volunteering opportunities.

The Lif project did face some difficulties due to lack of school response and communication and the lack of interesse in the benefit of the project to the pupils, From our perspective the changing of project staff created some minor issues.

**Nest**

The outcomes of the Nest project were to deliver training to professionals to outline the project ie, what is a young victim, what the roles of the key workers are and young people trained as Peer Supporters.

Then the second part was to plan and deliver Peer Supporter training to young people across Lancashire. The targets for the project were to train 20 Adults and 100 YP. Overall achieved targets were adults- 125 and young people- 100

**Impact**

The young people who completed the course gained new skills and a qualification. They now have the skills to spot a young victim of crime and what to do if they are approached or know of someone who is affected. Professionals who attended the training additional got information about Nest Lancashire the new service to support young people who are young victims of crime. Young people who were trained and completed the course achieved an AQA accreditation in Peer Support or young victims of crime. Young people across Lancashire have gained an accreditation that they wouldn’t have had access too.
Progress housing consultation

Progress Housing commissioned UR Potential to consult with the residents of the Lower Lane estate about the provision for children and young people on the estate. As it stands there is little or no provision for young people or adults who live on the estate. The Lower Lane Community centre is under used. Young people currently attend a youth group on a Friday night at Streetwise in Warton. Streetwise collect and drop off the young people from Lower Lane to enable them to attend the group. There is no shop on the estate and the nearest shop is the Farm Shop Located at HMP Kirkham, 2 miles, 30 minute walk.

The aims of the consultations are to:

1. Identify and discuss the needs of children and young people living on the Lower lane Estate.
2. Propose solutions and identify the type of provision they would like to engage in i.e. targeted youth work and activities.
3. Develop a 12 month activity action plan to present to the fund for a 12 – 18 month project on the estate, underpinned by an asset based approach.

UR Potential carried out 5 consultation sessions within Lower Lane and the surrounding areas, over a period of 4 weeks, adopting a variety of engagement methods to talk with community members, children and young people.

1. First consultation UR Potential workers delivered a door to door engagement process at Lower Lane. 
2. Second Consultation - Open day event held at the Lower Lane community centre.
3. Third consultation took place on the estate through an outreach approach, engaging with residents through a questionnaire exercise.
4. Fourth consultation was held at the Lower Lane Community Centre, working in partnership with Progress Housing and Home Start workers.
5. For the final consultation, URPotential consulted with groups of young people accessing the Streetwise Friday night provision.

The open day proved to be very successful in gaining young people and adult’s thoughts and ideas on provision at Lower Lane. They engaged really well with the consultation and parents gave a great insight into life on Lower lane. They were keen to discuss ideas about provision that they would like to see on the estate, some suggestions such as baby and toddler groups, shops and activities for 5 year olds and family fun days. The adults we consulted were mostly parents of children on Lower Lane and they explained that there are many younger children on the estate below the age of 5 who have little provision available.

Conducting outreach and detach sessions on the estate proved invaluable as residents were keen to provide in-depth knowledge of the area, the problems they face and how the estate could be improved by having more provision.

The session for 5 to 11 year olds and their parents in the centre was well attended. Both adults and children engaged with the activities and consultation. The parents gave excellent feedback and the young people were keen to give their ideas for the provision that they want on the estate. Progress Housing and Home Start staff also attended this session.

The later session for 12 to 18 year olds was, at first, slow to start, however once young people realised there was a free football session with Blackpool Football Club Community Trust (BFCCT) more young people engaged numbers increased. The coaches from BFCCT engaged with the young people and organised challenges and a match. They also encouraged young people to take part in the cooking session and consultation where the young people gave their ideas.

Recommendations and conclusion

It is highly recommended that the following groups be set up: art, sport, gardening and cooking groups for both age cohorts. In addition to football a multi sports group is also to include a variety of the sports suggested. Blackpool Football Club Community Trust to deliver the sport coaching sessions to the young people and URPotential providing co-ordination and delivery of targeted youth and community groups on the estate. The most popular days suggested for groups to run:

Tuesday, Thursday or Friday. Early evening between the times of 4pm and 6.30pm for the younger age group and between 6.30pm and 9pm for the older age group was suggested Friday being the most popular day.
Saturday was also very popular to have some provision; a gardening group was suggested during the day. During winter it would be hard to deliver a gardening group on an evening during the week as it would be dark, the gardening group came up in both age groups as something they would like to do.

Other ideas and suggestions for groups like ICT, Gaming, movie nights, drama and health and wellbeing could be incorporated into a general youth group evening which would provide a range of alternative activities.

Recommendations from the consultation suggest that community events are provided throughout the year to increase community cohesion as many residents expressed an interest in developing relationships across different community age groups.

Suggested events:

- Family fun days
- Family/community day trips
- Young people’s trips
- Service visits
- Parties for occasions like Halloween, Christmas and Easter
- Bingo
- Coffee mornings

Another highly recommended community item is the possibility of a community shop to buy essential items. This would need further investigation into whether it is feasible and the finer details such as opening times. However there is a need to find a solution to the problem of affordable access to essential groceries and lack of a shop on the estate.

Based on the consultations it is recommended that a toddler and baby group is set up, as parents have expressed a need for one on the estate.

The concerns regarding the park and MUGA were very high. It was recommended regular clean ups of the areas, new signs to warn off dog fowlers and more investigation as to how the area can be kept cleaner.

Streetwise young people expressed the need to keep a link between Lower Lane and themselves through trips and possible visits, this is something to discuss with Streetwise workers as to how we can maintain this link and support this provision.
It is suggested a volunteer community programme is developed to engage residents in volunteering, to support the provision and create a sustainable model.

‘Get wyred into health’ young people’s consultation

This project was commissioned by Wyre Children's Partnership Board conveys the views of approx. three thousand young people living in or being educated in Wyre (Lancashire). The focus is young people aged eleven to sixteen years, with the aim to investigate their perceptions of emotional health and wellbeing. The purpose is to initiate and develop opportunities for children and young people to contribute to the Children’s Partnership Board, so that service design starts from an evidence base.

The backdrop to this work is related to increasing policy and practice promoting the engagement of children and young people and person centred approaches. The target was to develop a piece of Participatory Action Research (PAR) that identifies ways of increasing access and inclusivity to services that assist with young people feeling healthy both personally and emotionally.

Under Priority two of the Fylde, Lancaster and Wyre Children's Partnership Board 2016-17 Action Plan URP was asked to undertake a large scale consultation exercise with young people from across Wyre. Through existing work with young people URP designed a three stage consultation exercise.

The PAR model followed a three step process.

• Step one; URP worked with young people to identify issues or challenges that relate to their emotional health and wellbeing. A total of eight were identified and a ballot card was produced.

• Step two; URP undertook a large scale consultation exercise through schools and existing service provision for young people in Wyre. The reach for this ballot was 2454 young people.

• Step three; URP delivered focus groups in three high schools, one Pupil Referral Unit and with Wyre Youth Council. Each group was solution focused.
The results

1. Improving our Mental Health and relieving stress, Amount of votes 727
2. Eradicating Bullying and exploring the internet safely, Amount of votes 372
3. Stop smoking, Amount of votes 333
4. Having good education about Sexual Health, Amount of votes 251
5. Helping with weight management and improving our physical health, Amount of votes 246
6. Other, Amount of votes 245
7. Cutting substance misuse among young people, Amount of votes 186
8. Reduce drinking, Amount of votes 51
9. Helping us with our Oral Health, Amount of votes 43

The purpose of this research was to initiate and develop opportunities for children and young people to contribute to the Children’s Partnership Board so that service design starts from an evidence base. It has achieved this through both quantitative and qualitative consultation exercises. We recommend that there is ongoing involvement of young people in the Children’s Partnership Board. Young people’s involvement in decision making benefits young people, services and the wider community through the development of skills and knowledge. The involvement of young people improves service commissioning and design. It informs better planning and decision making. It increases the use of services by young people. Increases efficiency of services and improves customer service to the whole community.
Fylde Coast Be involved has been involved in many events and activities during the Oct 16 and Sept 17, back in October we had three large celebration events that were to celebrate the volunteering of the community, we held one event with in each area during a week in October, the first of the events was held in Blackpool and was a Guinness world record attempt for the largest gathering of people dressed as princesses.

The event received excellent publicity from local papers.

This event was to continue on our fundraising for Freddie which we began last summer. The second of the events was the big Fylde celebration, this was for all volunteers and voluntary organisations within the Fylde area to come along and gain some recognition for all the hard work they do and for the difference that they make to the community, we were able to show case local dance troops as the provided entertainment for the evening.

The third of the big celebration events was within the Wyre area; this was similar to the big Fylde event bringing all Wyre volunteers together to allow them to gain recognition for their hard work.

During this week we also gained access to take over a local charity shop, this was for a full week at the end of October, the community donated goods for us to be able to sell to again raise funds for our leg it for Freddie fund.

URPotential held their young people’s annual Christmas party, we had a fantastic turn out from young people from all the youth groups, there was food, games, music and prizes to be won. This year we had the theme of
Christmas jumpers or Christmas onesies.

We supported International women’s day, we had volunteers make teddy bears to sell and also to do face painting. At the event there was Fylde coast young women of the year awards, which three URPotential young volunteers gained recognition.

We have attended many more events and activities, we attended world mental health day at viva, Blackpool challenge inclusion summit, changing horizons at Winter gardens, The mindful production at Blackpool and the Fylde college, the Kindness convention and Weeton youth club open event.

Through our continued fundraising for Freddie we worked alongside the Lytham Ladies circle in order to reach are target, they arranged a chocolate tasting event at Fylde cricket club, the evening was a huge success and we raised the final £750 towards our final figure of £2000
Our celebration event was on the 1st of June in the middle of volunteer’s week, the celebration event was one of our biggest events yet, we had just over 200 guests attend, who gained accreditation, voluntary hours’ recognition or an individual nominated award. This year we had our alumni recognition award for some of our long standing successful volunteers. The evening was a great success with food and entertainment available for all guests.

We took part in Lytham club day again this year; young people decided they want to have the choice to dress up. We entered into the Fancy dress category, and we gained first place, winning the prize of £15.
Coming up to summer we have created a summer programme of activities for young people who are signed up with URPotential, this year we have had training on offer such as peer mentoring, first aid, face painting and food hygiene. We have also had activities such as crown green bowling, Picnic in the park, URP big beach clean with beach bingo, Blackpool carnival and the Fylde holiday scheme.

Young people were also given the opportunity to get involved in a graffiti project redecorating the URPotential office, they have created two big pieces one in the down stairs training room and the other upstairs in the hallway. Young people did a fantastic job and gained some new art skills but also team work skills as they had to create a joint piece of art.
Nominations

National diversity awards 2017
URPotential were proud to announce that we were nominated in 3 categories for the National Diversity Awards 2017.

URPotential were nominated for- Community Organisation Award – Multi-Strand

Wendy Pearce our youth and community worker has been nominated for- Positive Role Model Award – Age

Nina Beavers our LGB&T youth worker has been nominated for-Positive Role Model Award – LGBT

Selnet Awards 2017
On Friday 28th April URPotential Team, attended the SELNET Awards. URPotential were finalists in 2 categories: Social Enterprise of the year which we won and Social Enterprise partnership of the Year with Strawberryfields Training. Our Director Deborah was also up for an award in the Selnet Social Champion category. URPotential won the Social Enterprise Award for 2017.

We are absolutely thrilled and would like to thank our team, volunteers, steering group, funders and partners. A massive well done to everyone.
Thank you to our funders

Blackpool Council

NHS
Fylde and Wyre Clinical Commissioning Group

NATIONAL LOTTERY FUNDED

European Union European Social Fund

Lancashire LGBT

Paul Hamlyn Foundation

Lancashire County Council

Tudor Trust

money raised by health Heal through

Blackpool Teaching Hospitals
NHS Foundation Trust
Thank you for the support from our steering group

Steering Group Members (1st October 2016 - 31st September 2017)

Shughie Morrison – Substance Misuse Coordinator                  Jake Adams – Member of Youth Parliament for Blackpool and social entrepreneur
Lynne Brayne – Tutor & Verifier                                      Denese Welch – Accountant
Pete Crossley (Chair) – Cumbria University                           Jo Shepherd – Chief Executive Claremont First Step Centre
Blackpool                                                            Blackpool
Ian Ashton – Lancashire Police                                      Denise Davies - Parent Rep/Legal Advisor
Pat Naylor-Blackpool, Fylde & Wyre Homestart coordinator            Mark Relf -Strategy Consultant
Judith Davitt -Director & Advisor to the steering group & Communications
Thank you to all of the team, staff, volunteers, Steering group & students for their hard work and dedication to their roles within UR Potential we look forward to working with you all in 2017/2018.

Thank you to all our funders and partners for supporting UR Potential in 2016/2017.