

SUMMARY OF RESEARCH FINDINGS

Keira May Harvey gives us the...

Commissioned by the Northern Fells Group in conjunction with The Prince's Trust and Business in the Community, this research was directed by Dr. Katy Bennett (University of Leicester) with the assistance of Joyce Woodcock (local enabler) and Keira May Harvey (research assistant).

47 local young people were involved. The following gives a brief summary of the research findings and the steps we are taking to address some of the issues raised.

Belonging
Many of the young people interviewed showed considerable attachment to the area and a sense of belonging to the community. This was particularly apparent among those who had spent their childhood in the area; "I loved my childhood here. There's loads of friends, loads of fun and no worries about going out at night and stuff" The Oddfellows at Caldbeck featured a number of times as a good place to

catch up with the "crack" and to find a part time job. Swineside, a natural swimming pool, was also mentioned as a good place to meet up in the summer months.

Taking part in activities also helped young people to feel a sense of community. The Caldbeck Young Farmers was particularly important. The "Caldbeck Social" is an event that few young people miss. The success of this organisation seemed due to its ability to cater for the needs of a variety of young people. The children of farmers valued the club's success in the "more agricultural" activities whilst others preferred the trips organised by the club to places like LaserQuest. The club also organises events for women such as a "Body Shop" evening. However some young women felt that there were insufficient activities provided for them and that trips to nearby towns could be difficult to organise if their parents were busy.

MOYNS: The Northern Fells Group has already begun to develop activities through the Youth Initiative such as baby-sitting courses, mountain biking, a music group and multi-sports days. We aim to increase awareness of

these through the Northern Fells Group website, texting and email. We are exploring opportunities to develop further activities including practical life-skills, arts and culture such as cookery classes, drama groups, and film-making.

Education, Training and Jobs
Most of the young people interviewed were going through education or training and had a job in 2004. Of those at school 77% had jobs, working part time in pubs, restaurants, shops and on farms. 30% of those interviewed were in some form of vocational training. Young people felt that both they and schools were under pressure to focus on Higher Education, with much less support for other career and training options.

There was a tendency to find work and apprenticeship opportunities through known contacts and not formal help. Those who did not know the right people faced difficulties finding appropriate work and apprenticeship opportunities. Many were training to be farmers or for associated professions such as agricultural engineering. Decline in farm incomes and changes to the CAP mean that the industry has an uncertain future in the Northern Fells as young people themselves noted: "You couldn't farm if you didn't have like a farm or anything. You couldn't just set up a farm like that. You couldn't afford to."

Crises and changes in farming have affected associated trades. The demand for tourist orientated businesses means that it is easy for young people to get casual or part time work. However, whilst these jobs are convenient for students they are not suitable for those looking for full time jobs or to develop a career in the

Northern Fells. One young woman who had recently completed her degree said "I think I've been back now 3- 4 months and I'm still working part time as a waitress. I haven't found any other jobs really so yeah, I'll have to move away to find a job. It's a shame but it has to be done." Even when job opportunities for graduates are available locally competition is immense. One graduate applying for a job in the Northern Fells noted "It was very competitive. The first job that I got, there had been 72 people that had applied for it."

In general business owners' experiences of employing young people were positive. They considered the work ethic of young people in the Northern Fells to be particularly good (especially when compared to other areas where they had been in business.) One pub owner said: "I find that young people around here have a strong work ethic. They're reliable; they're hard workers because they generally come from farming stock so they're used to work. They're honest. Very, very honest." Young people were perceived as having fresh ideas, innovative and vital to a business.

MOYNS: There will be online access to jobs, training opportunities and apprenticeships via the Northern Fells Group website. We are setting up a local work experience network and aim to work with partners to develop more careers/training advice and support. We hope to harness the expertise of those living and working locally through mentoring and shadowing schemes and by holding careers days. This could provide young people with the opportunity to see the range and depth of careers that are possible in the Northern Fells and nearby and could encourage entrepreneurship and small business startup.

"I didn't realise it was actually for young people. I thought it was for old people. Not in a nasty way. I just did."

Transport
Once young people can drive their feelings about living in the area improve and they are much happier. Much of the discontent in the 14 -17 age group was rooted in their inability to drive. As one participant stated; "Once you can drive I think everything's done and sorted really. You can go anywhere you want, whenever you want."

Public transport networks were deemed insufficient and inappropriate to young people's needs. To fill the gaps of public provision young adults were innovative. Although many relied solely on their parents for lifts, a significant number compromised by getting lifts to midway points such as Wigton and Dalston or organising shared lifts.

Most young people were aware of the community minibus service. Whilst those who had used it found it very helpful, many associated it with old people which deterred them from using the service. One research participant commented: "I didn't realise it was actually for young people. I thought it was for old people. Not in a nasty way. I just did."

MOYNS: We will raise young people's awareness of the minibus and voluntary car schemes. We will lobby for better public transport services with reduced fares, and promote the Wheels2Work scheme.

Housing
Affordable accommodation for young people in the Northern Fells becomes an issue in their mid twenties. This research identified six young people who worked in the Northern Fells and wished to move out of their parents' homes but were stuck because of the lack of affordable accommodation. One interviewee had only been able to afford a house in a nearby town. Many young people were resentful of the increase in second residence/ holiday accommodation in the Northern Fells which has contributed to local house price increases.

MOYNS: In order to influence policy makers we need to demonstrate the need for affordable housing, develop community support and work with councils and housing associations to explore options and initiatives.

If you would like to read the full report or find out more about the work of the Northern Fells Group please visit our website.
www.northernfellsgroup.org

If you would like a chance to win **£30.00** please fill in the questionnaire provided.

We would love to hear your ideas.

QUESTIONNAIRE

It is hoped that this questionnaire will enable us to gauge interest and identify areas of need in some of the themes detailed in the report. Please could all 14 - 25 year olds in this household fill out the following. All returned questionnaires will automatically be entered into a **free prize draw for £30**. Questionnaires can be returned by post or filled out online. Further copies can be obtained from the Northern Fells Group office: 016974 78094

Your Personal Details

Name _____
Date of Birth _____
Address _____

Post Code _____
Phone number _____
Mobile _____
Email Address _____

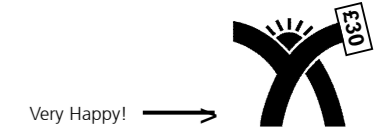
I would prefer to be contacted by phone email text
(Please ring chosen response)

Employment

1 a. Are you in... employment full-time-education unemployed training or apprenticeship
1 b. Are you looking for employment?
1 c. Are you looking for work experience?
1 d. Would you like to set up your own business?
1 e. Would you like careers guidance from someone who knows this area?
Comments

Transport

2 a. Do you have a car or the use of a car? Yes - please continue from question 4 No
2 b. If no, do you have difficulties getting to where you want to go?
2 c. There is a scheme in Allerdale that allows young people to hire a scooter to travel to work and training. Would you be interested in such a scheme? Yes No



3 a. Do you use the Northern Fells Community Minibus? Yes
No

3 b. If no, would you be interested in using this service (for details see transport page)? Yes
No

3 c. Are there any times in particular when you think the minibus would be useful to your needs?
Yes - please give details
No

3 d. Do you use public bus services? Yes - please detail.....
No

3 e. How much is the fare on this service?.....

Housing

4. Where do you live?

At home with parents?

In your own home?

In your partner's home?

Other.....

5. Will you be requiring your own home in the area in the next five years? Yes
No

a. If yes, what type of accommodation would you be interested in?
(Please number in order of preference)

Rented

Part ownership

Sole ownership

Other.....

b. Ideally where in the Northern Fells would this property be situated?
.....

6. Would you be interested in joining a pressure group to promote the housing needs of young people in the Northern Fells, with the ultimate aim of providing affordable accommodation? Yes
No

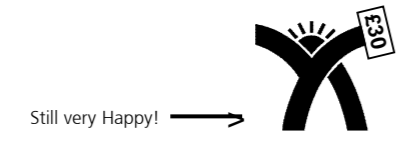
Activities

7. What activities are you currently involved in?.....
.....

8. Are there any activities you would like to see set up in the Northern Fells?
.....

9. Are there any other issues that you think need addressing?.....

All data collected will be confidential to the Northern Fells Group and will not be disclosed to any other person or organisation.



What is it?	Who is it for?	What's the cost?	Any Special Offers?	Who do I Contact?
Public Bus Service: 961 Penrith - Caldbeck - Skelton - Penrith (Circular) 604 Uldale - Wigton 605 Caldbeck - Wigton 620 Caldbeck - Carlisle 73, 73a Carlisle - Keswick via Northern Fells villages. 600 Carlisle - Cockermouth, X4, X5 and X50 Keswick - Penrith/ Workington - Penrith Northern Fells Minibus - 8 seater minibus that operates 9 - 5 Monday - Friday and on Saturdays for young people's transport to town, and other special requests. For more than 8 seats try Wigton Community Bus.	Everyone	Example: Bolton Low Houses - Carlisle Adult return £7.50 Under 16 return £5	In the school holidays fares are sometimes subsidised by Allerdale Council to just 10p for under 16s.	For details of services and timetables visit www.northernfellsgroup.org/youth
Cumbria County Council Voluntary Car Service - Volunteers provide lifts to people unable to access other forms of transport.	Anyone living in the seven parishes and without their own transport	Usually 20p a mile. However, 16 and under (18 if still at school): 15p a mile for first 20 miles and 10p thereafter.	Special fare on Saturdays £2 return to Carlisle, Wigton or Penrith.	Carol Hickson: 016974 78787 Joe Grainger: 016973 43093
Wheels 2 Work - Scheme in Allerdale providing young people with scooters.	Anyone without their own transport.	30p a mile, the cost of which can be shared if more than one person is travelling.	TRANSPORT	Caldbeck and District Antoinette Ward: 016974 78220 Ireby Mrs Pauline Bibby: 016973 71382 Thursby / Wigton Mrs Thelma Steel: 016973 42878 Joyce Woodcock, Northern Fells Group Co-ordinator: 016974 78094/ 78489
Car Share	Anyone age 16 - 25 in need of transport to work, education or training.	Cost of journey is shared between driver and passengers.		If you can provide or need car share please contact Joyce Woodcock as above.

The Northern Fells Youth Opportunities Project is supported by:



NORTHERN FELS GROUP CONTACTS

Youth Development Worker: Steve Woods. Tel: 01768 892589
Email: steve@adventurecycling.co.uk

Youth Opportunities Co-ordinator: Joyce Woodcock. Tel: 016974 78489
Email: jmawoodcock@madasafish.com

Research Assistant: Keira May Harvey. Tel: 016973 49695
Email: keiramharvey@hotmail.com

Transport Co-ordinator: Carol Hickson. Tel: 016974 78787

Lend a Hand Group Co-ordinator: Doreen Gleed. Tel: 016973 71947

Benefits Scheme Co-ordinator: Antoinette Ward. Tel: 016974 78220

Northern Fells Group Co-ordinator: Joyce Woodcock,
Pasture Lane, Hesket Newmarket,
Wigton, CA7 8JP Tel. 016974 78094
Email: northernfellsgroup@tiscali.co.uk

Northern Fells Group Website: www.northernfellsgroup.org
Follow the links to the Northern Fells Youth Page

The Northern Fells Rural Community Development Group promotes and undertakes (either alone or on behalf of or in association with other bodies, organisations and individuals) charitable activities of any kind for the general benefit and welfare of the inhabitants, communities, and organisations in the parishes of Ireby with Uldale, Boltons, Westward, Sebergham, Caldbeck, Castle Sowerby and Mungrisdale in the County of Cumbria and elsewhere.
Registered in England and Wales as a Company Limited by Guarantee No. 4504085.
Registered as a Charity No. 1093814.
Registered Office: Millhouse Village Hall, Millhouse, Hesket Newmarket, Wigton, Cumbria.
Correspondence to: Pasture Lane, Hesket Newmarket, Wigton, CA7 8JP

MAY 2005



NORTHERN FELS YOUTH INITIATIVE

This Leaflet was supported by the Prince's Trust
designed by Robin Ward: robaldo@footballer.com
printed by Badger Press



In response to concerns raised by local people, research has been carried out into the opportunities available to young people living in the Northern Fells.

