



Improving the Quality of Life of
People with Learning Disabilities
through Volunteer Befriending

Feasibility Study for Young People's Service December 2007



The Queen's Award
for Voluntary
Service 2006

	Page
Introduction	1
Current Service Model	2
Alternative Models	3
Researching Need & Demand	4
Creating partnerships	8
Potential Volunteer Sources	9
Recommendations	11

Appendices:

Survey Forms

Fairway Project Summary

Fairway Evaluation

Fairway Training programme

A) Introduction

1) Background

- a) Interest Link has been providing a one-to-one befriending service for adults with learning disabilities in Berwickshire since 1990 and Borders-wide since 2001.
- b) This links service users 1:1 with volunteers so they can meet regularly for social and leisure activities. The service has 266 registered service users in 5 local branches and has operated a total of 335 one-to-one adult befriending links since 2001. It currently has between 100 and 115 links operating at any one time.
- c) The service has generally been very successful, but an area that stands out as needing development is the young people's group of 16-25 year-olds who are making the transition from Children to Adult services.
- d) Interest Link already in theory offers the service to this age group, but has not concentrated on registering new service users as they leave children's services and has made few links for this age group:
- e) Of 266 current service users, only 21 (8%) are under 25. If registration was as high in this age group as in other age groups, there should be around 45 service users under 25.
- f) Of these 21 service users, only 4 are currently linked. If linking rates were as high in this age group as in other age groups (around 40%), there should be 9 current links.
- g) Historically, since 2001, the number of service users under 25 and links involving them have been at similar or lower levels
- h) The 2004 and 2007 independent evaluations both noted this and project staff, carers and partner organisations expressed the view that there was a high level of unmet need in this age group

2) Aims: This study aims to:

- a) Look at the available models of befriending services for young people with learning disabilities aged 16-25, and decide if a different model to the one used in the Adult Service would best suit their needs.
- b) Establish the extent and nature of the need of young people with learning disabilities in the Borders for a befriending service separate to Interest Link's Adult Service.
- c) Create partnerships with organisations working with this service user group that would enable a new service to function effectively.
- d) Explore the potential for volunteer recruitment if a new model was adopted.

Interest Link Borders Young People's Service Feasibility Study Report

- e) Make recommendations as to whether and how a befriending service specifically for young people with learning disabilities should be developed.

3) **Methodology**

The study has been carried out via:

- a) Discussions with:
 - i Existing Interest Link service users, carers, volunteers, staff and committee members.
 - ii Potential service users and their carers
 - iii Local statutory and voluntary agencies working with young people with learning disabilities and with young volunteers.
 - iv Scottish befriending and mentoring services supporting young people with learning disabilities.
- b) Written service user and carer survey questionnaires

The study was carried out in-house by the Interest Link Project Co-ordinator, who has a specific remit for developing new services and has previously carried out studies for the Borders-wide Adult Service launched in 2001 and the Buddies evening-class service launched in 2005. He was assisted by Interest Link staff Board and Branch Committee members, and staff from Befriending Network Scotland, Volunteer Centre Borders and the various statutory and voluntary agencies mentioned below that work with people with learning disabilities in the Scottish Borders.

B) Current service model

1) The existing model

- a) Interest Link's experience is that the existing 1:1 longterm peer befriending model of its adult service works less well with young people because:
 - i It is not appropriate for young volunteers to be given sole responsibility for service users in an unsupervised community setting.
 - ii Retention among younger volunteers is comparatively low.
 - iii Young service users and young volunteers prefer to participate in social and leisure activities in groups rather than on a one-to-one basis.
- b) A large part of Interest Link's experience with younger volunteers has been in the Highers Care Student placement scheme started in 2004: with a few notable exceptions, students have generally

needed to be placed in supervised environments such as nursing homes, day centres or at evening classes.

- c) Interest Link's experience is borne out by the experience of other befriending service providers as well as the umbrella bodies Befriending Network Scotland and Volunteer Development Scotland.
- d) The existing service also concentrates on registering service users through adult Social Work, day centre and accommodation support services. As a result it does not offer the service effectively to most potential service users under the age of 25: young people with learning disabilities often do not leave school till they are 19. They often then move to Access to Learning courses at Borders College and sometimes do not leave college (and childrens services) until they are 24.

C) Alternative models

- 1) Befriending Network Scotland and Scottish Mentoring Network were approached for advice on alternative befriending and mentoring models for young people.
- 2) The alternative models that have been developed elsewhere were:
 - a) 1:1 services where older volunteers were matched with younger service users
 - b) Services involving small groups of young service users and volunteers of the same age.
- 3) The models involving groups were favoured because:
 - a) Discussions already held with existing young Interest Link service users had indicated that their preference was for peer groups
 - b) 1:1 links with older volunteers have always been possible under the existing Interest Link service but have only rarely been felt to be appropriate.
 - c) Interest Link has had positive experience of groups:
 - i A football group was started by the Central Borders Branch in 2005 was set up because of the large concentration of unlinked young service users there. The group has consistently involved 6-10 service users and has attracted funding from Sport Relief.
 - ii The Caledonian Group, a largely self-organising group of Roxburgh service users and volunteers who have met socially on a regular basis since 2002 and organise occasional trips, for example to the theatre. They produce their own newsletter and raise funds to help with expenses.

- 4) Among the models involving groups, the best example was clearly the Hansel Foundation's Fairway Project in Ayrshire (see Appendices for further information). This uses the following model:
 - a) Groups are formed of three young people with learning disabilities aged 16-25 and three young volunteers in the same age range.
 - b) The groups are always staff-supervised and meet for regular weekly or fortnightly social activities.
 - c) They also meet for facilitated workshops in which volunteers and service users discuss their experiences of life as they become adults and the skills they have needed to develop and the choices they have made.
 - d) In addition to the expected benefits of a befriending service (improved quality of life, social inclusion, independence, wellbeing, self-confidence and respite), Fairway has found this an effective way of broadening the horizons of young people with learning disabilities and exploring the choices open to them. It has also been very beneficial to the development of the young volunteers involved.
 - e) The Fairway service has been in operation since 2003, funded by the Big Lottery Fund, and presents a tried and tested model.
 - f) In addition, Fairway staff have developed a consultancy and training service for other organisations that wish to develop similar services. This has been in operation since June 2007.
 - g) An evaluation of the Fairway project is attached as an Appendix

D) Researching Need and Demand

1) Evidence from service users and their carers

a) Identifying service users

- i During the feasibility study for the Adult Service in 2000, it was straightforward to identify the service's potential users: all used services specifically for adults with learning disabilities and were in constant contact with those service.
- ii It was more difficult to identify all the potential service users for the Young People's Service.
 - ◆ Until service users leave college they are often classed as still being in Childrens services.
 - ❖ Childrens services identify young people as having "additional needs" but do not make any further distinctions, for example between those with social or behavioural needs and those with learning disabilities.
 - ❖ It is only when being assessed for adult services (which may not be till the age of 23 on leaving college) that a formal decision is made as to whether learning

Interest Link Borders Young People's Service Feasibility Study Report

disabilities exist and learning disabilities services can be accessed.

- ◆ Services such as the Transitions Officer, Children with a Disability Team and the new NHS Learning Disabilities Paediatric Service only come into contact with children with a learning disabilities if there are health or social problems.
 - ◆ There is little scope to involve parents groups, which might otherwise have provided an excellent source of information:
 - ❖ The Borders branch of Down's Syndrome Scotland no longer operates
 - ❖ The Central Borders branch of ENABLE only has 1 member under 25, who is already registered with Interest Link
 - ❖ Borders Aspergers and Autism Group Support (BAAGS) is active and has distributed survey materials to its members. However, the problems of social interaction experienced by those on the autistic spectrum mean that a group befriending service will only be appropriate for a very small number of their members.
 - ◆ There were very positive discussions with the Scottish Borders Council Education's Additional Needs service and a partnership letter has been provided by them. However, during the feasibility study, it was not possible to survey a representative sample of young people with learning disabilities still at school. This was due to the lack of classification of students referred to above.
- iii Fortunately, there are two groups that could be easily identified, and evidence was principally gathered from these:
- ◆ Interest Link's 21 existing service users who are under 25 and would be eligible for a new service. 17 of these live with family or foster carers, with the remaining 4 being in independent accommodation with support.
 - ◆ 28 students with additional needs who attend Border College's Access to Learning service and will go on to use adult learning disabilities services. All live with family carers
- iv In addition, in December 2007, The Joint Learning Disabilities Service released updated figures by age of all people with learning disabilities who have left school.
- ◆ This information was gathered from a number of agencies for the service's The Same as You? report.

- ◆ It provides solid evidence of the number of non-school attending potential service users for a Young People's Service.
- ◆ It will assist identification of potential service users, though it was produced too late to enable it to be followed up as part of this feasibility study.

b) Information gathered

- i Survey forms were distributed to all of these 48 service users and potential service users and their carers (see survey materials in Appendix). The results from the survey were:

- ◆ Service users
 - ❖ Of 40 service users who responded, 38 said they would use a group befriending service.
 - ❖ Community activities that people would like to do included:
 - Going to a café
 - watching and playing football
 - Riding
 - Swimming
 - Shopping
 - Cooking
 - Art & Crafts
 - Playing pool
 - Going to the cinema
 - Going to concerts
 - Karaoke
 - Chatting
- ◆ Of 30 carers who responded:
 - ❖ 85% were family carers
 - ❖ 75% said the person they cared for did not take part in any community activities
 - ❖ 85% said the person they cared for did not have a social network of friends of their own age.
 - ❖ 95% thought there was a need for the new service
 - ❖ 95% said it would benefit the person they cared for.
 - ❖ 95% asked to be sent for more information about the service as plans progressed.

- ◆ Quotes from carers included

“I think it would help M build her social skills and confidence”

Interest Link Borders Young People's Service Feasibility Study Report

"M tends to be on his own a lot and finds it difficult to join in a lot of sports like other boys do in our area"

"It would be good for him to have his own friends and not rely on social life via the family..... He may at some stage live [independently] with support in Galashiels, so a network based around Galashiels would be good"

"[V] doesn't live life of a 24 year old. Hasn't many opportunities to do activities she would really enjoy due to staffing levels, shift times etc"

"R spends a lot of her social time with me of a group of my friends"

"Better than being one to one: you need to be involved with more than 1 person when you are out socially"

"It would be very good for C to go out with someone other than myself and maybe give him some confidence"

"Social network is important, not something I can give. G wants to get out: he is bored at home most of the time"

"J needs to get involved with people his own age so that he can relate to them about things in young peoples lives"

- ii A group of potential service users was formed and discussed a potential group befriending service. The response of its members was very strongly in favour of a group service and they were consulted on the potential design of a new service.

Quotes from potential service users included:

"It would be great to go out with a group of friends"

"At the moment I only do things with my family and they don't want to do what I want to"

"I would like to go to the cinema and play pool and darts"

"When I was a school I used to have good friends I could joke with and I miss that a lot"

“Doing things with my carer isn't the same as doing it with friends”

iii Thumbnail Case Study:

Richard was introduced to Interest Link by his mother in 2002 when he was 21. He had enjoyed a good social network at school, but now he had gone to college that group of friends had gone and none of the people he knew at college lived nearby.

Interest Link registered Richard but was not able to find a 1:1 volunteer for him until 2006 when he was 25.

Richard's mother has said that if a Young People's Service had been available when he had left school it would have made an enormous difference to his life.

iv Ongoing information gathering from potential service users and carers.

- ◆ Information gathering through survey materials will continue to ensure as many potential service users as possible are identified. This will be assisted by the recent information gathered by the Joint Learning Disabilities Service for their The Same as You? report
- ◆ For example:
 - ❖ The Social Work Children and Disability Team and Transitions Worker and the NHS Learning Disabilities Paediatric service will distribute survey packs to potential service users and carers as and when they come into contact with them.
 - ❖ Further work will be done with additional needs departments at secondary schools to identify those students who are likely to use adult learning disabilities services in the future.

2) Evidence from local agencies working with young people with learning disabilities

- a) Interest Link already has strong partnership links with the adult learning disabilities service of Scottish Borders Council Social Work and NHS Borders, and this is reflected in their representation on Interest Link's Board and Branch Committees.
- b) However, for the feasibility study, new relationships needed to be formed with children's services:

Interest Link Borders Young People's Service Feasibility Study Report

- i Scottish Borders Council Social Work:
 - ii Children and Disability Team
 - iii Transitions Worker
 - iv NHS Learning Disabilities Paediatric service.
 - v Scottish Borders Council Education Dept: Additional Needs Service
- c) There was an existing relationship with Borders College's Access to Learning service, the manager of which has been a member of an Interest Link committee for several years.
- d) A series of discussions were held with these agencies on the level of demand for a young people's service.
- i All responded that provision of community engagement opportunities for young people with learning disabilities is currently completely lacking and that they would welcome a befriending service aimed at addressing this unmet need.
 - ii The main reason given for a service being needed was that social networks formed at school by young people with learning disabilities do not survive the transition to college and adult services. This leaves people very isolated and without a peer network of the sort valued and enjoyed by their non-disabled peers.
 - iii The statutory agencies are currently concentrating on improving their own services for young people with learning disabilities. For example, NHS Borders have recently set up their learning disabilities paediatric team, and the Joint Learning Disabilities Service is planning extension of Personal Life Plans to young people.
- e) As mentioned above, in December 2007, The Joint Learning Disabilities Service released updated figures by age of all people with learning disabilities who have left school. These included:

	Male	Female	Total
Aged 16 - 17 who have left school	7	2	9
Aged 18 - 20 who have left school	27	17	44
Aged 21 - 25 (Actual age range included in return is 21-34: figures here have been extrapolated on a pro rata basis)	28	20	48
Total	62	39	101

These figures provide solid evidence of 101 potential users for the service, a number which will be increased by those still at school.

E) Creating partnerships with local agencies that would enable a new service to function effectively.

- 1) At the same time as gathering evidence of need from local agencies, commitments were sought that they would give their active assistance and support to developing any new service in partnership with Interest Link. These partnerships would be crucial to ensuring that Interest Link could develop and deliver the service effectively, for example in:
 - a) Providing advice on the best way of adapting the Fairway model to local conditions
 - b) Ensuring the service is offered to new service users each year and that assistance is given in registering and risk assessing new service users.
 - c) Ensuring that any problems with the service are identified and remedied swiftly.

- 2) Partnership management
 - a) In its Adult Service, Interest Link has formalised its partnerships through partner representation on its Board and Branch Committees.
 - b) This may be appropriate in any new Young People's Service, but at the development stage the partnership will be managed through the Transitions Tracking Business Meeting Group, of which Interest Link has become a member:
 - i This is organised by Scottish Borders Council Social Work and meets quarterly. The Group includes all the partner services is the main local partnership relating to the transition system.
 - ii The Project Co-ordinator will report to this group at its meetings and consult with its membership by email.
 - c) Two other existing groups provide the opportunity for consultation:
 - i The Borders Providers Group. This includes all local learning disabilities service providers and is a formal component of the learning disabilities planning structure in the Scottish Borders.
 - ii Access to Learning Advisory Group: this group is organised by Borders College and includes representatives from Scottish Borders Council Education and Social Work.

F) Potential sources of volunteers for a group befriending service.

- 1) The inappropriateness of linking younger volunteers 1:1 has been mentioned as a factor in few links being made for younger service users. However, there is also an issue that many young people leave

Interest Link Borders Young People's Service Feasibility Study Report

the Borders after school and that recruiting volunteers for a Young People's Service could present a challenge

- 2) Interest Link's traditional recruitment routes include:
 - a) Adverts and features on radio and in the press
 - b) Volunteer Centre Borders.
 - c) Presentations to community groups.
 - d) Local publicity and fundraising events.
 - e) Word-of-mouth.
- 3) In contrast, the Fairway project's main sources of volunteers have been:
 - a) Schools
 - b) Colleges
 - c) Youth Groups
- 4) Fairway have described their volunteers' role as being "peer mentors" rather than "befrienders". This reflects their role acting as role models to service users in the facilitated workshops. It is also a more attractive role description for young volunteers
- 5) Fairway have also emphasised the contribution of volunteering towards:
 - a) School or college Citizenship requirements
 - b) Awards such as Duke of Edinburgh, Youth Achievement
 - c) Work experience and CV building
- 6) Recruiting from these sources would require relationships with:
 - a) The 9 Scottish Borders secondary schools: the relationships being formed through work on identifying potential service users would form a good base for volunteer involvement by students.
 - b) Borders College: strong links already exist because of the existing partnership focusing on evening classes and student placement. The recruitment of students generally would be a natural progression from existing work.
 - c) Heriot-Watt University: as with Borders College links already exist, and occasional recruitment of students as befrienders has happened in the past
 - d) Youth Borders. This is the umbrella body for all the youth groups and projects in Scottish Borders. Discussions have been held with Youth Borders project staff and a commitment made by Youth Borders to working in partnership on any Young People's Service.
- 7) Recruiting volunteers from these sources would mean that there would almost certainly be volunteers aged under 18 involved. Because of the Child Protection implications of this, and the relative novelty of

working with groups of young volunteers generally, advice from Volunteer Centre Borders' Youth Workers would be essential in developing a service. Interest Link already has a strong relationship with Volunteer Centre Borders, and discussions have been held on their role in assisting with a Young People's Service.

G) Recommendations as to whether and how a befriending service specifically for young people with learning disabilities should be developed.

Following the research outlined above, the Interest Link Borders Board approved draft proposals along the following lines:

- 1) There is a clear need for a befriending service for young people with learning disabilities aged 16-25 in the Scottish Borders.
 - a) The need is similar to that experienced by adults due to lack of social contacts and transport and is exacerbated by the ending of social networks formed at school and the transition process from childrens to adult services.
 - b) This need is not being met by Interest Link's Adult Service because of the unsuitability of its service model for younger service users and volunteers.
- 2) A group befriending service for this service user group should be developed as part of Interest Link's Business Plan 2008-12 and in addition to the existing Adult Service.
- 3) The aim of the service would be to provide service users with the same benefits as the Adult Service, (improved quality of life, social inclusion, independence, wellbeing, self-confidence and respite) and also enable them to broaden their horizons and explore the choices open to them.
- 4) It should be follow the Fairway project's model, namely:
 - a) Groups would be formed of three young people with learning disabilities aged 16-25 and three young volunteer mentors in the same age range.
 - b) The groups would be staff-supervised and meet for regular weekly or fortnightly social activities.
 - c) They would also meet for facilitated workshops in which volunteers and service users discuss their experiences of life as they become adults and the skills they have needed to develop and the choices they have made.
- 5) Fairway would be contracted to provide:
 - a) Staff training covering:

Interest Link Borders Young People's Service Feasibility Study Report

- i Management of younger volunteers: their recruitment, training and support
 - ii Operation and supervision of befriending groups.
 - b) Consultancy advice on:
 - i Working with younger service users
 - ii Working with younger volunteers
 - iii Creating and operating the befriending groups.
- Costings for this work should be obtained from Fairway.
- 6) Advice on these issues would also be sought from Befriending Network Scotland and Volunteer Centre Borders/Volunteer Development Scotland and existing Interest Link systems, procedures and policies revised accordingly.
 - 7) The relationships with other agencies that were initiated during the feasibility study should be formalised in partnership letters and developed to fully realise their potential.
 - 8) A service user group should be formed and consulted on the design and development of the new service, including monitoring and evaluation processes.
 - 9) The new service would be delivered by existing staff through Interest Link's established branch network.
 - a) This would enable branches to build on their existing local relationships and develop new partnerships with local schools, colleges and youth clubs.
 - b) Each of the four Branch Co-ordinators would have an additional 5 hours per week for this work.
 - c) Each of the 4 branches would operate one befriending group in the first year of the service and two groups in subsequent years.
 - 10) This would involve Interest Link working with a maximum of 24 service users in any year: it was felt this was a large enough number to make a significant impact on the anticipated level of demand while not exceeding Interest Link's development capacity.
 - 11) Matching will preferably be based largely on service users' and volunteers' home location, with groups being centred on local towns.
 - 12) The principle of service users paying their own activity costs will be maintained, with these costs kept to a minimum. All volunteer costs would be reimbursed.
 - 13) Fairway's experience is that service users would often benefit from more than one year in a group and to reflect this, projections should provide for half of all service users spending two years in a group and half spending one year.

Interest Link Borders Young People's Service Feasibility Study Report

- 14) The need for continuing support for service users after leaving their groups would be addressed by offering these service users membership of the adult 1:1 service.
- 15) Baseline information should be gathered at the start of the new service and used to measure project outcomes.

Appendix: Fairway Evaluation



The Fairway Project Evaluation

The Fairway Project set out to:

- Promote equality of opportunity for all its service users.
- Provide services that meet the diverse needs of individual service users, and consistent with service users own choice, identified through person centred planning.
- Provide a platform for young disabled adults social inclusion, through the support of peer mentors to reduce isolation.
- Provide a professional facilitation service that will support the young adults and their families to realise their aspirations and goals.
- Increase confidence and independence within the young adults

Young Adults Evaluation

The findings showed that 100% of all the young adults stated that the best thing they enjoyed about The Fairway Project was participating in the social activities. Nearly half of these stated that their involvement on the Project and social activities, led them to make new friends, some of which they still keep regular contact with outwith the Project. One individual also felt that the social opportunities open to her enabled her to feel “less isolated”, and her mum felt less anxious about her young adult socialising.

100% of the young adults felt that their confidence had increased, and some felt much more at ease with issues including communicating with others and speaking up for themselves. One young adult state that “it has brought me out of my shell, makes me happy”. A large number (56%) stated that the Project enabled them to get out more socially and meet new friends, and one stated their enjoyment at being able to get out and about with young people their own age.

When asked if they felt they had learnt anything from their time on the Project, all the young adults gave answers, some similar and some individual to themselves. There were 34% who said the Project assisted them with learning to travel independently; one young adult who felt much more confident speaking out for herself; another who explained that their reading and writing had improved; another who learned “how to look after my own money”. Moreover, another young adult stated “I have done the Duke of Edinburgh and have not done before anything like it”.

Furthermore, one of the young adults states that she is now “given more freedom of choice” from her involvement in the Project and states that she is “not scared to go on a bus anymore when other school children are there”. Another stated that the Project assisted her to get a job, and one young adult stated that her involvement “helped achieve goals and get out more, helped with music/singing career, and improved confidence”. This young adult also identified her dream of becoming a singer.

All the young adults identified their own dreams and aspirations, some of which include; “to do more for myself”, “to meet Westlife, and work in a supermarket”, to undertake “a parachute jump”, “to get out and about more”, “to go back to New York with my parents”, to “work in a nursery”, to “become a singer”, and “to get a job”.

Moreover, the feedback gained from the Project’s Circles of Support was in most very positive. Half of the young adults stated they enjoyed the Circles as it was a chance for everyone to meet together, 23% stated that they liked the fact that the focus was one them, and one stated that it was a chance for them to solve their problems. Furthermore, another 23% said that their Circles were “fun”. One young adult did state that she felt that individuals on her Circle would say that they would do things to help her however, did not follow through with their promises. This issue was rectified by the young adult talking it over with her facilitator, and then with her facilitators support, talking to all members at her next Circle. The member then said that they would, either not make promises they were unsure if they could keep, or ensure that they followed them through. Moreover, another young adult simply stated that she felt the opportunity of having a Circle was simply “Superb”.

Every single one of the young adults built up a good relationship with their facilitator(s). There were 23% that said that their facilitator helped them find out information about different things, and assisted them to make arrangements for their Circles. Furthermore, they felt that they could also talk to their facilitator about any problems they were faced with, and that the facilitator would provide assistance. Some state that their facilitator provided help with college, singing, to speak better, and to get out and about more.

In addition, every single one of the young adults on the Project stated that they enjoyed, either having an individual peer mentor, or being involved with a number of different peer mentors. There were 45% who felt that having a peer mentor was “fun”, and 34% said that it gave them someone to talk to and that they could get out and about with socially. Another 10% stated that their peer mentor provided them with individual support.

All of the young adults also felt that they could now do more things since starting with the Project. There were 34% who could now travel independently, 23% felt they could now communicate better, and that the Project helped them into a job. Some other things the young adults felt that they could now do are; “drama”, “going to the pub”, “confidence speaking”, “gained more independence”, “do more young people stuff”. Moreover, many of the young adults felt that they had undertaken things that they felt they would never have been able to achieve, for example, a parachute jump, sailing, archery, getting a job, camping out, drama, lazerquest, and undertaking the Duke of Edinburgh Award.

Furthermore, the Project has also enabled all of the young adults to make more choices and they all feel that their opinions are now sought, with one young adult stating “I get to decide what trips to take on my activity calendar”, and “I am not expected to do anything I’m not happy with”.

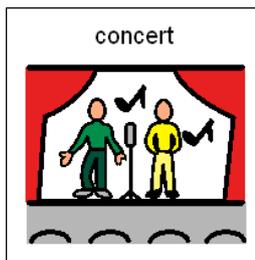
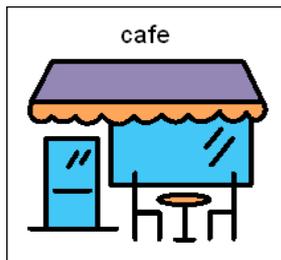


Service User Survey

Would you like to have a small group of friends who you could meet up with every fortnight to do things you enjoy?



Sometimes you would do fun things together like going out to the cinema and sometimes you would simply chat together about things that interest you.



Please fill out this form and send it back to us



Your name.....

Your address.....

.....

Do you think you would like to join an Interest Link group?
YES/NO (circle your answer)

If YES, what social activities would you like to do?.....

.....

.....

How old are you?.....

Thank you very much for completing this form.

Please return it as soon as possible to your carer or in the FREEPOST envelope enclosed to Andrew Findlay, Project Co-ordinator Interest Link Borders, Platform 1, Station Road, Duns, Berwickshire TD11 3HS



Interest Link Borders Young People's Service Carer Survey

1. a. Your name.....
b. Name of the person you care for.....
c. Your address.....
.....
d. Your telephone number.....
2. I am a family carer/professional carer (please circle your answer)
3. a. Does the person you care for currently take part in community activities? YES/NO
(please circle your answer)
b. If YES, please give brief details
.....
4. a. Does the person you care for already have a social network of friends their age
YES/NO
5. a. Do you think there is a need for Interest Link's proposed young people's service?
YES/NO
b. If YES, do you think it would benefit the person you care for? YES/NO.
c. Please give brief reasons for your answer in 5.b.....
.....
.....
6. Would you like more information about the proposed Young People's Befriending
Service as plans progress? YES/NO

Thank you very much for completing this form. Please return it as soon as possible in the FREEPOST envelope enclosed to Andrew Findlay, Project Co-ordinator Interest Link Borders, Platform 1, Station Road, Duns, Berwickshire TD11 3HS
01573 410760 andrewfindlay@interestlink.org.uk www.interestlink.org.uk