

Case Study

Harnessing Young Peoples Education

Southend YMCA, a recently recognised centre, has 30 residents aged 14 – 19, all with problem backgrounds including homelessness, substance misuse and prostitution.

At the YMCA they learn basic cooking skills, and attend literacy & numeracy courses. Other courses on offer include DJ skills and film-making. A group has recently won local, regional and national awards for a film they made.

Southend YMCA is now working with OCN Eastern Region to explore how to use Step Up qualifications for a project called HYPE (Harnessing Young Peoples Education).

This group has been excluded from Pupil Referral Unit or have such bad school experience that they need to learn basic skills in order to return to school.

To find out more about the work of the YMCA and how you can get involved, visit their website at: www.ymca.org.uk