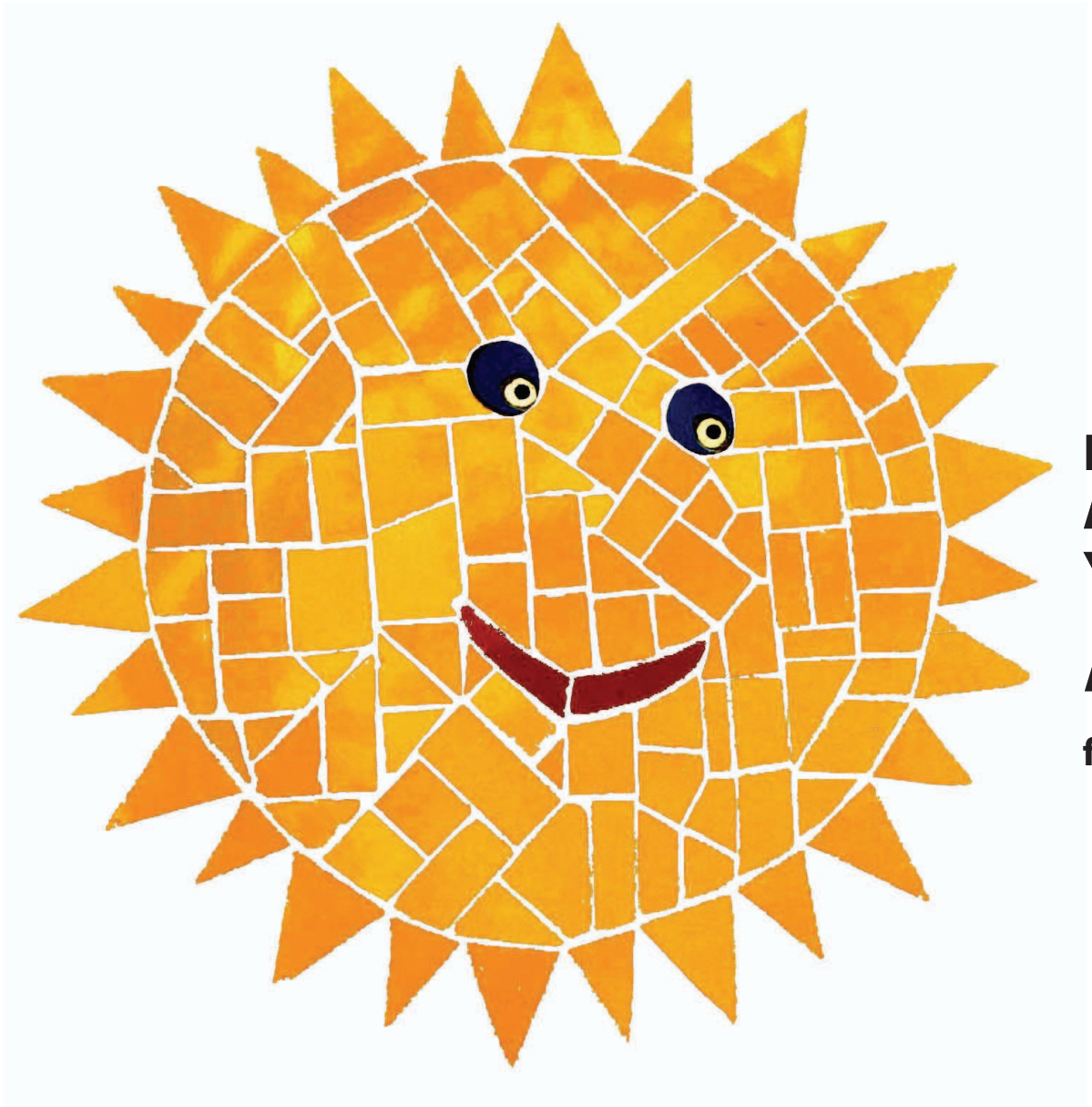


HOUNSLOW ACTION FOR YOUTH ASSOCIATION

Annual Report

for the year ended 31 March 2007

INTRODUCTION

HAY has been working with children and young people in Hounslow since 1986.

Since May 2000, we have focused our efforts on the Hanworth Centre, building it into a vibrant and respected youth and community centre and we have:
• raised £1,250,000 from trusts and grants to extend and improve the fabric of the Hanworth Centre
• planned, organized and undertaken 3 separate phases of development to make the Centre an attractive and relevant place

for local people
• sought funding for and recruited well qualified committed professional staff to work with young people at the revitalised

Centre
• introduced a dynamic range of programmes for youngsters aged between 2 and 19
• focused these programmes on those at risk of offending and with special needs
• worked closely with and gained the respect of the Hounslow Youth Service

and above all
• improved the lives of hundreds of young people in challenging day-to-day circumstances.

In 2006/ 2007 HAY:
• completed the last phase of the development; a new outside play area for pre-school children
• ran a range of clubs and programmes for children and young people aged 2 to 19
• had full enrolment in the Caterpillar Pre-School including several with special needs
• had continued success in reducing anti-social behaviour of 8 to 13 year olds through the Junior Youth Inclusion Project
• re-equipped the music decks room after the young people made a funding application following a burglary
• continued the public health outreach initiatives
• started a Parenting Group to allow parents to gain mutual support and guidance
• received more confirmation from schools and agencies of the positive impact HAY is having in the local community.

As always HAY is indebted to the leadership and commitment of the staff at the Centre and those who have contributed money and resources. Securing funding for the longer term to provide greater certainty of programming is still an outstanding objective.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

David Kaye

During the year we have continued to manage the revitalised Hanworth Centre. As you read the reports from the different programme leaders, I hope you will be impressed by the range of activities on offer. We are particularly pleased that 26 children now attend the Caterpillar Pre-School every day, as they are the primary beneficiaries of the new wing. A further year's funding has also been secured for both JYIP and the Connexions programmes. We have also encouraged the Centre to be used by groups that provide their own programming, where it is complementary to HAY's activities and helps to create a more vibrant Centre.

We are pleased to report increased programme funding for the sixth year in a row, with a little over 50% coming from various government programmes and the balance from grant-giving trusts. Compared to earlier years, a higher proportion of the income in 2006/07 is for programmes to be run in 2007/08. As income is recorded in full when received, this means that we show a strong financial performance in 2006/07, which we expect will not be maintained in 2007/08 as the expenditure is incurred.

We have not yet been successful in ensuring long-term funding commitments to provide greater certainty of programming, which was one of our aims last year. However, following a Strategy Day in January, the HAY Trustees have made a number of internal changes, including greater use of subcommittees and identifying missing skills amongst the Trustees. A decision was made to appoint external fundraisers to take the burden off the voluntary committee and to enable a broader spread of grant-giving organisations to be approached. Louise Kaye, the for managing the newly appointed fundraisers. We have also considered the risks faced by the Charity, and the Trustees are considering what further steps to take to minimise them. It is too early to know what impact these changes will have, and I hope to be able to report positively next year.

As always, my thanks go to the many people and organisations who have contributed to the success of the Centre, providing stability and leadership – this includes Debbie Hughes, the Centre Director, Youth Work leaders, the Youth Service and other departments at the London Borough of Hounslow. Thanks also to our Management Committee who have all continued to make a positive impact during the year. We particularly welcome Andy Clarke's promotion from Junior Youth Inclusion Project Manager to Senior Youth Development Manager.

I hope that you enjoy reading this report and are encouraged by our continuing progress.

CENTRE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Debbie Hughes

Hanworth has had a few staff changes this year. Andy Clarke has settled in well to his new role as Senior Youth Development Manager. He has developed a wide range of accredited learning opportunities for the young people and the Youth Groups are going from strength to strength.

Bijal Odedra joined the team as the new Junior Youth Inclusion Project Manager in September 2006. She has continued to strengthen and develop the JYIP with the introduction of a Parenting Support Group and catering for a completely new group of young people on the project.

Sadly, a valued member of the Hanworth staff team, Sue Goddard, died last year. She will be greatly missed by the staff and young people. New sessional workers have been appointed for all of the youth groups which allows for the continued development and success of each of the projects.

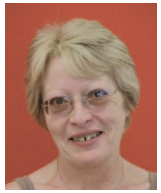
New funding has been successfully awarded to help re-start the Intermediate Youth Group. This will help to cater for the 11 – 13 year olds who find it difficult to make the transition from the Junior Club to the Senior Club.

The Hanworth Centre is a lively and enjoyable place to be. It has an exceptional and loyal staff team and attracts users from all sections of the community.

I hope that the year ahead is as enjoyable and successful as this one.

CATERPILLAR PRE-SCHOOL

Kathy Witt



Caterpillar Pre-School, operating each morning during term time, continues to provide care and an Early Years curriculum for children aged between 2 years 2 months and 4 years 6 months.

This year five children with Special Needs have received one-to-one support within the group to enable them to integrate with other children and learn effectively. We hold regular reviews of their progress, which their parents attend and find to be a source of much-needed support.

In addition to children with learning difficulties, the Pre-School is also attended by children with speech and language delay and children for whom English is a second language. So, as a staff group, we all attended a presentation of British Sign Language and three members of staff have also attended a Makaton course. As a result, we use a combination of verbal and sign language to communicate with the children and to help them to communicate with each other. This has relieved a source of frustration for the children and enabled their language skills to develop naturally.

This year, work was completed on our outside play area. This includes a safe surface area, a grass area, a water feature, a sandpit that the children can climb into and a plant area. It has made the outside area welcoming and fun for the children - whatever the weather! It has also added another dimension to the children's learning in that they are acquiring gardening skills! Susie, from the Art Department, has begun a project to make mosaics for the outside wall. These are on the theme of mini-beasts, to be in keeping with our name. We also held a fund-raising event in the summer to enable us to make and put up a "Caterpillar Pre-School" sign on the front fence. This has the two-fold effect of allowing the play area to be secluded whilst letting the community know we are here.

To encourage the children's parents to become more involved in their learning, we now hold events at the end of each term. The children performed a Nativity Play, an Easter Parade and at the end of the summer term they will be performing their favourite songs. So far, these have been well-attended and enjoyed by both parents and children.

Although many of the children left to attend school in September, the number of new children attending quickly rose to our maximum allowance of 26 per day and the Pre- School has remained full ever since. The waiting list for next September is already building steadily. Although it is always sad to say goodbye to the children, we look forward to meeting new ones who benefit so greatly from their experience at the Pre-School.

Caterpillar Pre-School Case Study

C is a little girl who, although very bright, had behavioural problems that her mother found to be very demanding. She felt this to be detrimental to their relationship and was at a loss to know how to resolve this. Through regular discussion with the mother, we shared with her the techniques we use to encourage appropriate behaviour. As C gradually responded to these techniques, the situation ceased to be frustrating for them both and they now enjoy a happy, relaxed relationship.

BREAKFAST CLUB

Joan Yates

The Breakfast Club provides high quality, child-centred care and a healthy start to the day, in a safe, caring and stimulating environment. Membership is open to families with children aged 4 to 11 attending Oriel School, which is next door to the Centre.

The Breakfast Club now has two walkers who collect some of the children each morning and who use the opportunity to promote road safety. We work in partnership with Hounslow's Family and Community Team, promoting oral hygiene for children. The children get stickers and certificates when they complete the programme. The children love the newly refurbished outside play area which stimulates their imagination. We aim to ensure that the Breakfast Club reflects and meets the needs of the local community and incorporates equal opportunities in all areas of our work.

JUNIOR YOUTH CLUB

Andrea Skilbeck

The Junior Youth Club is for children aged 7 to 11 years on Tuesday and Thursday evenings both during term-time and the school holidays, providing opportunities to participate in a range of activities in a safe, caring and stimulating environment.

Throughout the year we have been able to offer the children a variety of activities with our versatile staff team. We have continued with our monthly Healthy Eating project and at least one session is dedicated to this. The children have been able to try different types of fruit and vegetables and cook foods from around the world. During Black History month in October, they enjoyed Caribbean and Indian food.

The children made three funding bids of their own this year to Awards for All and The Children's Fund. These were to pay for summer and Christmas holiday activities, two computers and a joint residential with the Junior Youth Inclusion Project (JYIP). All the bids were successful.

The children purchased two computers complete with educational software to assist with learning and homework. These have proved extremely popular.

The joint residential with the JYIP is planned for September 2007.

We also held our own football tournament with ten teams of five. Winners and runners up received medals and the winning team received the Junior Youth Project shield. There were also prizes for the top goal scorer and best player. The best player trophy went not to the most outstanding player on the pitch, but to the child who had tried hardest.

Junior Youth Club Case Study

J joined Junior Club in September 2006. His mother was concerned that he would be too challenging to handle due to his ADHD. We discussed what J enjoyed doing and how his Mum and Dad handled his behaviour at home. Mum explained that J often became very aggressive, lash out at anyone in his path, and that he would try to run away. I met with the Junior Club staff team and we discussed how best to accommodate him. We decided that, due to his behavioural problems and violent outbursts, a member of staff would remain with him for the entire session. Leanne volunteered as she has previously worked with similar youngsters. During the first month his behaviour could be explosive; he lashed out at staff when they would not allow him to do certain things.

The team agreed that when J tried to attack, Leanne would remove him from that area and wait for him to calm down. Leanne and J agreed that when he was feeling angry and frustrated with a member of staff he would walk away, calm down in a quiet area with Leanne, then go back and talk with that member of staff again. This works well, as once he is calmer, he can see the situation more clearly and no longer feels that he has been told off without good reason.

It was also agreed that when upset or frustrated with his peers, J would stop, count to ten and try to calm down. Sometimes this works. J and Leanne sit down and talk about what happened and Leanne gets him to draw a face to show how he is feeling and then another face (goal face) to show how he would like to feel. We then work together to help him achieve his "goal face".

JUNIOR YOUTH INCLUSION PROJECT

Bijal Odedra

The Junior Youth Inclusion Project (JYIP) runs on four afternoons per week, working intensively with youngsters who have been referred because of their high levels of anti-social behaviour and lack of engagement with education.

JYIP has continued to be extremely successful for the fourth year running. The ongoing support to families and young people has proved to have a positive affect. Parents have also engaged with the project and believe that it has helped their children move away from anti-social behaviour and crime. Our successes this year include:

• The start of a Parenting Group, which has allowed parents of young people on the project to get together and talk about parenting techniques and problems and give guidance to one another as well as from the project manager. The group will follow the Triple P (Positive Parenting Program) course. Parents have shown their support of JYIP by starting a petition to show that they want the project to get funding post-2008.

• Young people from Hanworth aged 8 to 13 are still absent from the local Anti-Social Behaviour Action Group (ASBAG). It is noticeable that many young people from Feltham and Bedfont in this age group are still coming to their attention, clearly demonstrating the success of the JYIP in Hanworth.

•The young people who have been through and have now left the project have benefited from lasting positive affects of the JYIP. This has been proven as their peers from other parts of the Borough have had to sign Acceptable Behaviour

TContracts (ABCs) after appearing on the ASBAG, but those who had been on the JYIP have not been required to do so.

• Relationships with schools and police have continued to improve. Local PCSOs have played football with the young people on the JYIP. The Safer Neighbourhoods Team has spent time with young people at the Hanworth Centre and plans to attend some of the trips with us. This has helped build respectful relationships. Schools are grateful for the extra support we have been offering the young people and they have been noticing changes in them.

• We have been encouraging healthy eating by banning sweets and fizzy drinks from the Centre. This has had a positive effect as the young people have fewer mood swings and their concentration is better since they choose milk, fruit and juices that do not contain artificial flavours, colourings or preservatives. We have increased the number of cooking sessions we offer to encourage them to make healthy eating choices.

• "Circle time" still starts off each session. Young people now bring in certificates and stickers to show their achievements at school; they are applauded by the group for their hard work and good behaviour. The group also uses this circle to discuss issues such as bullying and staff members encourage young people to tell someone if they are bullied, and not to do it themselves.

The JYIP is a good example of a prevention project with a high success rate. Areas such as Feltham and Bedfont would benefit from this sort of project, as it is apparent that there is a need for it. Robust and secure funding would ensure that the Hanworth Junior Youth Inclusion Project would continue to support the families and young people in Hanworth and help to improve their lives.

JYIP Case Study 1

L is a 9 year old boy who was referred to the project via two different agencies. He had many problems at school, anger management issues and his mother had difficulties with discipline and boundaries.
L was regularly excluded from school and would then associate with older kids on the estate where he lives. He was also involved in a few instances of anti-social behaviour.

Once he started attending the JYIP, his attendance and behaviour improved dramatically at school. He was only given 3 behaviour slips in a whole term, whereas before he would receive at least 6 per week.

He has built very good relationships with staff. The school is happy with his progress and the fact that he has learned techniques which have helped him to control his temper.

When L's mum was offered parenting help through another agency she declined, but she agreed to attend our parenting group. She has been attending since it started and is a great supporter of the project. She is due to start the Triple P parenting programme. Her parenting skills have improved now that she has more confidence and is able to set boundaries.

Although there are other problems within the family, the relationship between mum and L has improved. He is able to talk to her when things go wrong and they are able to problem-solve together.

JYIP Case Study 2

C comes from a large family. She is one of 7 siblings, her eldest brother is in prison and her father has also had dealings with the police.

C first started coming to JYIP because her older brother and sister were on the project. Her mum approached us to say that C was showing signs of bullying, rudeness and defiance at home. She would often bully her younger siblings, her peers at school and other young people on the estate where she lives.

C would often run away when being questioned about her behaviour. She was increasingly rude to adults and would not respond when being spoken to.

Since intensive work started with her on the JYIP, she has changed her attitude and has become a good role model to other young people. She has maintained 100% attendance at school where she has been awarded certificates for her efforts. She is currently on the platinum level in maths.

C has built very good relationships with staff and she helps to plan sessions, leads on fundraising activities and encourages others to participate.

Mum now finds it a lot easier to cope with C. She attends the parenting group and has recently started a petition to keep the JYIP going post-2008; when current funding is due to expire.

SENIOR YOUTH CLUB and CONNEXIONS

Andy Clarke and Sarah Jukes

The Senior Youth Club is for young people aged 13 to 19 on Monday and Wednesday evenings during term-time, providing opportunities to participate in a range of activities in a safe, caring and stimulating environment

Connexions is a programme that provides intensive support for 16 to 19 year olds in Hanworth who have been identified as having multiple issues which prevent them from engaging in education, employment or training.

I took over the role of Youth Development Manager and responsibility for the Senior Youth Club in May 2006. After a couple of weeks in post, the Centre was broken into and the music decks were stolen. This had a devastating effect on the numbers of young people attending Senior Youth Club. It highlighted the young people's love for music and that it had to be a priority for us to replace the equipment and, if possible, to add to it.

The morning after the theft, a young man from Hanworth was waiting to see me on my arrival at work. He asked me to check the CCTV and told me who he believed had stolen the equipment. Later that day two more young people spoke to me confirming that they knew who was responsible and that they would assist in any investigations. The person responsible was not from Hanworth or the surrounding areas. Thankfully he was eventually caught and prosecuted, but the music equipment was never found.

However, this spurred the young people to make a funding application and they were awarded over £10,000 to purchase recording and studio equipment. They now have a music room that they are proud of. This has helped some of them to gain OCN qualifications and given them the confidence to perform at major youth events in the borough such as The Black History Finale, The Zest for Life Competition, The People's Educational Empowerment Programmes celebration evening and An Evening with Feltham Arts.

Some of the young people have been accredited in radio production and produced a show that went out over the internet for 5 days on Point Blank radio station. Recently (April 2007), six more young men have been accredited in music technology.

Some of our young people received certificates for participating in the Clean-Up Days in Hanworth. There are also some lovely pictures in a published report of our young people in the Black History events that took place at our centre (October 2006).

A group of young men were taken to Brenscombe Activity Centre on a residential. As well as participating in team building and fun activities, they also were there to learn. Topics covered were The Roles and Responsibilities of a Young Man, Teenage Health and Anti Social/ Nuisance Behaviour.

The Senior Club had five members nominated for Youth Service Awards, one of whom won the Personal Achievement Award. It was a very proud moment for him, his family and for my staff team; it was totally unexpected but well deserved.

Sarah Jukes, our Connexions worker, attended my sessions every Wednesday and was always available to me and our young people whenever we called for her assistance. She has helped many of my senior group find either employment or training and she also supported me to help some of them gain OCN qualifications in preparation for work.

As a result of Sarah's support and her partnership with other agencies, we have seen young people who were were thought to be unemployable either in training or employment and they all seem to be doing fine. Sarah has sadly now moved away from the area with her young family and we are lucky to have found an equally enthusiastic replacement to take over her valuable role from September 2007.

Senior Youth Club Case Study

B is very well known in this area and at the Centre. He had a bad reputation and he was known to the Youth Offending Team and the police.

He was encouraged to attend the Centre for a chat and to see if we could offer some advice and guidance. He accepted this invitation and would pop in regularly for a chat. He was given the use of telephones and any resources he needed to assist him in finding work.

B was so happy with the support he was getting at Hanworth that he started to think about getting a job as a youth worker. He started attending every evening session and found himself singing and rapping in the DJ Decks room.

He has become a positive role model around the Centre. When he sings or raps, his lyrics are inspiring as he is always trying to divert young people away from trouble and a life of crime. In fact his lyrics are so good that the Youth Service has asked him to write them down so that they can be used as promotional material.

HEALTH VISITORS

Jenny Miln

The outreach public health initiatives, held in the Hanworth Centre and serviced by the Health Visiting Team, continue to be well attended.

Parents seek support and advice on their child's health and development. On average, 35 carers with their children attend the drop-in Well Baby Clinic on Wednesday afternoons. Health assessments are on-going, but a particular emphasis is made at 8 months and 2 years 6 months.

The New Beginnings Group, for babies up to a year old, is held on Monday afternoons, led by one of our Community Nursery Nurses. This focuses on health education and feedback has been very positive. Many of the parents have forged friendships within the group, and those who are more vulnerable or isolated have been empowered to reach out and take the support offered. Some of the older babies and their carers from the original group meet in another room at the Centre on the same afternoon.

That same group has also set up a parent and toddler session, open to the public, on Friday afternoons. Start-up support was given by our Community Nursery Nurse, the Hanworth Centre and the Early Years Partnership.

The services offered enable us to identify emotional problems, post-natal depression, vulnerability, isolation, health problems, childhood obesity, and developmental delay, thus giving us the opportunity to prevent or intervene.

ADULT & COMMUNITY EDUCATION

Pauline El-Grév /Widening Participation Co-ordinator

The Adult & Community Education programme at the Hanworth Centre has successfully continued to deliver information and advice sessions, beginner and level one courses with a focus on developing 'skills for life' and 'preparing for work' in office, childcare and catering environments.

Learners have been able to gain qualifications in: Computer for Beginners, New CLAIT modules in Microsoft Word, Excel, Access, PowerPoint, Internet & E-Mail, CV Writing, Interview Skills, British Sign Language, English as a Second Language, Introduction to Childcare, Food Hygiene and Cake Decoration (City & Guilds). Many of the learners have progressed to joining level 2 courses at main ACE centres, other training establishments and employment.

There have been a number of new initiatives this year including a new Family Learning programme which has started with the introduction of 'Computers for Parents and Children over 6 Years.' Future plans have been developed with the Health Visitors to offer 'Music & Movement' and 'Ideas for Healthy Snacks for Summer Picnics' to members of the Friday afternoon Parent & Toddler Group.

COMMUNITY GROUPS

The Hanworth Centre continues to be used by various local community groups including the Al-umm Mother and Toddler Group, TE-AT-SU Karate, Jean Inwards School of Dance, Balkan Dance, Yoga and Age Concern Over 50s.

The Hanworth Centre was also used for the CIP Summer Play Scheme in August 2006, Brentford Football in the Community Programme, various one-off bookings for other clubs such as Middlesex Young Peoples Club and Consultation Days for the Children's Fund.

TREASURER'S REPORT

David Kaye

The company continues to seek revenue funding to run its projects and cover its operating costs year on year. This year there was a rise in donations for designated projects from £378,000 in 2005/06 to £457,500 in the current year. This includes a statutory contribution from the London Borough of Hounslow who provided staff, property and maintenance as a gift-in-kind to a value of £101,000. The increase in income includes additional funding for the JYIP project, parenting skills and Caterpillar Pre-School. Our core grants for JYIP and Connexions have both been renewed for a fifth year in 2007/08, indicating the success of those programmes.

HAY continues to have large restricted reserves; these reserves are mainly capital costs for the refurbishment of the Hanworth Centre. This build cost is being amortised over the remaining 17 years of the lease and £1,089,000 remains to be written off as an expense. As such this is not income that can be expended. The other restricted income is the unspent portion of designated project funding totalling £206,000 which has been received in advance and is therefore ring-fenced. There are Designated Reserves of £90,000 to cover the estimated costs to complete the Hanworth Centre redevelopment and funds towards the reserves policy required by the Charity Commission and approved by the Directors. Unrestricted reserves amounted to £25,000.

Summary Results for the years ended 31 March
(to the nearest thousand pounds)

	2006/7	2005/6
Income		
Building redevelopment	12,500	0
Designated projects	457,500	378,000
Investment Income	20,00	22,000
	490,000	400,000
Use of Cash		
Building redevelopment	45,000	172,000
Staff and projects	294,000	334,000
Hanworth Centre	42,000	40,000
Equipment	3,000	5,000
Association	7,000	3,000
	391,000	554,000
Increase (Decrease) in Net Current Assets	99,000	(154,000)

Revenue reserves have been split into 3 categories, as described below.

Reserve policy

The Committee has reviewed its policy following completion of the building works, and the policy is now set at 4 months' costs for programmes not covered by government funding.

A BIG THANK YOU

Dozens of people and organisations have been involved in making our work possible at the Centre. Unfortunately we cannot thank everyone individually. We extend our warmest thanks to everyone who has helped us during the year and would, however, like to mention the following major supporters:

Awards for All

Big Lottery Fund (previously Community Fund), Charles Dunstone Charitable Trust
Children's Fund, City Parochial Foundation
Community Investment Fund, Connexions
Garfield Weston Foundation, London Borough of Hounslow
People's Educational Empowerment Programmes , Thames Community Fund
Anonymous trusts

We would also like to express our appreciation to the following organisations for their support and active input into the development of the Centre over the past year:

Community Initiative Partnership
Feltham Arts, Feltham Community College
Hounslow Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership
Hounslow Children's Services and Lifelong Learning
Hounslow Homes, Hounslow Police
Hounslow and Spelthorne NHS Trust, Hounslow Voluntary Sector Forum
Hounslow Youth Service , Oriel School
Skills Centre, Youth Offending Service

Particular thanks go to Liz Hassock, Lena Engel and Jenny Miln for all their encouragement and the huge amount of faith that they have shown in our work.

HOUNSLOW ACTION FOR YOUTH ASSOCIATION

Registered Charity No: 296372 , Company Limited by Guarantee No: 2081759
Auditors: Stone Osmond Limited , Bank: C Hoare & Co

Solicitors : Jones Day

Committee Members

David Kaye / Chairman and Treasurer
Carol Moore / Secretary
Louise Kaye / Development Director
Liz Cooper
Richard Carr
Phil Doyle
Jon Fayle
Elaine Wein

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To make a donation to HAY please go to our website or to enquire about other ways in which you or your organisation can support our charity, please contact the Development Director by email: louisekaye@btinternet.com