

## **Base 51**

### **NGYmyplace Impact Report**

#### **History**

##### **Background to the Myplace Programme**

In 2005, the Labour Government included in their election manifesto a commitment to provide world class youth centres across the country. This became the Myplace Programme delivered by BIG Lottery on behalf of the Dept. of Education. The programme was rolled out from 2007 with the first grants awarded from 2008. The criteria for applications included a partnership between the Local Authority and the Voluntary Sector as well as participation from young people. 63 projects were funded across the country with the Nottingham City Council awarded £4.9 million in March 2009.

##### **Original Partnership**

Prior to the bid an open meeting was held for any interested organisations to have an input into what a “World Class” centre would look like and where this should be. Work with young people also fed into this using surveys and participation from the Youth Council.

The final partnership was agreed with the following organisations:

- Nottingham City Council
- Nottinghamshire YMCA
- Connexions
- Nottingham City PCT
- Compass Young Peoples Service
- Nottingham Forest Football in the Community
- Base 51

A partnership agreement was drawn up for the purpose of the application and agreed in principle by the partner organisations.

##### **Base 51 involvement**

In 2006 Base 51 (then operating as HINT) was given notice that the building Base 51 occupied on Glasshouse Street was to be sold for development. Nottingham City Council gave an assurance the Base 51 would be supported to relocate and a number of meetings with NCC over the following two years to establish what was needed by Base 51 and to consider the options. Because of the diverse services offered by Base 51 this proved to be a challenge; therefore when the opportunity to become part of the Myplace partnership arose, this presented a solution for NCC to relocate Base 51 within the new centre. Base 51 recognised this as a solution and an opportunity, but also acknowledged the importance in maintaining the independence of the organisation.

Nottingham City Council became the lead organisation in coordinating the bid and being the main contact for BIG. It was always intended that the project would be led by a voluntary sector organisation and rather than set up a new charity, it was agreed by the partners that Base 51 would take the lead as the organisation holding relevant experience to run a Myplace Centre and in March 2009 we were notified the bid was successful.

## The Building

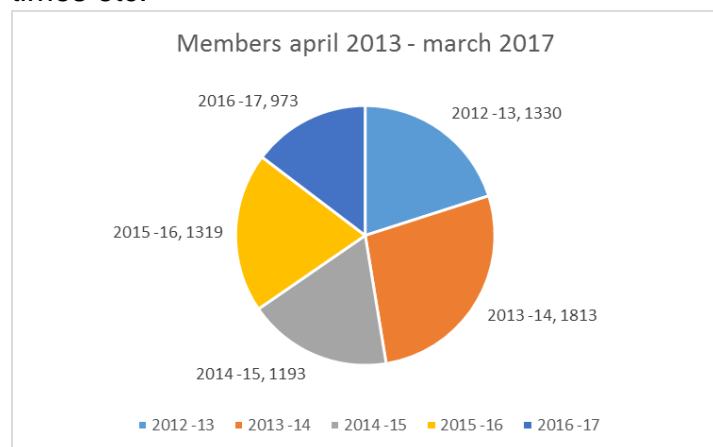
The building had been identified and secured before it was known the bid was successful. As Base 51 had found previously (when notice was served on the Glasshouse Street building) finding a suitable city centre building) to host all the requirements of the partners was challenging. Out of three available the Castlegate building seemed to have the most potential (although at that stage we were unaware of the grade11 listing!) and the one preferred by young people. Because of the limited options NCC purchased the building to support the bid.

## Governance

The building was signed over to Base 51 as the lead organisation early in 2012 as the building was completed.

The Base 51 Board of trustees was strengthened to reflect the increased responsibilities for NGY with a successful recruitment drive in 2011, bringing in an additional 6 trustees.

**Where we are now:** NGY opened with a membership programme which enable young people to register as a member and they would be given a membership card which gave them access to the “open access” areas of the building. (See figure 3)The system also provided anonymous data (see below) showing the use, busiest times etc.



*Fig. 1 shows the number of members for each year. Over the years we have developed the membership and now the majority of young people using the services become a member. The 2<sup>nd</sup> year (2013 -14) is the highest but all young people renewed their membership this year. On average 1,200 young people join NGY each year. A total of **6628** young people have become members since 2012.*

Figure 1

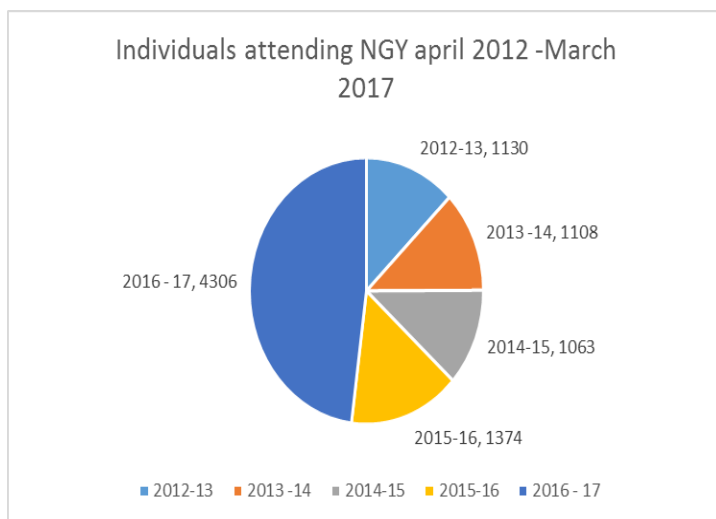


Figure 2

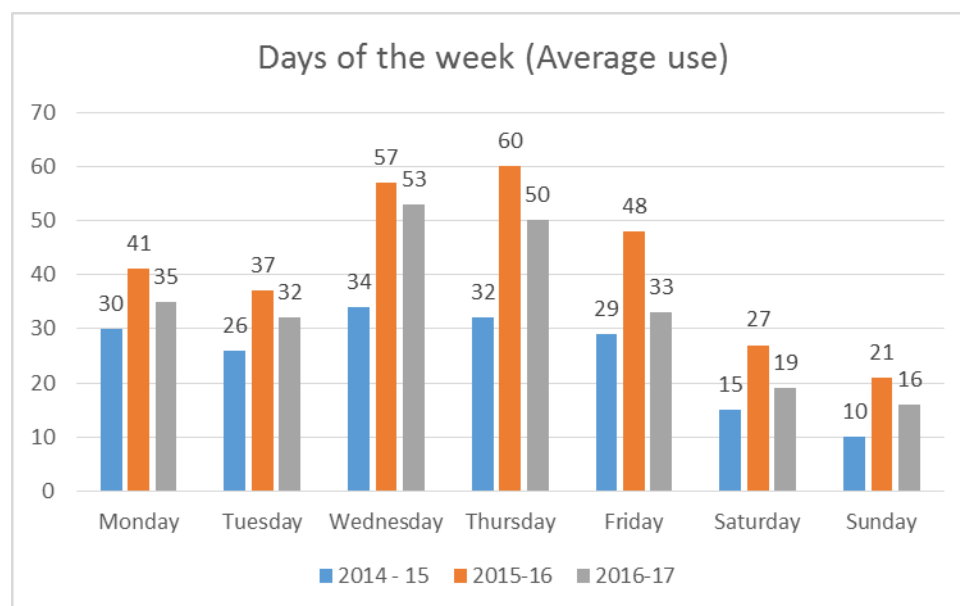
*Over the years the number of individuals have grown and young people are engaging for longer. (see Fig. 2) 2016 – 17 is by far the highest number of individuals using NGY, although the number of new members did fall slightly, demonstrating that young people are coming back to use the centre.*

*Young people “Swipe” into the building – so a visit may be more than once. The figures in Fig. 3 show the amount of traffic going through reception. In the later years there has been a decrease in visits but an increase in individuals which suggests young people are staying in the building longer. Visits in 2015-16 were unusually high, due to the timetable for this period. A short closure between sessions resulted in young people re-entering the building.*



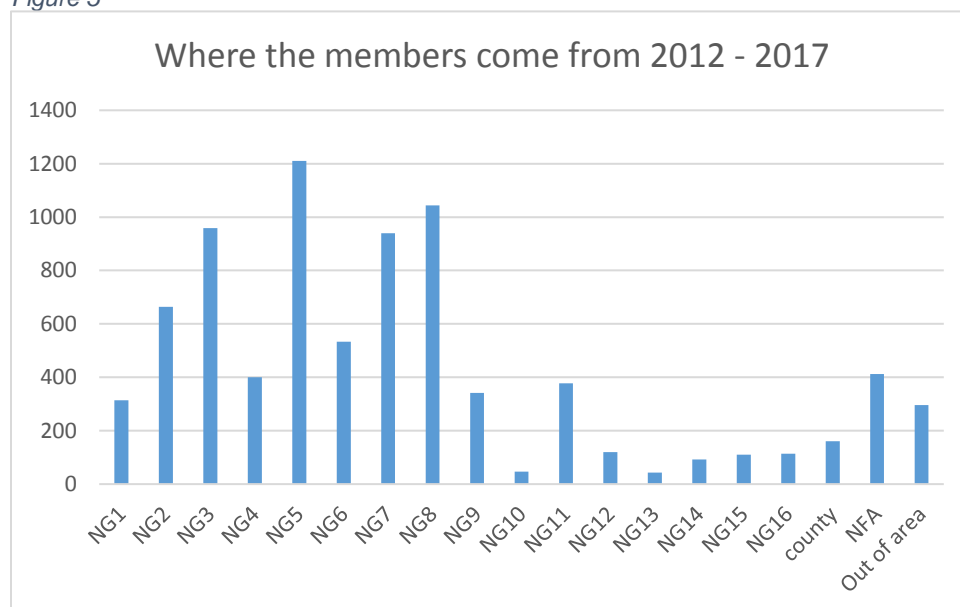
Figure 3

Figure 4



As we developed the monitoring using NET2 we could average out the attendance figures for the days of the week. (Fig. 4) Wednesday evening is Outburst for LGBT young people and Thursday evenings we work with The Refugee Forum – both our busiest evenings. The changes in the timetable is reflected in both Fig3&4. Our daytime sessions in 2015-16 were open to 16 – 17 year olds, which changed to 19- 25yrs in 2016 - 17. The ages for daytime sessions will revert back to under 19's in 2017

Figure 5



We report on the first part of the postcode for each person – there are ambiguous areas where city and county postcodes join. Many young people may live in the county but attend city schools and colleges- and of course many young people come into the city. Both Base 51 and YMCA are funded to deliver services in the county which contributes to the county figures. The high numbers of “NFA” (No Fixed Abode) were from the earlier years when Base 51 received funding to work with homeless young people. This ended in 2015.

## Our Achievements

- NGY open 6 years; we have maintained our 7 days a week, daytime and evening opening since 2012, despite a reduction in funding
- **6628** members registered since 2013
- YMCA delivering projects and universal provision in the evenings
- YMCA brought their ZONE project to NGY in sept 14, which became an independent organisation in 2015, RISE which continued to deliver learning to young people excluded/at risk of exclusion from school.
- New partnerships have been developed with St Nic's and The Refugee Forum, with joint sessions delivered
- Partnerships developed with Boots, Sainsbury's and Capital One.
- Base 51 has increased the GYM provision, offering sessions after school.
- Base 51 Counselling Service included in the City's Behavioural and Mental Health Pathway and from 2017 working alongside CAMHS colleagues in the Single Point of Access (SPA) - On average **450** young people per year are supported through the counselling service.
- Base 51 with Nightstop actively involved in developing the Nottingham Protocol for Homeless 16&17 year olds.
- A dedicated session, "Outburst" for LGBT young people each week.
- Timetable separated into "targeted " support and "universal " provision enabling:
  - Services to be age appropriate
  - A NGY youth club to run in the evenings
  - Staff appointed for skills to run sessions
- Marketing strategy revised in 2014 and subsequently in 2016 with a focus on outreach
- Senior member programme established
- 3 Development Days held each year for all staff, volunteers, partners and senior members to engage.
- In 2014 a review of the Base 51 Mission, Vision and Values undertaken with clear objectives for NGY.
- Volunteer programme established
- Trustee Board actively involved
- Young people's representative sits on the Marketing Sub Group and Senior Members present at Board meetings; we are working with young people to enable them to be appropriately involved at Board level

## Challenges

- The Partnership changed almost before we opened in 2012:
  - Connexions became Futures and remit changed so not able to deliver in NGY
  - Primary Care changed to Sexual Health provided through NUH with clinics reduced over the years.
  - NFFiC due to lack of funding unable to sustain running the gym other than one session a week.
  - Compass; the young people's drug and alcohol service did not include delivery from NGY; therefore when Compass lost the tender they also moved from the building
- Adjusting to the current economic environment
- Running a multi- purpose building 7 days a week , predominately 9am – 9pm
- Changes in the partnership
- Funding for partners impacting on their delivery, as Nottingham City Council moved grant aid out to the localities
- Managing the “mix” of young people
- Marketing NGY to all young people

## Young People

- Membership currently stands at over 6,000 (This is an accumulative figure from 2013) and from April 1<sup>st</sup> 2017 all young people will register again.
- Average attendances each day are over 30 young people. The timetable has undergone considerable change to meet the needs of young people, partners and to ensure support and activities are age appropriate. The model has settled to a Targeted Support Service during the day (from 2016 for 18 – 25 yrs.) and a Universal service “NGY Youth Club” from 3.30 – 8pm in the evenings for 11 -19s. As the number of over 18's has reduced significantly the daytime sessions will be targeting 16 – 17 yrs. in 2017 especially those attending local colleges There will still be a service for over 18's, through one-to-one support and the Counselling Service.
- It is worth noting that although a universal service, the evening sessions are supporting vulnerable young people; issues brought by young people include:
  - Mental Health
  - Self-harm and suicidal thoughts
  - Relationships ( with family and friendships)
  - Bullying
  - Transgender and gender identity

A senior member's programme has been successfully developed to develop and train young people to take on roles in NGY such as supporting staff to deliver activities, provide regular feedback and sit on recruitment interview panels. It is intended senior members will become part of the Base 51 Board structure (Further detailed information on activities, monitoring and young people is available)

## **Marketing**

Constraints in time and cost coupled with a building which is grade II listed has put barriers against more obvious signage in place for NGY – The current marketing strategy focuses on increasing our reach to young people within our current budget. An Outreach team has been established and started to be operational in February 2015. Schools have been the focus outreach as well as events and youth organisations.

## **Funding**

The original budget was set on the anticipated cost of running the NGY building against anticipated income. Some partners agreed to contribute under their Licence agreement and room usage (Base 51, YMCA and Compass). NFFiC from the beginning of the partnership could only agree to provide GYM staff for limited hours each week. Futures were not able to provide any workers for NGY as their staff are target driven and could not come into NGY without a guarantee that they could meet these - although it had been acknowledged they would bring a limited amount of funding in, this never happened.

The budget was balanced with the fundraising figure and it was not identified that this would have to be donations outside of project funding. Many trust funds will not fund core costs and therefore only sponsorship or donations would fall into this category – a huge task in this current climate and with limited staffing resources.

Base 51 has undergone a staffing restructure to reflect the needs of the organisation. This resulted in a number of posts being reconfigured while ensuring the front line delivery was protected.

To ensure full use of the building, provide sustainability and to broaden the reach to young people, the Nottingham Youth Offending Team will be moving part of their service to NGY from the summer of 2017.

## What the Young People Say:

### About NGY

*"Lovely environment" "Lovely staff" "Social and welcoming environment and lots of facilities"*

### About Me;

*"NGY supported me to become a better person"*

*"Improved my confidence"*

*"Through going to the gym the gym instructor advised me to use certain technique which has enabled me to control my anger better and not got in to trouble"*

*"Boxing was stress relieving"*

### About Learning

*"NGY helped me to get back into education"*

*"Taught me to read, helped me with housing and job interviews"*

*"Learning without issues, not scared of attending ..."*

*"I received help with my CV and music"*

*"NGY has helped me build up my C.V, and supported me into getting back into education, as a next step for what I want to do for my career."*

### About new experiences:

*"I like coming to NGY it's fun and I have made friends with people I didn't know before"*

*"I went to the gallery with NGY to have a look at an exhibition and fill in a zine and give feedback on it. It was my first time in an art gallery and it was something different to do. I've always wanted to go to galleries but never had any opportunities because my parents never took me."*

### About Groups:

*"Outburst is fab, staff are really supportive"*

*FWord "I liked asking the MP questions about what she does and things that are important to me. She seemed to care about what we were saying"*

### About being a Senior Member:

*"as a senior member NGY has enabled me to gain more knowledge in safeguarding other young people & help me to safely prepare food through taking my food and hygiene training" and help me to work better with others"*

*"I work better and support other young people my age through the senior programme."*

*"I have progressed hugely with the amount of knowledge I have gained due to the amount of training and group work I have done. I have completed interview panel training which has enabled me to have the skills and feel confident to interview others but also have an understanding of what is expected of me when I attend interviews"*