



Dear all,

And there we have it, February is at an end, but not without some exciting news to share!

Recently we have been looking back at the first 42 units that have now been opened for more than 2 years. We wanted to get an early look at sustainability before we have a much larger sample in April, and what we found is very encouraging.

From the first 42 units, 90% are still open and they are at 85% capacity! This means we are seeing outstanding results, even when paid staff move on. This proves that we are not just funding a year of activity but we are really helping to establish volunteer based community institutions. This is great news for the young people we work with, and is testament to the superb work that development workers, volunteers and wider organisations do to sustain this enthusiasm and dedication.

But the good news doesn't end there, this month we were able to announce the second round of funding through the Uniformed Youth Social Action Fund with Minister Rob Wilson at a Volunteer Police Cadets unit in Streatham. This work focuses on innovation and we are supporting organisations to develop new ways to engage harder to reach young people, such as:

- Piloting approaches to engaging young people with physical and learning difficulties
- Reaching transient communities
- Working with young people in penal institutions
- Engaging with people for whom English is a second language

We would like to congratulate all five of the successful organisations – Scouts, Sea Cadets, Volunteer Police Cadets, Boys' Brigade, Woodcraft Folk and Jewish Lads' and Girls' Brigade. We look forward to watching the new ideas being put into action over

the coming months.

All in all, February has produced some positive news for us all and we step into March with a *spring* in our step!

Congratulations once again to everyone involved in the Youth United network.

Best wishes,

Lindsay



### Uniformed youth groups celebrate new funding for social action

Rob Wilson, the new Minister for Civil Society, joined five uniformed youth organisations to celebrate new funding from a £10 million grant fund to promote innovative grassroots social action by uniformed groups. The second round of the Uniformed Youth Social Action Fund grants have been funded by the Cabinet Office from LIBOR fines raised from banks. This money is now being invested into youth organisations with innovative approaches to expand their presence in disadvantaged and hard-to-reach areas.

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### VPC announce launch of new youth charity

The Volunteer Police Cadets are one of Britain's fastest-growing uniformed youth organisations. They have continued to go from strength-to-strength in recent years. The ever expanding youth organisation has now launched an exciting new charity to greatly expand its work with young people in the UK's most disadvantaged areas.

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### Jewish Lads' and Girls' Brigade celebrate 120th anniversary

The UK's oldest Jewish youth movement have had much to celebrate in the past few months, not only has the Jewish Lads' and Girls' Brigade recently secured UYSAF funding through Youth United to help them realise their commitment to helping young people, but they also recently celebrated their 120th anniversary at a special event at the House of Lords. The organisation was joined

by politicians Eric Pickles and Rob Wilson alongside the organisation's adult volunteers, trustees and staff to pay tribute to the youth group's successes over the years.

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## Welcoming the Woodcraft Folk

They might not be the best known of the groups to receive funding from the Youth United Foundation, but Woodcraft Folk are an organisation with a 90-year track record of delivering Education for Social Change across the UK. Here we welcome the 'folk to the fold and we share with you the difference between Woodchips and Venturers.

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