A Report on the Social Value of Unity

May 2014

Authors: Chloe Still and Pam Cotterill
Unity was created in May 2005 as a response to the local social problems that the directors saw on a daily basis. These included unemployment, families living in poverty, low educational achievement, school exclusions and children entering the care system. By creating innovative and engaging projects that captured young people’s attention, Unity began to establish itself as a leading provider of services for children across North Staffordshire.

The opportunities that Unity provides are often delivered through the arts, sports and cultural activity. Unity believes that once a child is presented with an opportunity to participate, achieve and develop in a positive environment with role models and support, they can progress with the very best chance to lead a productive adult life.

Unity provides a range of projects, programmes and activities aimed at addressing local social problems, in partnership with schools, community groups, Local Authorities and other agencies including the NHS. Unity also makes a larger inward investment into the local area and over the past 5 years, has driven an additional £470k worth of funding into the geographical areas in which it works to address local social problems through innovative and creative based projects. These include the large scale “Progressionz” project delivered by The Unity Foundation in Schools and the highly successful “Summer Arts Colleges”. This is public funding made available to address issues which might include reducing school exclusions, increasing educational achievement, decreasing re-offending rates and supporting young people to find sustainable education, employment or training.

The four main areas of focus for this report Unity’ are:

1. Staff
2. The Progressionz Project
3. Residential Care
4. Unity Independent School

This report aims to highlight and evidence the outcomes and social value of each of the four areas of Unity’s work, attaching associated financial values to the identified outcomes of activities with the use of individual case examples and by thinking more holistically about the overall impact of Unity’s operations.
1. Staff

Unity currently employs 70 staff, and aims to reduce barriers to employment by giving opportunities to those from diverse backgrounds who may initially lack experience. Investing in staff training and development has enabled a number of employees to progress in their roles to attain promotion.

“We have created 70 sustainable jobs.”
Matt Wilcox, Unity

“35% of our employees have been promoted to a more senior position within their time with us.”
Matt Wilcox, Unity

When capturing the benefit to society as a social value this increase in employment has created £4014.5 in reduced welfare benefits, based on income-based job seekers allowance (JSA), per week (see Box 1). Further to this, a person in receipt of income-based JSA is also entitled to health benefits (prescriptions, sight tests and dental treatment), housing benefit, council tax benefit, and some Social Fund payments (Princes Trust, 2007). The total benefits paid to an unemployed person may vary depending on personal circumstances; therefore it is not possible to estimate the total welfare benefit savings.

Additionally, the productivity gain to the economy from providing 70 jobs is estimated as at least £16,563.75 per week (£861,315 per year). This figure is based on the national minimum wage for workers aged 21 and above (£6.31), and working 37.5 hours per week. As such, this calculation does not account for Unity employees who earn salaries higher than the national minimum wage, or work fewer hours.

Box 1 – Calculation for JSA

Income-based JSA (under 25’s) = £57.35 per week
57.35*70 = £4014.5 (per week)
4014.5*52 = £208,754 (per year)
Case Examples

The following stories have been provided by members of staff working at Unity, and provide a picture of what life was like for them before they began their role with Unity, how Unity has helped them and the opportunities that Unity has provided.

Staff Story 1

“I left university and couldn’t find a job; I got a lot of doors slammed in my face. I ended up working in nightclubs which wasn’t what I went to university for to be honest. I met one of the directors of the organisation who said they would give me a chance as a volunteer once I explained that I wanted to help young people.

I started as a volunteer and after proving myself they gave me a job as a classroom assistant and have put me on an intensive qualification to support my ongoing professional development. I have job security, I feel happy about the work and input I have on young people’s lives, I feel like I’m progressing in a field I want to work in.

I have developed professionally and personally. I feel more confident in all aspects of my life and think about my own life choices. I feel like I am around positive people doing a job that is rewarding despite it being quite challenging at times. I’m really proud of working with the children at the school and seeing them achieve. I have a clear direction in life now and people around me who will support me to progress and I’m in the right circles to meet like-minded people who want to use creativity to help address issues in the community.

I want to stay with the company, I want to perhaps develop more youth worker type skills and perhaps run my own projects under the Unity umbrella. Unity has opened so many doors for me in relation to the industry I want to work in.

If I would never have had that conversation with one of the directors then I’d probably be working in a dead end job, it would be very boring and I would not have the level of job satisfaction I have now. I might have stayed unemployed for a while as a lot of doors were shut in my face when I immediately left university. I see this as a career and I think if I work hard the senior management will reward me as I’ve seen other people climb up the ranks.”
The following table shows the main outcomes associated with the intervention provided by Unity, and details the corresponding themes, possible proxies and social values associated with Staff Story 1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outcomes</th>
<th>Theme</th>
<th>Possible Proxies</th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Source/Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sustainable employment</td>
<td>Employment, education and training</td>
<td>Savings associated with the cost of unemployment (welfare benefit savings, and productivity gain)</td>
<td><strong>£57.35 per week</strong> reduction in welfare benefit (JSA)</td>
<td>Income-based Job Seeker Allowance (under 25’s), HM Government Website (2014)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Productivity gain of at least <strong>£262.62 per week</strong> to the economy</td>
<td>Based on full time employment at National Minimum Wage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raising career aspirations</td>
<td>Employment, education and training</td>
<td>Costs associated with lack of educational achievement and poor career prospects and aspirations</td>
<td><strong>£45,000 per young person</strong> over her/his life time. Estimated overall cost to the UK economy is <strong>£22bn</strong></td>
<td>Princes Trust (2007)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increased confidence</td>
<td>Mental health and wellbeing</td>
<td>Cost of confidence and assertiveness training</td>
<td><strong>£1,195 per person</strong> per year for training</td>
<td>New Economic Foundation (2011).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>£105bn per annum</strong></td>
<td>Department of Health (2011)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increased earnings and increased ability to repay student loan</td>
<td>Income &amp; Financial Inclusion</td>
<td>Recuperation of the cost of University fees met by student loans</td>
<td>Up to <strong>£9,000 per student</strong> plus discretionary maintenance loans where applicable (up to £7,751 living away from home inside London)</td>
<td>HM Government Website (2014)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Staff Story 2

“I moved to Stoke unemployed and had been around a lot of very bad influences, it was important I got away from them. I would have been selling drugs, doing other crime, stealing cars and other bad things. When I first got to Stoke I carried on being around negative influences and quickly got in trouble again it was soon after this I realised I needed to change my life and I contacted Unity after seeing their number advertising their youth club on a piece of paper.

After getting involved with a youth club they used to run in about 2006 I then joined a NEET project that was set up to help young people find education, employment or training. After completing the programme I was put on a transitional employment placement at a graphic design company that Unity found me in about 2007. This gave me an opportunity to learn to do the basics like turn up on time and gave me a foundation of a good work ethic. Once this placement ended Unity decided to give me my first job opportunity where I earn £100 a week doing some graffiti workshops and other general bits and bobs. Since 2007 I’ve managed to prove myself and went onto earn £12k then £13k and now I’m on £16500 which I think is a decent wage for doing what I do in the city. Unity gave me the opportunity to not only gain sustainable employment but also develop my own creative skills professionally. I did graffiti as a hobby and messed about with design but now I do it professionally as a job.

Not only do I work for Unity but because of the positive role modelling and resources and equipment I had access to I decided to teach myself how to DJ, I now get about another £15k a year from this so at 26 to be on over £30k per year I think is an amazing achievement. If it wasn’t for me ringing that number I saw on a flyer all those years ago I would never be in this position now. I have a job that I love, that allows me to be creative and I earn great money which is well above what anyone else I know earns around here.

I’m more confident as a person, they have given me a chance to do a job that I really love and that allows me to express myself creatively. I have had positive role models and as a result become a positive role model for others, I’ve had a sense of positive achievement around me and that has helped me massively. I’ve got sustainable employment that has given me progression opportunities and I have a great deal of job satisfaction.

“Another job like this doesn’t exist”

I want to stay with the company, I’d like to think that one day I could take more of a leadership role within a project or work towards something more musically based. I know that if I wanted to I could run a project like this and the 7 years I’ve been with the company have allowed me to develop the skills I need to do it.

Chances are [without Unity] I would be in prison as I had a “don’t care” attitude. The youth club gave me a positive place to associate with other people in a positive environment and while some of them themselves were not perfect they were better than the peers who I was previously associating with. My employment chances were slim before Unity, I think I might have struggled to even get a job until I was 21 or 22 and even then it would have just been dead end with no real opportunity or way in which I could express myself creatively. I certainly wouldn’t be earning £30k per year and have my own car and house for example.”
Outcomes Framework and Social Values

The following table shows the main outcomes associated with the intervention provided by Unity, and details the corresponding themes, possible proxies and social values associated with Staff Story 2.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outcomes</th>
<th>Theme</th>
<th>Possible Proxies</th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Source/Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sustainable employment</td>
<td>Employment, education and training</td>
<td>Savings associated with the cost of unemployment (welfare benefit savings, and productivity gain)</td>
<td><strong>£57.35 per week</strong> reduction in welfare benefit. £2983.2 per year Productivity gain of <strong>£30,000 per year</strong> to the economy</td>
<td>Income-based Job Seeker Allowance (under 25’s), HM Government Website (2014), Referenced from case example</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reduced crime</td>
<td>Citizenship and community</td>
<td>Savings from the cost of crime and imprisonment</td>
<td><strong>Average cost of £8,000 per young offender per year</strong> to the Criminal Justice System (CJS) Overall resource expenditure cost of imprisonment per prisoner; <strong>£34,359 per year</strong></td>
<td>Ministry of Justice (2011) Ministry of Justice (2012)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increased confidence</td>
<td>Mental health and wellbeing</td>
<td>Cost of confidence and assertiveness training Cost associated with mental health problems to the English economy</td>
<td><strong>£1,195 per person per year</strong> for training, Overall cost of £105bn per annum.</td>
<td>New Economic Foundation (2011). Department of Health (2011)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raising Career Aspirations</td>
<td>Employment, education and training</td>
<td>Costs associated with lack of educational achievement and poor career prospects and aspirations</td>
<td><strong>£45,000 per young person</strong> over her/his lifetime. Estimated cost to the UK economy is £22bn</td>
<td>Princes Trust (2007)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Summary for staffing outcomes

Through the creation of 70 jobs and investment in the development of its staff team, Unity has made a considerable contribution to the local economy and can demonstrate outcomes in relation to sustainable employment, raising career aspirations, increasing confidence and reducing crime.
2. The Progressionz Project

The Progressionz Project is a 5-year project worth £375,000 created as a response to the high levels of school exclusion in Stoke-on-Trent. This project is funded partly by the Big Lottery fund with match funding from Unity and will support 1000 young people over the next 5 years who are at significant risk of exclusion from school.

Each year 200 young people across Stoke-on-Trent will be supported by a dedicated mentor, take part in creative based activities and achieve a level 1 qualification. The main focus is to mentor, advise and guide these participants so that they maintain their educational placement and are not excluded through behavioral or emotional needs not being met.

While most permanently excluded pupils are educated in a Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) (Department of Children, Schools and Families, 2008), the cost of educating a child in a PRU is £18,000 per year, compared with the cost of £4,000 per year in mainstream school (Centre for Social Justice, 2011). This results in a potential saving of £14,000 per young person. Therefore if Unity meets its aims of supporting up to 1000 young people to maintain their educational placement in mainstream schools this could result in huge savings to the local education authorities in Stoke-on-Trent.

Further to the cost that exclusion has on the education system, additional costs of exclusion should take account of: the cost of higher crime, the cost to social services, the cost of lower earnings, and the cost to health services. The total lifetime cost of permanent exclusion from school is estimated to be £650 million in the UK (New Philanthropy Capital, 2007).

School exclusion and truancy have associated costs due to educational underachievement which can lead to underemployment and unemployment. It is estimated that the population of young people who are not in employment, education or training (NEET) cost a total of £1,662,672,388 per year to public finance, in account of unemployment and other associated costs (University of York, 2010).

By helping young people to maintain school placements, increase their educational achievements and reduce truancy, the Progressionz project could help to prevent the young people it supports from entering the NEET population and reduce the associated costs of young people who are NEET to the local and national economy.
Case Examples

The following stories have been written by young people who have taken part in the Progressionz project. The stories provide a picture of what life was like for these young people before taking part in the Progressionz project, how the project has helped them and the opportunities that the project has provided.

Progressionz Story 1

“MY behaviour was really bad in the past and I wasn’t very nice to my teachers. I was always getting in trouble all the time and this was partly because I was trying to be the class clown. Outside of school, life was stressful because my mum is ill. My dad also used to try to always compare me to my older brother who did really good in school so this added a lot of pressure.

Since being involved with Unity’s Progressionz Project I have got myself the Arts Award qualification. I’m happy with this because I have put it on my CV and it has helped me get into college. For the Arts Award I did activities like graffiti. I was also given the opportunity to sing on stage for the Unity showcase at the start of this year. I had sung on stage before but I was very nervous about performing because I was scared the crowd would not like my performance. I think the performance gave me a lot more confidence because of all the positive feedback I got on the night and from Facebook comments.

I think Unity has helped me with my behaviour and I am also a lot more confident about myself now. I used to get stressed with the comparisons between me and my brother but I now focus on my strengths and my dad said he is proud of me, which makes me feel good. I also feel grateful that Unity gave me a neutral, confidential person to speak about things to because you can’t talk to friends or family about everything.

I am still not sure what to do when I leave school because I wanted to study either nursing or health and social care at college, which Unity helped with the applications and gave me a reference. Because of doing the Unity showcase, I now also want to pursue music as it is now my dream and Unity has helped me to realise I am good and could do it. I would love to become a famous singer!

I think if it were not for Unity I would probably have been kicked out of school by now, which would have been bad because I am about to sit my GCSE’s. I would probably not be looking at a career in singing and might not have even considered going to college.”
Outcomes Framework and Social Values

The following table shows the main outcomes associated with the intervention provided by Unity, and details the corresponding themes, possible proxies and social values associated with **Progressionz Story 1**.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outcomes</th>
<th>Theme</th>
<th>Possible Proxies</th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Source/Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reducing school exclusion</td>
<td>Employment, education and training</td>
<td>The cost of excluding a child from mainstream school</td>
<td>Saving of <strong>£1500 per month</strong> from the cost of not attending a Pupil Referral Unit</td>
<td>Department of Children, Schools and Families, 2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raising educational and career aspirations</td>
<td>Employment, education and training</td>
<td>Potential future savings of youth unemployment</td>
<td><strong>£57.35 per week</strong> potential reduction in welfare benefit. <strong>£2983.2 per year</strong></td>
<td>Income-based Job Seeker Allowance (under 25’s), HM Government Website (2014)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increased confidence and self-esteem</td>
<td>Mental health and wellbeing</td>
<td>Cost of confidence and assertiveness training</td>
<td><strong>£1,195 per person per year for training</strong></td>
<td>New Economic Foundation (2011)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Cost associated with mental health problems to the English economy</td>
<td><strong>£105bn per annum</strong></td>
<td>Department of Health (2011)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improving family relationships</td>
<td>Family, friends and relationships</td>
<td>Reduced likelihood of family break down</td>
<td>Saving of <strong>£2,689 per child per week</strong> in local authority residential care</td>
<td>Department of Education (2010)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learning new skills; Arts Award</td>
<td>Arts, heritage, sport and faith</td>
<td>Increased likelihood of going on to further education post-16 years of age and improving career and quality of life opportunities</td>
<td><strong>£45,000 per young person over her/his lifetime</strong>. Estimated cost to the UK economy is <strong>£22bn</strong></td>
<td>Princes Trust (2007)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improved behaviour</td>
<td>Citizenship and community</td>
<td>Reduced likelihood of crime</td>
<td>Average cost of <strong>£8,000 per young offender</strong> per year to the CJS</td>
<td>Ministry of Justice (2011)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Overall resource expenditure cost of imprisonment per prisoner; <strong>£34,359 per year</strong></td>
<td>Ministry of Justice (2012)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
"Before I started on the Unity Progressionz Project I was a very naughty student. I was permanently excluded from school due to poor behaviour. I went to the Reach Pupil Referral Unit for a bit and they helped me to get a place at another school. When I came here, I was still a troublesome student and got kicked out but luckily they had me back. Even after that I was still naughty. I would terrorise staff and students, throw things in lessons, be disruptive, swear at other students and act disrespectfully towards staff.

Since getting involved in Unity I have got an Arts Award. I have done things like acting, drawing and other art activities like painting canvases for the showcase. I like Unity because it gives me a break from my normal lessons, but not lessons that are important so I don’t have to catch up on a lot of work.

Unity has helped me to calm down and relax while I am at school. I have also learnt how to draw and do various styles of art that I wouldn’t have considered nor had the opportunity to try otherwise.

When I leave school I want to train and become a mechanic. I already knew what I wanted to do and knew what steps I will need to take but Unity helped to clarify the ways I could train to become a mechanic and which routes may be best for me.

I think if I were not involved with Unity I would still be a naughty student. I would probably still be described as a pain in the ass for staff, especially in my Religious Studies classes. I wouldn’t be surprised if I ended up being kicked out of school again."
Outcomes Framework and Social Values

The following table shows the main outcomes associated with the intervention provided by Unity, and details the corresponding themes, possible proxies and social values:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outcomes</th>
<th>Theme</th>
<th>Possible Proxies</th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Source/Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reducing school exclusion</td>
<td>Employment, education and training</td>
<td>The cost of excluding a child from mainstream school</td>
<td>Saving of £1500 per month from the cost of not attending a Pupil Referral Unit</td>
<td>Department of Children, Schools and Families (2008)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raising educational and career aspirations</td>
<td>Employment, education and training</td>
<td>Potential future savings of youth unemployment</td>
<td>£57.35 per week potential reduction in welfare benefit. £2983.2 per year</td>
<td>Income-based Job Seeker Allowance (under 25’s), HM Government Website (2014)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improved mental wellbeing; feeling calm and relaxed</td>
<td>Mental health and wellbeing</td>
<td>Cost of confidence and assertiveness training</td>
<td>£1,195 per person per year for training</td>
<td>New Economic Foundation (2011)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learning new skills/educational achievement;</td>
<td>Arts, heritage, sport and faith</td>
<td>Increased likelihood of going on to further education post-16 years of age and improving career and quality of life opportunities</td>
<td>£45,000 per young person over her/his lifetime. Estimated cost to the UK economy is £22bn</td>
<td>Princes Trust (2007) Department of Culture, Media and Sport (2014)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arts Award</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Summary for the Progressionz Project Outcomes

As an alternative education project, Progressionz has the potential to save the local authority £14,000 per young person if that young person had been offered a place in a Pupil Referral Unit. Over the five years of the project, if Unity reaches their aim of supporting 1,000 young people, there is potential for Unity to save the local authority up to £14m, if each of those young people had been offered a place in a Pupil Referral Unit. The Progressionz Project also demonstrates wider outcomes in relation to reducing the cost of school exclusion, raising aspirations, improving family relationships and improving mental wellbeing.
3. Residential Care

Unity provides six residential homes for young people across Staffordshire and Shropshire. These residential care homes provide accommodation for young people who have complex emotional needs that are often expressed through challenging behaviour. Unity offers many unique creative and personal development opportunities alongside therapeutic intervention to achieve the best possible outcomes for the children in their care.

“No child we have ever worked with in our care has been permanently excluded from ours or another school.”
Matt Wilcox, Unity

Case Examples

The following stories have been written by looked after children (LAC) who currently reside in one of Unity’s residential homes. The stories provide a picture of what life was like for these young people before entering the care system, and how the support provided by Unity staff has helped them, and the opportunities this has opened up for them.
Residential Care Story 1

“I used to live in an area with lots of negative influences, I lived with my mum and 2 siblings but was always in trouble I was doing robberies, arson, I smoked drugs, stole cars and crashed them, took Mcat and never went to school. My mum tried to make me go to school but I couldn’t be bothered. This started when I was about 11, I’m 13 now. I once got robbed myself and it was a very scary situation but I still took risks and wasn’t bothered about potentially being in dangerous places or around dangerous people. I then went to live with my dad but I kept running off and doing the same things and then went to live with my Nan and the same thing happened until I ended up in a care home close to where my family were from but this didn’t stop me from running off... Eventually I was moved to a care home away from where I lived to keep me out of trouble and that’s how I ended up with Unity.

I live at a Unity children’s home with 1 other young person, it upset me that I live further away from my family but I know that I need to keep my distance from all these negative influences. I really like where I live, the house is amazing and I get on really well with the staff team, they are very supportive and have helped me through getting my life back on track. I feel safe at home and know the staff are there for me if I need them, I have no problems with the other young person I live with but she is a bit annoying sometimes! There are positive role models in the staff team at home, some of them are really funny and I feel proud that I live there and take great pride in my room and keeping it clean.

Unity have supported me with loads of activities including football and introducing me to a Stoke city footballer who gave me a pair of boots, taking me to the gym and getting me into a youth club where I’ve met loads of new friends and built up positive relationships.

I must admit I do smoke the occasional cigarette but don’t smoke weed anymore, I’m tempted but the positive people around me mean I don’t even get access to it.

They have given me a better life, a fresh start and more opportunities that I would have had if I stayed where I was. I haven’t committed any criminal offences since I have been with Unity and had a good chance to reflect on my life and improve areas of it that were not very good. “I was a nob back then”!

I’m 13 now and I want to get my qualifications at school, I can’t believe I attend school now and have nearly 100% attendance, I never thought I would have this! I want a nice car and I want to be able to come back to see the staff team when I’ve left and take them out for dinner to say thanks for helping me over the years and give me a fresh start.

I think I definitely would be in prison and would still be naughty, I’d be smoking a lot of cannabis and I’d be committing crime to make money to pay for my drug habit. I wouldn’t be going to school and I don’t think I’d feel safe like I do now.”
Outcomes Framework and Social Values

The following table shows the main outcomes associated with the intervention provided by Unity, and details the corresponding themes, possible proxies and social values associated with Progressionz Story 1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outcomes</th>
<th>Theme</th>
<th>Possible Proxies</th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Source/Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reducing school exclusion</td>
<td>Employment, education and training</td>
<td>The cost of excluding a child from mainstream school</td>
<td>Saving of £1500 per month from the cost of not attending a Pupil Referral Unit</td>
<td>Department of Children, Schools and Families (2008)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reduced crime and improved behaviour</td>
<td>Citizenship and community</td>
<td>Reduced likelihood of further criminal behaviour with costs to the CJS</td>
<td>Average cost of £8,000 per young offender per year to the CJS</td>
<td>Ministry of Justice (2011)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Overall resource expenditure cost of imprisonment per prisoner; £34,359 per year</td>
<td>Ministry of Justice (2012)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reduced drug use</td>
<td>Physical Health</td>
<td>Decline in number of young people using drugs</td>
<td>Costs of £8,488 per drug user, per year to NHS and all other services</td>
<td>New Economic Foundation (2011).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Residential Care Story 2

“I lived with mum who has 5 other children, it was bad at home and it didn’t even feel like a home. We did a lot of things ourselves and I’d always argue with my mum. At 13 I started running off drinking and smoking weed every day,

I didn’t have much respect for myself, I lost my virginity when I was 14 and started to associate with older men and before I was placed into care I had disappeared for a month with a guy who turned out to be 31. Looking back it was a bit crazy what I did and was dangerous thinking about it.

I didn’t really go to school, the longest I had been out of school was a year and a half and when they did find me one I got kicked out for throwing a chair at my head of year.

It felt weird moving to Stoke and Hillside, initially I just wanted to run off and go back to the older man I was living with even though it wasn’t appropriate, my mum didn’t want me back because she couldn’t control me and I would have just kept running away. After a few hours because I was tired I settled down but it took me a little while to accept it.

The house I live in now is amazing I can’t believe it, the things that the staff have taught me are really positive for example I’ve learnt to respect people a lot more and while I still struggle I can manage relationships better with other people, especially my mum which is really good.

We do loads of really fun things with staff, like go on holidays, Alton Towers, youth club and crazy golf. When I lived at home mum didn’t have much money so I never really managed to do things like this and now I can buy new clothes with money that I get for clothing. I would never have had some of the things I get now if I lived back at home, I enjoy doing my makeup and putting outfits together.

Unity has helped me change for the better, they have taught me self-respect, and I don’t exploit myself or allow myself to be exploited anymore. My view on life is different before it was “let’s smoke weed or let’s have a fight” now it’s about making positive decisions and getting grades at school and going to college. I’m predicted a C in citizenship GCSE, I can’t believe it!

My substance misuse has significantly reduced, at home I would smoke weed every day in a year I’ve lived with Unity I think only once or twice which is a massive achievement for me.

I love my house, can’t believe im here, when I wake up its weird, my life before was totally different. The staff have supported me on an independence package because im nearly 16 and so have started to teach me what

I need to learn for when I leave care in the next 18 months potentially and get my own place.

I’m enrolled on a college course and my dream is to be a child psychologist. I need to stay out of trouble now and at 17 I want my own flat, I’m not sure where though.

[Without Unity] I would have gone home and would have ended up in prison as I would have continued doing what I was doing. I didn’t care about rules ad would not think twice about hitting someone. Im really grateful that I’ve come to live with Unity as if I didn’t I would have just messed up my life. My relationship wouldn’t be good like it is now with my mum.”
### Outcomes Framework and Social Values

The following table shows the main outcomes associated with the intervention provided by Unity, and details the corresponding themes, possible proxies and social values associated with Residential Care Story 2.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outcomes</th>
<th>Theme</th>
<th>Possible Proxies</th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Source/Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reducing school exclusion</td>
<td>Employment, education and training</td>
<td>The cost of excluding a child from mainstream school</td>
<td>Saving of £1500 per month from the cost of not attending a Pupil Referral Unit</td>
<td>Department of Children, Schools and Families (2008)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reduced crime and improved behaviour</td>
<td>Citizenship and community</td>
<td>Reduced likelihood of further criminal behaviour with costs to the CJS</td>
<td>Average cost of £8,000 per young offender per year to the CJS</td>
<td>Ministry of Justice (2011)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Overall resource expenditure cost of imprisonment per prisoner; £34,359 per year</td>
<td>Ministry of Justice (2012)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reduced drug use</td>
<td>Physical Health</td>
<td>Decline in number of young people using drugs</td>
<td>Costs of £8,488 per drug user, per year to NHS and all other services</td>
<td>New Economic Foundation (2011).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increased educational achievement and improved career aspirations</td>
<td>Employment, education and training</td>
<td>Costs associated with lack of educational achievement and poor career prospects and aspirations</td>
<td>£45,000 per young person over her/his lifetime. Estimated cost to the UK economy is £22bn</td>
<td>Princes Trust (2007)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Summary for Residential Care Outcomes

Residential care is Unity’s largest area of work and provides specialist care for young people from across Stoke-on-Trent and Shropshire. The residential care element of Unity’s work demonstrates outcomes in relation to reducing the risk of school exclusion, reducing the risk of crime and drug use, and increasing educational achievement and improving career aspirations.
4. Unity Independent School

The Unity independent school aims to provide equal opportunities for all young people to achieve and develop and progress. The school promotes a partnership approach to learning through school staff, students, family, educational practitioners and the wider agency partners. A strong focus is placed on developing students’ personal, social and emotional skills together with improved confidence, self-esteem and sense of identity, and to prepare and equip them with the skills needed to become productive and positive young adults with the ability to further education or seek employment.

“Between last year and this year there has been a 25% increase in the levels of qualifications generated at our school”
Matt Wilcox, Unity

Increasing educational achievement may also increase the opportunities that the young people who attend the Unity school have of attaining employment or continuing in further education or training. Thus, the impact of the Unity independent school may be in the reduction of entering the NEET population, and the associated savings of this to both the local and national economy.

Case Examples

This story was provided by a young person who attends Unity Independent School. It provides an insight into life before attending Unity Independent School, how they have engaged with their education and teachers and their aspirations for the future.
Unity School Story

“I live with my dad after moving back down here from Manchester, I’ve been excluded from 4 schools all for behaviour. My first exclusion was in year 7 for verbal abuse and for throwing stuff about. Within a short period I was excluded from my last school and then ended up here. Outside of school I was arrested for assault and got 4 month probation order which I’ve nearly completed.

I’ve learnt about myself and learnt that I need to get my head down; my attitude to learning has improved. I now want to actually pass my GCSEs where before I didn’t really care about them. I feel confident about passing them and I know I have to do it to do what I want to do next at college.

I get on with the teachers a lot more, they relate to you better and understand you far more than a mainstream teacher. I have been able to build up decent relationships with other young people, I haven’t had a fight since I’ve been here, I get on with everyone a lot more.

Unity have supported me to try new creative things like the media GCSE, I enjoyed doing this and never done anything like it before. I am getting my head down, I get more support in lesson, my attitude to learning has totally changed and I’ve had the opportunity to do a lot of self-reflection which has been good. I want to be a domestic gas engineer; I’d like to have my own house and family one day.

[Without Unity Independent School] I’d be in court again for sure, I would have without a shadow of a doubt assaulted a teacher, I wouldn’t have got any qualifications and I’ve gone from being predicted an F in mainstream school to being predicted a C. If I wouldn’t have got this extra support to achieve then chances are I wouldn’t have been able to get on this college course to be a domestic gas engineer.”
Outcomes Framework and Social Values

The following table shows the main outcomes associated with the intervention provided by Unity, and details the corresponding themes, possible proxies and social values for the Unity Independent School Story.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outcomes</th>
<th>Theme</th>
<th>Possible Proxies</th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Source/Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reducing school exclusion</td>
<td>Employment, education and training</td>
<td>The cost of excluding a child from mainstream school</td>
<td>Saving of <strong>£1500 per month</strong> from the cost of not attending a Pupil Referral Unit</td>
<td>Department of Children, Schools and Families (2008)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reduced crime</td>
<td>Citizenship and community</td>
<td>Reduced likelihood of further criminal behaviour with costs to the CJS</td>
<td>Average cost of <strong>£8,000 per young offender</strong> per year to the CJS. This includes £1,469 for young offender management team</td>
<td>Ministry of Justice (2011)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increased educational achievement and improved career aspirations</td>
<td>Employment, education and training</td>
<td>Costs associated with lack of educational achievement and poor career prospects and aspirations</td>
<td><strong>£45,000 per young person</strong> over her/his life time. Estimated cost to the UK economy is £22bn</td>
<td>Princes Trust (2007)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Summary for Unity Independent School outcomes

Unity’s Independent School provides an individualised and personal approach to education. Young people attending the School have the opportunity to achieve qualifications in a variety of functional, practical and creative skills. The outcomes that Unity demonstrates in relation to this area of work include reducing the risk of school exclusion, reducing the risk of crime and increasing educational attainment.
Concluding Statement

Through their broad range of provision, approachable style and creative approaches, Unity is an attractive service for young people. The stories told for this report highlight the human impact of Unity’s work and the difference it makes to the lives of its staff and the young people who use its services. The stories explain ways in which both staff and young people are valued and encouraged to achieve their potential and are supported to overcome significant barriers to achievement. They also demonstrate how young people are not only supported through the work of Unity but are also encouraged to become independent and move towards a positive future.

Through this work, Unity provides significant potential for added social value to the local economy. Unity makes considerable and significant potential savings through a range of outcomes, in particular through increasing young people’s educational and career aspirations, reducing the risk of exclusion from school and reducing the risk of young people committing crime. Softer outcomes such as an increase in confidence are also demonstrated in the stories told for this report. Unity therefore makes an impact personally on the staff and young people involved with their work, and locally by providing potential savings for local services such as Local Authorities, Health Services and the Justice System.

Dr Barbara Emadi-Coffin
Principal Lecturer

Creative Communities Unit
Staffordshire University
References


Department of Culture, Media and Sport (2014) Quantifying the Social Impacts of Culture and Sport. Accessed 28 May 2014


https://www.gov.uk/student-finance/overview

https://www.gov.uk/jobseekers-allowance/what-youll-get

http://b.3cdn.net/nefoundation/c001655a17a776e886_gkm6bpycu.pdf

https://www.thinknpc.org/publications/misspent-youth/


“Unity School is basically the School I wish that I went to”

Robbie Williams