



## STREETSPACE 9 STAGE STRATEGY

- 1 OBSERVATION** Working out which geographical areas or groups of young people to engage
- 2 COLD CONTACT** Visual stage where we acknowledge the groups
- 3 COLD CONTACT** Introductions where we introduce ourselves and the project
- 4. AREA BASED WORK** This is when starting in an area or patch and a wide variety of contacts are being made.
- 5. PEER GROUP WORK** This happens as the work becomes more defined and consists of natural groupings of young people. This stage is often where larger groups are identified usually around a shared interest. e.g. football or hanging out and may be too many work with or inconsistent attendance.
- 6. BASIC SMALL GROUP WORK** As key young people are identified the work should be forward to this stage. This group is made up from the groups that exist within the larger peer group.
- 7. RISKY SMALL GROUP WORK** This is about taking calculated risks to move the work and relationships forward such as 1-1 work, a relaxing , perhaps having a meal with the young people etc. However this is not about putting yourself or the young people at risk.
- 8. EXPOSURE AND EXPLORATION OF SPIRITUALITY AND ISSUES** Encouraging young people to look at the world and their community in a more abstract way builds a platform to help them recognise that the world does not revolve around them as an individual. The National Youth Agency identifies that spirituality is a major influence in social cohesion, community development and stability. (Green 2006) Young people should be introduced to aspects of spirituality in practical supportive ways to encourage them to see their part of the wider society. It can range from events to raise their consciousness of Bigger things, e.g. watching the sunrise, exploring creation, to going to an event. The worker should explain some of the things that may happen at events and translate what is happening at the time and use the opportunity to explore broad spiritual issues in a supportive way.
- 9. PEER EDUCATION WORK AND/OR CHURCH ON THE EDGE** This refers to supporting the young people and developing new groups based around the young people and communities needs and interests. Good professional practice demands that contact is continued and developed and often this can take a variety of forms; Peer education work, developing social enterprises, M and M's groups, exploration or self development group or responding with the young people on local issues such a rebuilding the skate park etc.

Between each stage there are tools or mechanisms that enables work to progress from stage to stage. These are varied and depend on the interests of the young people you are working with it could be kite flying, sports, hobbies, issues explored, trips etc Anything you do as group together that helps the relationships deepen. It is possible to identify the groups you are working with and guestimate where you are on the development plan. From there decide where you wish the group to be in six months time and how you propose to get there, e.g. explore doing a residential. This enables you to gauge your progress in some way.

**STREETSPACE** provides ongoing support to projects to help them measure and plan their progress through the stages. This is correlated against Every Child matters and **STREETSPACE'S** own quantitative and qualitative measurement scheme. This process helps the local projects identify and communicate clear outcomes building their capacity to access funding and to improve their work with young people.