



# Case Study Evaluation

**Arts Hub: Short Stay Schools**

**Project: PRU Phase One**

**PRU'V You Wrong**

**Delivery Partner: Pablo Productions Ltd**

# Overview

**Can young people attending Pupil Referral Units create a film based resource to present the work of PRU's in a positive way and inform the public that they are in the process of becoming Short Stay Schools?**

**'PRU'V You Wrong' involved active participation from five young people from St Mary's Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) in Redditch, and engaged pupils and staff from five other countywide PRU's. The young people aimed to raise the profile of PRU's and support the transition process of PRU's changing their name to Short Stay Schools.**

# Aims

- The project aims to raise the profile of PRUs.
- To support the transition process of PRUs changing their name to Short Stay Schools.
- Present the importance and impact of the PRUs service.
- Create an accessible resource for Young People, Educational Professionals and the wider community.
- Raise self-esteem and confidence.
- Present information on career options.
- Enable the Young People to gain new skills including film, audio, photography and design.
- Showcase their film at a launch event.

# Process

Five young people attending St Mary's PRU produced a short, dynamic film based resource as a response to the identified need. Their aim was to present the role and positive impact of this invaluable service and create a contemporary, accessible resource for young people, their parents/carers, education professionals and the wider community.

They worked with professionals in a studio environment and learnt new skills which helped to raise their self-esteem and confidence and increase their awareness of potential career options.

PRU'V You Wrong involved the participating young people visiting Kidderminster, Phoenix, Holyoakes and St Mary's PRU's in order to interview pupils and staff for the film. The pupils taking part wanted the film to be circulated across the county to ensure maximum publicity for the service PRU's offer. Whilst creating the film the young people learnt new skills including film, audio, photography, and design.

They showcased their film at a celebration event, which the young people organised at The Palace Theatre, Redditch on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May. The film was distributed to all attendees, participants, and five of the countywide PRU's. Peter Hoarle distributed copies to a wide range of regional and countywide service providers and educators. The film is also hosted on the Arts Extend Worcestershire website, [www.arts-extend.com](http://www.arts-extend.com).

## Process continued

*"This is an exciting project which aims to show the excellent work that students in the behavioral support units across Worcestershire achieve, as well as helping those leading on the project gain valuable skills for the future."*

Peter Hoarle, Extended Services Co-ordinator for Worcestershire PRU's.

The young people spent six sessions working with a team of experienced creative professionals committed to the principles of student voice. The group covered all areas of project management and developed new skills in planning, interview techniques, film making, editing, photography, graphic design (for print and web), and marketing. They also demonstrated skill development in teamwork, independent thinking, resilience and reflexive practice. They identified interview candidates, ensuring that they covered both Key Stage 3 and 4 and young people who intend to go back to mainstream school as well as pupils who were at risk of permanent exclusion.

The Young People named their film, PRU'V You Wrong! (Menace II Society?) and produced high quality artwork with the support of a graphic designer and photographer. They also designed posters and signage for the celebration event and produced articles for the DVD, Arts Extend website and general PR purposes. All of these elements allowed the young people to have control and ownership over the project.

The young people also developed event management skills organising a celebration event at Redditch Palace Theatre. They arranged venue hire, catering, marketing, signage and invitations and also created a risk assessment and liaised with the venue regarding their technical requirements. They arrived at the venue over an hour early to set up, demonstrating their commitment to the project and their enthusiasm and confidence. The event was a huge success with over 50 guests in attendance.

# Impact

Since making the film, we have looked at the impact the film has had on young people in main stream schools. We asked a group of young people a series of questions before and after watching the film to gather their views and to identify if the film helped to change their perceptions and views. The results of this are below.

## Interview

### Focus Group 1

#### PRU'V You Wrong!

A group twelve of Year 9 pupils from King Charles High School were interviewed before and after watching the PRU'V You Wrong film.

#### Before seeing the film

Q. Do you know what a PRU is?

A. No, never heard of it.

(I explained briefly what a PRU is)

Q. Do you know anyone who has been to a PRU or is in a PRU at the moment?

A. Yes, but we didn't know they were called PRU'S we just thought they were different schools. We know about two people who have been sent to a PRU.

Q. Do you think they are a good idea? Do you think they help the young people?

A. Don't really know.

B.Q. Do you think people who go to PRU's are stereotyped?

C. Yes, they are the naughty ones; teachers and other children think they are naughty.

# Impact continued

After seeing the film

**Q. What did you think of the film?**

**A. Thought it was really good and gave us loads of information. Before we didn't know what a PRU was, we knew something existed but didn't know what it was called or what it did?**

**Q. Has your perception of PRU's changed? What do you know now that you didn't know before?**

**A. Yes, PRU's give them loads of support and help them with issues they've got. The children looked really happy there. PRU's obviously help them because they said they were really bad in the past but the PRU has helped them. And the kids have made that film and it's really good.**

The above interview demonstrates how young people attending mainstream schools are unfamiliar with the term 'PRU's', they don't know what it means or who they are for. When they understood what a PRU was they said that they knew there was something like that but they were unaware they are called PRU's. After watching the film they explained that they had a much clearer idea of what a 'PRU' is and what services they provide to young people. They felt it was important to change the name of 'PRU's' to 'Short Stay Schools' and make people more aware of what they are and do and whom they are for. The film had a clear positive impact on this group of pupils who are now much more aware of Pupil Referral Units.

PRU'V You Wrong has provided a resource, which will be used across the county to demonstrate the positive impact of Pupil Referral Units and the services they offer to young people, parents/carers and education professionals. The film will play a key role in the transition from PRU's to Short Stay Schools in September 2010.

# Success

The five young people involved in PRU'V You Wrong who regularly avoided going to school came to each of the six sessions consistently; they began to feel comfortable in their surroundings and enjoyed attending the weekly sessions. St Mary's staff working with the young people noticed an improvement in the young people's attitude to learning as a result of their increased confidence and self esteem. One of the group members also commented how he would like to pursue a career in the arts and media industries and was able to see more relevance in his learning.

*"When I signed up for this project I only did it to get out of school for a bit, now it's finished I'm glad I did it and I've enjoyed it a lot more than I thought I would."*  
Jordan, St Mary's PRU.

*"This project has helped the young people so much, it has built their confidence and engaged them consistently each week. They have left their comfort zone by visiting other PRU's and working a real studio environment with professionals. I hope we can continue more work like this in the future."*

# Success

Lesley Saunders, Head Teacher at St Mary's PRU.

*"I am so proud of Natalie, she has never done anything like this before. I know that she is proud of this film and she has the biggest smile on her face."* Natalie's Mom

*"When we started this project I wasn't that enthusiastic, but now the project has finished looking back I think I've got a lot out of it and it was interesting to find out other people's views on PRU's. The film has turned out so much better than I thought it would and I'm proud to say I was a part of it."* Isam, St Mary's PRU.

*"I didn't think I'd quite be up for this project because I've never been into this sort of stuff before. But since I've started coming here I've realised it's quite good and it's something I'd like to look to in the future."*  
Baden, St Mary's PRU.

*"I'm so glad I did this project and I've enjoyed it more than I thought I would. I'm proud of what I've achieved."* Jordan, St Mary's PRU.

# Challenges

**Working with young people who are initially shy and nervous about facing new challenges involved us taking the time to build up a trustful working relationship.**

**Making sure efficient communication networks brought all stakeholders together from diverse setting was initially a challenge.**

**Encouraging the young people to plan and organise a sharing and celebration event challenged them because they had to enter a 'new territory' and trust each other as a team.**

# Legacy

We are now working towards phase two of the project where we will be working with young people from Martley PRU on a film based project based around the choices young people have and how the decisions they make can affect their futures. We showed the 'PRU'V You Wrong' film to a pupil at Martley PRU and he was instantly engaged and eager to be a part of phase two of the project.

"That looked really cool, did they really make that? I would definitely want to have a go at making something like that."

Tom, Pupil at Martley PRU

The Martley Short Stay School film will be an Internet based resource designed for young people in mainstream school and parents of young people who are facing the prospect of going to a Short Stay School. Phase two of the project has come about due to the success of phase one.



## Contact Details

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