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Lime and their alcohol education resources: 'Juice' and 'Losing it'.

Lime, the arts and health charity, works across the Greater Manchester area. In 2007, along with other organisations, it was awarded a major grant by Comic Relief to run a project addressing alcohol misuse in young people in Greater Manchester.

Lime and Manchester Children's University Hospitals NHS Trust, received £87,500 over three years to finance the young people-led project.

'Juice'

Called 'Juice', a team of professional artists worked with 150 young people from across Greater Manchester who have or are having experiences of alcohol misuse. Alcohol consumption amongst young people in the North West is higher than the national average. The project encourages peer-learning and film-production skills and explores the issues through drama, writing, music and film production.

Throughout the three year project, young people aged under 21 will work alongside arts and education professionals to create a film and workshop pack for 10-14 year olds, which will then reach a wider audience through schools and youth centres. The aim of the pack, which will include lesson/activity plans as well as the DVD, is to initiate discussion and inform health/lifestyle choices around the issue of alcohol misuse beyond the life of the project.

Brian Chapman, director of Lime says, "Creative arts such as film-making, drama, visual arts and music build self-confidence and skill-base in formal and informal educational settings. By exploring alternatives to drinking through peer education, self-expression and informed

choices, we hope the project will impact on the numbers of young people misusing alcohol. By working closely with hard-to-reach young people, we will also produce a relevant and authentic product that communicates with credibility to a wider young audience".

'Losing it'

Lime also launched a groundbreaking new Key Stage 4 alcohol resource in 2007.

'Losing It' is a film made entirely by young people from across Manchester that explores their attitudes to alcohol misuse. The film is intended to be used as part of a six-week PHSE course and is accompanied by creative lesson plans and worksheets. Following a red carpet premiere at a city centre cinema, attended by the region's education and health professionals, the film and resource pack was distributed to every Manchester secondary school.

At the launch I said, "This resource is intended to dig a little bit deeper with young people to help them think about why they might use alcohol, why those around them might use alcohol and where they can go for help."

"Because everything in the stories has come from the young people we worked with, the intention is that, through peer education, pupils will have the opportunity to discuss their own emotional and social issues around alcohol misuse, rather than being faced with a range of facts and figures they may have no real interest in."

For further details about the work of Lime and the 'Juice' and 'Losing it' projects please email Kim Wiltshire:- kim@limeart.org or visit www.limeart.org