Research placement opportunity: The Salmon Youth Centre

About the placement

- **Project location (address):** 43 Old Jamaica Road, London SE16 4TE
- **Start date:** December 2014
- **Payment:** Unpaid, travel and lunch expenses up to £10 / day
- **Duration and time:** 2 days / week for 3 months, From 10 – 3pm or 3 – 8pm

About Project Oracle & the Standards of Evidence:

Project Oracle is London’s Children and Youth Evidence Hub. We aim to improve outcomes for young people in London by promoting better evidence and understanding of what really works.

We do this by:

- building a growing resource of independently assessed and evaluated projects
- building capacity by supporting organisations and commissioners to develop the evidence base for their youth programmes

This is done through alignment of project evaluations with our Standards of Evidence. These are five Standards which describe what good evidence looks like. Our aim is to move project providers through the Standards by supporting them to gather better evidence.

Research placements are one of the ways Project Oracle supports organisations to build their evidence base and move through the Standards of Evidence.

About the organisation & project:

The **Salmon Youth Centre** in Bermondsey has been reaching out to young people in inner city London for over a hundred years. We are one of the largest youth centres in the UK with unique facilities worth over £11 million. The Centre:

- provides personal, social, educational and employment development opportunities for young people in South London;
- is open five days a week, all year round. Our activities include one-to-one work and a wide range of youth clubs, including sports and arts clubs, study groups, training for young volunteers, Duke of Edinburgh Award, and trips and residential;
- is a place where young people can have fun, feel safe and valued, can talk in confidence to youth workers about anything, and ultimately discover meaning and direction for their lives.

Existing research and evaluation work:

We have had two sessions with Project Oracle as a team and from this we have already begun to develop our Theory of Change as an organisation. We are in the very last stages of completing this.
**Project Oracle Standard of Evidence:**

**Placement outline:**
We have built a Theory of Change for our organisation which now boils down to three key areas of focus:

- Preparing young people for education and employment
- Improving young people’s health and wellbeing
- Improving young people’s community engagement

We now need to explore how we will evaluate this effectively across the board with all the different projects we do in both our generic and specific youth work. We would like the researcher to lead on this and produce a practical evaluation plan we can implement.

**Skills required:**
This three month placement will be suitable for a researcher with the following skills:

- Interest in working with young people
- A basic understanding of how youth organisations operate
- Research and analytical skills

**Is a DBS check required?** Yes