

Young and old reflect on their lives

YOUNG people reflected on the major issues of the day before showing off a video they had made as part of a special project in Stafford.

Regulars from the Groove drop-in centre, which helps homeless people and includes members from the Bethany Trust, screened *Mirror, Mirror* last week.

The video aims to mirror older people's lives with young people's, comparing the differences and similarities between them.

April Lewis, youth development practitioner, said the project provided an alternative education for people aged 17 to 22.

The work was done with Staffordshire County Council's youth service, the Trinity day centre and artist Dawn Robertson.

They spent time working together, with the young people learning communication, development of relationships and how to use a video camera.

"Some of the young people would not have access to education without this, while some people are looking for something to take part in before going into a job or training," said Miss Lewis.

"Before the screening both young and older people sat together to discuss a range of issues, which was very interesting.

"They talked about all sorts of things, from education to entertainment. They talked about



ON REFLECTION: Ian Cockhran, 18, and Daniel Wheat, 21, who helped to produce the video.
Sharon Aris

their favourite music, most romantic gestures and even war.

"They then showed the video, which was received very well. It is now going to be available to schools and we hope to show it in the town centre."