

Year End Report For Livewire Youth Project 2023

Like most years 2023 was a combination of amazing achievements and some difficult challenges.

Senior sessions 13 to 21 – Livewire delivered open access sessions on Mondays and Thursdays which provide a social meeting place, access to free music lessons, band rehearsal spaces, opportunities to perform and free recording studio facilities. Monday nights we host an open mic session and on Thursdays we encourage young bands to perform on the stage.

Alongside this our team of youth workers and counsellors support a great many young people each session.

Sadly during the year we lost one of our members Abi Eldridge who passed away following an epileptic seizure, her death was felt greatly amongst the young members (her friends) and also the staff team, Abi was a lovely young woman with a great sense of humour, as always in situations like this Livewire really came together to support her friends, family and the staff team.

Junior sessions 10 to 13 – Livewire has also delivered junior sessions over the year. These have been our busiest and sometimes most challenging sessions, leading up to the summer holidays we realised we needed to suspend membership and we have kept the cap on membership since September when we renewed all membership and as sad as we feel having to limit the numbers we feel we can now offer a really safe environment to the local children that come here which is really important. These sessions have been really good fun also and we see 40 plus children getting on to the stage each week to perform.

Young women's music sessions – Our proactive prioritising of young women for music lessons and support has been really beneficial for so many young women over the year, we currently have two young bands. The sessions have gone well and we are currently seeking a new female music lead.

Friday wellbeing sessions – Our Friday well being session is continuing to support a small number of particularly anxious young people, the sessions supported by a youth worker, a musician, a counsellor, a youth support volunteer and Akira the therapy dog. These sessions have gone really well over the past year.

Studio sessions Mondays and Saturdays – Monday evenings and all day Saturdays Will manages our recording studio's to provide young bands and artists the opportunity to record and or learn how to use the recording studio themselves, over the past year we have provided many Saturday sessions and Monday evening sessions for young musicians from all over Devon and Cornwall.

Counselling and mental health support - The counselling team is currently comprised of 7 counsellors with one more due to join us soon. This last year has not been without its challenges but we have got through it and believe we have just scraped the tip of the iceberg in terms of young people's mental health. Our mental

health lead meets with all referrals to chat through their needs and also to check that we have the relevant experience and expertise to meet their needs. Clients typically access 12 sessions of counselling with reviews after 6 weeks but they can extend their sessions up to 18 sessions. Our mental health lead has met regularly with the staff members on the team over the past year to talk through their work and check for any safeguarding issues. This work has also been good over the last year.

New PA – Several months ago through a local music contact an elderly lady donated £10,000 towards a new sound system for our venue.

Our old system was still good and sounded great but it had become old technology and as part of our role within teaching music it had become fairly obsolete as a teaching aid. Following negotiations with Electro Voice (Professional audio manufacturer/supplier) they agreed to offer Livewire an unprecedented 60% discount on a new line array system – The cost of the system prior to discount was £60,000 and the discounted price was £25,000, meaning we had a shortfall of £15,000 which amazingly Pete Townshend plugged. The system is now installed and up and running. Giving Livewire the best sounding venue for miles as well as an excellent teaching resource.

Building works – Being good custodians of Livewire, we have had to spend around £10,000 having the lower flat roof above the toilets repaired and most recently around £20,000 on painting the exterior of the building and securing the edge of the main flat roof. Our hope was that once done it would raise the profile of the area which feedback from locals tells us it has.

Boardmasters Festival 2023 – Livewire has again provided entertainment on the keg and pasty stage from 10am till 14.30pm from the Thursday through to the Sunday, this allowed 120 plus young musicians from all over Cornwall to perform, as with last year Livewire allocated the Thursday and the Friday to ASONE acts from various schools.

Regatta 2023 – Livewire as always opened up for the community, to get food and drink during the regatta weekend. We also had three young bands performing on the Jubilee Green stage.

Staffing – During this year we have employed an additional youth worker Sam and due to unforeseen circumstances we needed to replace our mental health lead and now have Lisa who is doing a Stirling job.

Thanks – Lastly we at Livewire are ever grateful for the support we receive locally and from further afield but Saltash Town Council have been very forward thinking in terms of youth work and provide money to ensure that the good work can continue so we thank you. We do honestly believe that without the support from the local community we wouldn't be here so we are truly grateful.

All the very best
The staff team at Livewire.

End of Report