

Report to Saltash Town Council from Livewire youth project for June, July and August 2024

1. Number of open access sessions run: 30

During these sessions young people have been able to have music lessons [guitar, bass, drums, keyboard, vocals, live sound and music technology], lessons in stage lighting, rehearsal space, perform on stage, take part in single issue programmes, have youth work support or counselling, volunteer, socialise and take part in our development group or our recycling project which is no longer running for a while because we don't currently have anyone to run it, and on Wednesday evenings our junior members can take part in Art workshops and older young people can volunteer. In addition to our open access sessions we have also had a young women's music session on Tuesday evenings 11 in total and during these sessions young women are encouraged to come along and make music with 2 musicians these sessions are also run by a JNC qualified youth worker, so young women can also access youth work support. We have also had a counsellor working on Tuesday evenings so young people have also been able to have counselling on Tuesday evenings. We have also continued to run our wellbeing sessions on Friday evenings, 11 in total, these sessions are designed to cater to young people that might be too anxious for open access sessions as they are quieter and young people attending these sessions can access the art workshops Young people can get support with a counsellor or JNC qualified youth worker who runs the session or they can make music with a musician, we also have a wellbeing volunteer at these sessions as well as a therapy dog. Although we don't have formal counselling on Friday evenings at wellbeing sessions we give young people attending plenty of opportunity for support and they can fill in the form and self refer into our counselling service if they feel the need for more formal support.

On Saturday we also run a recording session 12 in all for bands and individual young people with music to record.

2. Number of detached/outreach youth work sessions run: 11

We have again concentrated on the waterside area for our outreach sessions because it was flagged up as an area of concern a few years ago and the pattern seems to have continued. We see young people on the waterside regularly and the addition of the piano has again attracted positive attention. Unfortunately the problematic young people who required police involvement happened after we closed for the summer as again we have found that the young people we have encountered have been lovely.

3. There have been 3 single issue programmes during this period. Violence against women has been one topic mainly due to Plymouth University making it a topic for research and coming in to meet and discuss the topic with young people, who have raised some very interesting points and contributed brilliantly we are going to get the outcomes from this research so will make sure we send a copy to STC as well as the safer Cornwall group, I'm pretty sure the findings are in with Plymouth university so will chase them up. Drugs and alcohol misuse became another topic for our single issue programmes as has mental health among young people.

4. Approximately 360 individual young people have been engaged with through open access sessions, young women's music making sessions, well being group sessions, counselling, daytime referral sessions and Saturday recording sessions, and outreach sessions.
5. All young people engaged with have received or are currently receiving individual or group support.
6. 1 young person has been supported in getting into employment in this period and 3 young people have been supported in going back to school and 5 young people have been supported in starting college during this period.
7. 98 young people have measurable distance travelled. By this we mean that they have progressed positively over the period and shown real change.
8. This period we have had 37 young people referred to livewire from other agencies, 12 from schools, 2 through social care, 3 from CAMHS, 0 from youth offending team, 0 from the Police, 14 from GP's, and 6 from the zone. These young people have been referred for Counselling, daytime sessions, youth support sessions and for the open access sessions.
9. 427 volunteer support worker hours have taken place in this period.
10. We have currently got a group of 8 young people making up our development group who meet regularly to discuss issues and young people's desires for development at Livewire.
11. This year we have been very fortunate to receive £29,534.50 from Saltash Town Council for youth work. The match funding secured to date includes the Big Lottery funding of £219,000 over 5 years of which £15,000 per year is towards youth work (we are currently in year 3). Plus £11,000 per year gift from AC/DC for youth work.

Mental health and wellbeing remain priorities for the work here at Livewire and I believe we are currently seeing the results of the pandemic on our young people's mental health. We continue to get referrals for counselling and youth work support sessions.

Our relationship with the Community Kitchen goes from strength to strength as we continue in the partnership with them feeding young people for free and for some young people it's the only hot food they have that day.

We have this year supported outside events in Saltash with young people performing at the may fair and the regatta, we also provided over 100 acts to boardmasters festival and we also provided acts for tunes in the park festival at st Germans.

We continue to work with many vulnerable young people as well as some really confident and talented young people and when they are on the stage you couldn't tell them apart.

Case study

A young man that attends Livewire first started at the wellbeing group but eventually came and joined the open access group but always had his headphones on and didn't really talk to anyone, he kept coming and having a lesson and staring at the ground in between times to avoid making eye contact with anyone.

He kept coming and learning guitar eventually we asked him if he wanted to volunteer at our junior club teaching younger children to play guitar he said he'd think about it which he did and came back with lots of questions (which was a good thing because it showed he'd really thought about it)

He finally agreed to volunteer at junior club and hasn't looked back because he's also started volunteering another night a week and when paid work came up for a musician we didn't hesitate in giving him the job.

This young man has literally gone from attending our wellbeing group 1 evening a week to being on the payroll as a musician.