

Report to Saltash Town Council from Livewire youth project for September, October and November 2024

1. Number of open access sessions run: 33

During these sessions young people have been able to have music lessons (guitar, bass, drums, keyboard, vocals, live sound, music technology and 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, 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 3 musicians these sessions are also run by a JNC qualified youth worker so young women can also access youth work support. We also have a counsellor working on Tuesday evenings so young people have also been able to have counselling on Tuesday evenings. Our wellbeing sessions on Friday evenings have also continued this quarter, 12 in total, these sessions are designed to cater for 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: 3

Concentrating on the waterside area of the town we only get the summer traffic in terms of young people who come here to pier jump it's a small window of opportunity and comes to an end during early September because that is when young people go back to school or college.

3. There have been 2 single issue programmes during this period. Positive relationships this followed on from the violence against women single issue programme, which I am still waiting for the university's report from. Young men mental health and music has become another single issue programme because we have a PhD student who is studying this topic.

4. Approximately 461 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. This is approximate because 1 individual young person could attend up to 6 times a week so taking that into account we have done some sums.

5. All young people engaged with have received or are currently receiving individual or group support.

6. 2 young people have been supported in getting into employment in this period and 2 young people have been supported in going back to school and 6 young people have been supported in starting college during this period.
7. 106 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, 14 from schools, 1 through social care, 4 from CAMHS, 3 from youth offending team, 0 from the Police, 17 from GP's, and 2 from the zone. These young people have been referred for Counselling, daytime sessions, youth support sessions and for the open access sessions. Others have come through self referral or their parents/carers referral.
9. 488.5 volunteer support worker hours have taken place in this period.
10. We have currently got a group of 7 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 made contact during lock down and told us in an email that he was suicidal because he was autistic and thought it would always be in the way of his personal and social development. He didn't think he would ever make friends because of his autism. We offered support to the young man first through emails and online through

Facebook and eventually when we were able to start meeting people again through our walk and talk service. When we tentatively re-opened Livewire he was there and became a regular member. To see him now it is hard to believe it is the same young man that had come so close to ending his own life but just thought he'd send the email in a last attempt to find help. He has friends and the concern for us became that he might be taken advantage of because he's so incredibly generous but we needn't have worried his friendship group recognise that he is such a kind and giving soul and they are looking out for him. He still has dark days but recognises that he is slightly melon collie by nature and most importantly he doesn't get suicidal thoughts anymore.