

**TO RECEIVE AND NOTE QUARTERLY REPORTS FOR THE COMMISSIONING OF
PROFESSIONAL YOUTH WORK IN SALTASH:**

The Core Youth and Community Centre

Youth Work Report – Saltash Town Council Youth Work Funding

January - April 2025

Introduction

- **Overview of the Centre:**

The Saltash Youth and Community Centre is dedicated to providing a safe and nurturing environment for young people. Our mission is to offer diverse activities and support services that empower youth and foster community engagement.

- **Purpose of the Report:**

This report highlights the key activities, achievements, and challenges faced by our organisation in the last quarter, emphasising our response to the growing needs of our community.

Summary & Statistics

- **Summary:**

We have continued to support individuals with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), mental health issues, and complex home lives. We have also seen a rise in young people who have entered the care system who are accessing our services.

- **Challenges and Opportunities:**

The growing demand for specialised support has presented both challenges and opportunities, prompting us to enhance our programmes and form strategic partnerships to better meet the needs of our community.

- **Outcomes and outputs achieved**

- Total current number of members at The Core = 320
- Number of open access sessions delivered Sept to Dec = 42
- Number of targeted youth sessions = 116
- Number of young people receiving individual support = 16
- Number of young people helped back in to employment, training or work = 12
- Number of youth volunteer hours worked = 428

Clubs & Activities

Climbing Club:

- *Age Group:* 5-18 years
- *Key Highlights:* This financial year saw the reopening of our climbing club. We recruited and trained two members of staff as instructors and launched two Wednesday afternoon climbing sessions, which are now fully booked with over 20 children and young people attending. We invested in new mats, a significant

expenditure that has proven to be very worthwhile, ensuring the safety and quality of our sessions.

Boxing Club:

- *Age Group:* 10 years and over
- *Key Highlights:* Increased attendance and active participation in local and regional events, fostering discipline and confidence.

Grub Club (Cooking Programme):

- *Duration:* 10 weeks
- *Features:* Grub Club remains one of our most popular activities often oversubscribed and booked up well in advance. This year, we are excited to incorporate food grown in our garden into the cooking sessions. This addition not only enhances the program's educational value but also connects young people with the food production process.
- *Participant Experience:* Young people enjoy learning to bake and cook in a friendly and inclusive atmosphere. They have reported that the sessions offer a pleasant and supportive environment where they can chat, discuss their day, and feel valued. The communal aspect of the sessions contributes to a sense of belonging and camaraderie among participants.

Craft Club and Just Be You Project:

- **Craft Club**
- *Collaboration with Arts Lab:* We have received another round of funding for another project with Arts Lab, which began in the New Year. We worked with an artist and The Memory Café in Saltash to bridge the generational gap whilst also improving education and understanding of dementia. We ran 4 sessions where the young people and the members of the Memory café taught each other games. It was an incredible project which had a significant impact on those who took part and the artist created photobooks as a keepsake of the project.
- **LGBTQ+ Group:**
- *Support Provided:* Friendship, support, advice
- *Impact:* Strong community bonds have been formed, offering a safe and welcoming environment for self-expression and support. Continued partnership with The Intercom Trust has enhanced our capacity to support this community effectively.

Open Access Youth Sessions:

- **Senior Club (Ages 13-18):**
 - *Activities:* Sports, gaming, free food, socializing
 - *Impact:* Growing numbers have benefited from these sessions, offering a crucial social outlet and support network.
- **Junior Club (School Years 7 & 8):**
 - *Activities:* Sports, gaming, free food, socializing

- *Impact:* The junior youth club continues to grow in popularity, with over 120 young people becoming members this year alone. The club provides a structured and supportive space for younger adolescents to engage and develop essential social skills.

One-on-One Support:

- **Youth Worker Support:**
 - *Services Offered:* Guidance, advice, personalised support
 - *Outcome:* Our Youth Work Coordinator now offers a weekly drop in at Saltash School offering 1:1 youth worker support and guidance.

Youth Committee:

- *Members:* 7 enthusiastic and active young people
- *Role:* The Youth Committee continues to play a vital role in shaping our services. They are involved in organising and helping at fundraising events and actively promoting the services we offer. Their engagement ensures that our programs remain relevant and responsive to the needs of our peers, and their contributions are invaluable in driving the direction of our activities and initiatives.
- *Future projects:* They are continuing to help at community events and recently volunteered at Saltash May Fair with The Core's stall and activities.

New activities and Initiatives:

Educational Support Programme:

Our partnership with Groundwork came to an end this year as they did not receive continuation funding. Therefore we decided to continue the work they had been offering with their alternative education project based at The Core, aimed at offering an alternative education programme to young people. We began our new programme in February offering English and Maths tutoring to young people who are home educated or in school but struggling academically and needing small group sessions to help them progress.

Since we started we have had 16 young people attend our 2-day programme and seen significant improvements in their both their academic and social abilities. Schools have bought in to the programme sending young people on a hybrid basis where they are going to school and coming to us to help them to remain in the education system.

Impact and Outcomes

- **Success Stories & testimonies:**
The personal experiences of our young people reflect the success and impact of our relationships with our members and how providing them with a safe space can help to increase their confidence and ensure their voices are heard.

Through the Educational Support Programme we have seen significant progress in some of the young people's confidence and social skills. One young girl was referred to us through Virtual Schools who look after young people in care within the education system. She is in foster care and had recently joined a new family in Plymouth and was referred to us for Maths and English support as her behaviour at school had become more challenging so she wasn't able to return. She has been with us for 6 weeks now and never missed a session, she comes in and chats to all the staff and enjoys her interactions with everyone. She is a keen learner and has often asked for 'extra' work to do in her lunch break. Since being with us she has secured a place at college where she will go to train as a beautician in September. The point when we knew this was the right setting for her was when she came in and said 'I have decided I like school now' and by that she meant coming to us and learning which was a pivotal moment for the staff as they realised that not only was she in the right place but she was thriving.

Partnership Work

Collaborative efforts and partnership working with Safer Saltash, Saltash Town Council, Intercom Trust, Targeted Youth Workers, Early Help Hub, Saltash Youth Network, Arts Lab, Saltash Community School, emergency services and health have reinforced community cohesion and joint working to ensure we can best support our young people of Saltash, providing preventative support, a wide range of activities and support & resources to families in need.

Financial Overview

- **Funding sources and match funding :**

- Awards for All = £19,865
- Howton Solar Farm = £4200

Total grant income for period = £24,265

End Of Report