

The Core Youth and Community Centre

Youth Work Interim Report – Saltash Town Council Youth Work Funding

June - September 2025

Introduction

- **Overview of the Centre:**

The Core provides 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. The increase running costs have also posed a challenge this year and it is becoming increasingly difficult to obtain funding to cover core costs.

- **Outcomes and outputs achieved**

- Total current number of members at The Core = 400
- Number of open access sessions delivered = 62
- Number of targeted youth sessions = 116
- Number of young people receiving individual support = 20
- Number of young people helped back into employment, training or work = 15
- Number of youth volunteer hours worked = 428

Clubs & Activities

Climbing Club:

- *Age Group: 5-18 years*

- *Key Highlights:* Our climbing club continues to be a popular activity with children as young as 5 coming along each week to challenge themselves on our fantastic indoor climbing wall.

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. In addition to our 10 week programme we also offering targeted cooking sessions during the school holidays where we worked with small groups teaching them basic meals.
- *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 provides a safe and relaxing space where the young people can unwind after a day at school.

Craft Club

- We run a small afternoon craft club session where young people can come and learn new crafts, talk to their friend's and have toast after school.
- *Support Provided:* Friendship, support, advice

Just be You (LGBTQ+) Group

- *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 young people to engage and develop essential social skills.

One-on-One Support:

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

Youth Committee:

- *Members:* 8 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.

Summer Activities programme:

During this quarter we have also provided our popular summer activities programme where we offer trips and activities for young people during the summer holidays. The trips are always well attended with around 45 young people coming on each day out. As part of the in-house activities this year we offered a free brunch to ensure that young people who may come from low-income families are getting a meal.

Educational Support Programme:

This programme is aimed at offering an alternative education 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. Our 2-day programme has seen significant improvements young people's 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 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 had been with us for 6 weeks 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 is now training to be a beautician. 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 ongoing for 2 years
- Carew Pole Foundation = £4900

Total grant income for period = **£24,765**