

Report to Saltash Town Council from Livewire Youth Project

July, Aug and Sept, 2025

Open Access Sessions

Number of open access sessions run during this period: 28

During sessions young people have been able to access music lessons (guitar, bass, drums, keyboard, vocals, live sound, music technology and stage lighting), rehearsal spaces, live performances on stage, taken part in single issue programmes, received youth work support or counselling, volunteered, socialised and taken part in our development group. On Wednesday evenings, our junior members have taken part in Art workshops and older young people have volunteered.

In addition to our open access sessions, we have also had a young women's music session on Tuesday evenings. There have been 11 sessions in total. During these sessions young women are encouraged to come along and make music with 3 musicians. These sessions are run by a JNC qualified youth worker so young women have been able to access youth work support. We also have a counsellor working on a Tuesday evening, so young people have also been able to receive counselling on Tuesday evenings.

Our wellbeing sessions on Friday evenings have also continued this quarter, 10 in total; these sessions are designed to cater for young people that might be too anxious for open access sessions by being quieter and far less busy. Young people attending these sessions can access art workshops, receive support from a counsellor or JNC qualified youth worker, or 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 attendees plenty of opportunity for support; if they feel the need for more formal support, they can fill in a form and self-refer into our counselling service.

On Saturday we also run a recording session for bands and individual young people to record their music in our studio. There have been 11 sessions in total during this period.

Detached & Outreach Youth Work

The number of detached/outreach youth work sessions number 8 in total during this period. We have concentrated our efforts around the waterside area of the town. At these sessions we have engaged with 14 young people.

There have been 3 single issue programmes during this period. We are still waiting for the report from University of Plymouth, but violence against women and girls has been a topic for a considerable amount of time now. This topic shows no signs of letting up soon so we will continue to run with it while it's relevant. Other topics have centred around mental health and positive relationships.

Approximately 423 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, Saturday recording sessions, and outreach sessions. This is approximate because one individual young person could attend up to 6 times a week.

Support

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

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. 6 young people have been supported in starting college during this period.

22 young people have measurable distance travelled. By this we mean that they have progressed positively over the period and shown real change.

This period we have had 34 young people have been referred to Livewire during this period from other agencies: 9 from schools, 7 through social care, 3 from CAMHS, 2 from youth offending team, 14 from GPs, and 1 from The Zone. These young people have been referred for counselling, daytime sessions, youth support sessions and open access sessions. Others have come through self-referral or their parents/carers referral.

220 volunteer support worker hours have taken place during this period.

Mental health and wellbeing remain priority for the work here at Livewire. We 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.

Youth Participation

We currently have a group of 7 young people making up our development group who meet regularly to discuss issues and young people's desires for developments at Livewire.

Funding

This year we have been very fortunate to receive £30,400 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 £12,000 this year as a gift from AC/DC for youth work. £3,000 in gifts and donations have also been received from members of the public.

Community Engagement

Our relationship with the Community Kitchen continues to go 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 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

In April, a young male started attending open access sessions at Livewire to see if they might connect with what we do. They had few meaningful relationships besides mum and siblings, and due to physical and learning difficulties they found it difficult to engage with their education and people within their age bracket. The young male's connection to music was immediately apparent; they quickly began returning twice a week (Mondays & Thursdays) to engage in regular bass lessons. Other young people from his local area who also attend Livewire began developing positive relationships with him. Over time his confidence has grown to such a degree that he has begun performing on stage, both alone and with other young people. A recent performance of 'Highway To Hell' put smiles on all our faces because of the sheer joy it obviously brought him. Currently the young man is meeting regularly with one of our youth workers to explore how to navigate mental health issues that he struggles with. It is an incredibly positive outcome for this young person, and we are excited for the future engagement we have with them.