

The Core Youth and Community Centre

Youth Work Interim Report – Saltash Town Council Youth Work Funding

September – December 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

- Challenges and Opportunities:**

This Autumn has been a challenge, and we have found ourselves in a financially unstable position. It prompted many challenges and changes which needed to be implemented with immediate effect. This saw staff leave and hours reduced which has been hard, however we were able to maintain all our youth activities and the support for young people has not been affected.

We have used this experience to reflect on our prioritise and how we ensure we can remain sustainable and able to continue the work we do in the community. It has been a steep learning curve, however we feel we are now out the other side feeling stronger and more robust than before. Our income has increased through our room hire and our expenditure has dramatically decreased.

We have received additional funding through Cornwall Community Foundation to continue our youth provision and in addition to the monies from STC this will ensure our doors remain open.

Outcomes and outputs achieved

- Total current number of members at The Core = 427
- Number of open access sessions delivered = 60
- Number of targeted youth sessions = 100
- Number of young people receiving individual support = 25
- Number of young people helped back into employment, training or work = 15
- Number of youth volunteer hours worked = 402

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.

Educational Support Programme:

This programme offers 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.

Unfortunately, due to financial constraints it became clear this term that we could no longer support this programme and it was decided that the tutors would take in the running of it as an independent business. We are delighted not to have lost this provision and look forward to working with the tutors to continue to make it a success and ensure young people are supported.

Impact and Outcomes

Success Stories & testimonies:

We have a young man who has attended our senior youth club for a few years now and then he joined grub Club, which he really enjoyed and discovered a passion for cooking. He had not been in school for over a year as he struggled with his emotions and was always in trouble, with a risk of being excluded. He then joined the education programme where he made new friends and started coming along to the boxing club which he enjoyed. He did struggle with regulating himself and we often had outbursts from him where we had to remove him from his peers to allow him to calm down. He found calm in cooking and has recently started baking for a local cafe which he is extremely proud of. We have seen such a dramatic change in him and his ability to self-regulate, he is so much calmer and more mature. His mum has said that he has 'found his place 'and somewhere he belongs which has been amazing for the whole family. We have now made him a peer mentor to another young man with SEND and he has been incredible with him, and they have forged a lovely friendship.

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 :**
 - Worval Foundation = £6000
 - Police & Crime Commissioner Fund = £5324
 - Children and Young People's Mental Health Board = £7100
 - Scrapstore = £1000

Total grant income for period = **£19,424**