



**YEAR END REPORT TO
SALTASH TOWN COUNCIL
2025-2026**

Dear Person behind Me,
The World is a
better place
with YOU in it
The Person in front
of me

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Provisions Across the Year

Youth Work

Senior Sessions

This year we have provided two senior sessions per week (Mondays and Thursdays) for young people aged 13-21. It's an opportunity to access social spaces, music facilities, support from youth workers and on-the-spot counselling from our volunteer counsellors. Our coffee bar gives young people access to food and drink to buy at their leisure; we also provide free hot food courtesy of Saltash Community Hub, granting hungry young people without any money the ability to eat without having an impact on any ongoing financial pressures.



Young people can also use the stage in our venue to perform solo or as a band, which has immense impact on their confidence and self-esteem, and opens the door to new opportunities in music and performance.

Junior Sessions

On Wednesdays we have opened our doors to our junior group, comprised of young people in school years 6 – 8. These evenings are much like our senior sessions with access to social spaces, music facilities, youth worker support and mental health services. This is, as you can imagine, is where we sell most of our sweets and lollipops!

The great thing about these sessions is the energy the young people bring. Open-mic slots are available in the venue for young people to perform a song in front of everyone; the whole building comes alive with dancing and singing as all the young people support their friends. We have had a handful of young bands form in the junior group this year, and senior members who volunteer as music tutors help these young bands develop their musicianship before they are unleashed onto the stage!

Young Women's Music Sessions

Our young women's session has been going on for a good few years now and is still of real benefit to the young people who attend. Functionally these sessions remain identical to our generic senior sessions, with the key difference being an all-female staff of musicians, youth workers and counsellors. *The Other Woman*, a band which formed at this session some years ago, have really come into their own this year. Their presence on social media and the local music scene is both impressive and uplifting for the Livewire team to see; we wish them all the best in their future musical endeavours.



Across this year the young women's sessions have been involved in a research project concerned with violence against women and young girls. The project was a collaborative between both University of Plymouth, Marjon and Livewire, and we are currently waiting for the findings of the project to be published. It's been our privilege to contribute to work being done in this area and seriously hope for a positive impact for all women and young girls off the back of it.

Friday Wellbeing Sessions

Young people struggling with social anxiety have been continuously making the most of our wellbeing provision. Heidi, who runs the group, has done a fantastic job this year of creating activities and provisions within the group that suit the needs of its members. Arts and crafts take centre stage, creating unique opportunities for youth work to be carried out with young people who otherwise may not feel comfortable opening-up. Such is the magic of arts and crafts!

The small size of the group, which is necessary for the wellbeing of its members, has brought some challenges this year. The small group capacity has been clashing with the number of young people wanting to access it. This is solely down to volume of interest, which is anything but a positive, and our solution has been to work with our longer-term members, encouraging them to consider giving our other sessions a go. This is already a natural process of the group, as it is always our intention to empower and encourage them to overcome their anxieties and make the most of the opportunities in front of them. We are continuing with this strategy to make sure all local young people with these issues are getting the best out of this provision.



Monday & Saturday Recording Sessions

This year during Monday evenings and Saturday daytimes, our lead musician Will has run our recording studio to provide young bands and artists the opportunity to record and learn how to use the recording studio themselves. We've been immensely proud of some of the work created and continue to encourage young musicians to make the most of this equipment; watch this space!

Mental Health & Wellbeing

Counselling

Our counselling service continues to gain new clients as our volunteer counselling team grow. We are receiving more referrals as local doctors and service providers become aware of what we offer. We are pleased to have managed the pressure of this influx without impacting our waiting list, which remains a maximum of two weeks from referral.

We have a new counselling lead, Berni, who has stepped into the shoes of Lisa to continue our counselling provision. She has been with us for over a year and has since brought new life and energy into our services. We're excited to have Berni on board and can't wait to see what the future holds with her!



1-1 Support

This year we have put more focus on providing effective 1-1 support to our young people during open-access sessions, as well as in the wider community with our outreach work. In session each youth worker

has a small handful of young people which are allocated to them for regular catchups in which the young person can offload any short-term issues they are dealing with.

Peer Mentoring

Our senior members, when volunteering at the junior group, have had the opportunity to deliver peer-to-peer mentoring to younger members struggling with difficult situations or circumstances. This programme has been successful over the last year, with volunteers working long-term with junior members with issues that affect them. The youth work team has supported these peer mentors in their role by offering guidance, assistance and advice. This has been to the benefit of both the young people and the youth work team, allowing more work to be carried out in the junior group where it is really needed.

Music

Free Music Lessons

We're proud to have provided free music lessons to all our young members across the course of the year. The scope of what's available has only widened as we have assessed what young people are looking for in us. Young people have been mentored and guided in our band development space with a paid musician; honed skills in live sound behind the sound desk in our venue; received instrument tutoring in guitar, bass, drums and singing from a wide range of volunteer musicians; and practiced their stage performances in our venue in front of friends and fans.

Gigs & Events

This year we have put on over fifteen public events in our venue, ranging from school showcases and alumni events to Metal 2 The Masses, a multi-heat battle of the bands with a grand prize of a performance slot at Bloodstock Festival! We have also proudly been part of Saltash Regatta and Saltash Mayfair where our young people have performed their music on a small stage; this community inclusion has been a great part of our year. Further afield we have worked with Boardmasters festival where our young people have performed on the 'Keg and Pasty' stage, and Glastonbury where we sent a team of volunteers to work as stewards at the festival.



News & Developments

New Charity Status

In 2025 Livewire changed its charity status to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), granting us the ability to hold the deeds to our building. This now allows us more freedom for developments and renovations to our building!

Accessibility Ramp

Passers-by will notice a brand-new accessibility ramp leading up to our front door; this ramp was installed in October and has been a hugely welcome addition to our facilities. Staff and young people with mobility issues now have better access to our building, and conversations have now started regarding wheelchair access for the rest of the building.

Apprenticeship

As part of Livewire's succession plan and the longevity of the project, an apprentice has been appointed to shadow the Head Youth Coordinator in their day-to-day activities. This appointment has so far been hugely successful and to the benefit of the project, with training being delivered both on-the-job and at Marjon. One of Livewire's patrons has very generously agreed to pay for this apprenticeship for three years, and we



Evaluation Project

As part of our Heart n' Soul project, which is at the heart of our mental health provision, Livewire has worked with an independent consultant funded by the National Lottery to carry out an evaluation project. This evaluation involved conducting a survey with the young people and gathering data from all our provisions. The evaluation, which has been sent out alongside this end of year report, has hugely uplifted the feeling of staff and reassured us that our work is effective and well-received! We would implore you to give it a read.

The background of the page is a faded, light-colored photograph of a marina. In the foreground, two people are seen from behind, sitting at a table and looking out over the water. The water is calm, and several sailboats with their masts are visible in the middle ground. In the background, there are buildings, including one with a sign that says "INKY PAPER". The overall scene is peaceful and scenic.

Thank You

We at Livewire are ever grateful for the support we receive locally and from further afield. Saltash Town Council have been very forward thinking in terms of youth work and provide money to ensure that the good work can continue. Thank you to them and all others who advocate for our project!