

LIVEWIRE

Youth Project
Making Music, Changing Lives

Registered Charity No. 1205758

HEART 'N' SOUL PROJECT
YEAR FOUR

February 2025
to January 2026

 **COMMUNITY
FUND**



**Livewire Youth Project Heart 'n' Soul Project Year Four
Report prepared February 2026**

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1 OVERVIEW

What has the funding helped Livewire to do?

The overall aim of the lottery funded Heart 'n' Soul project is to bridge the gap in provision for young people's mental health services and to provide support for young people when they need it.

LIVEWIRE'S KEY METRICS WITHIN THE LAST YEAR IN NUMBERS:



410
members
aged 10 to 21



230
open access music sessions attended by 175 young people per week, and over 10,000 annually




164
young people receiving counselling



78
young people receiving direct youth work interventions


2/3 of Livewire's members come from the highest **50%** areas of multiple deprivation in England with **1/5** of members from the **10%** highest areas of multiple deprivation

Livewire members live in Saltash (**34%**), Plymouth (**39%**) and other areas of South-East Cornwall, and Devon (**27%**)



51 Livewire members participated in our survey, representative by age, geography, disability, ethnicity, gender and sexual orientation



44% of survey respondents would be **'devastated'** if Livewire didn't exist



94.1% of survey respondents rated Livewire as **'excellent'**

ALSO, WE HAVE:

⊙ Started **succession planning** through the appointment of Joe Day, an apprentice to work alongside Andy Rance over the next three years. Joe, who attended Livewire throughout his adolescence, is studying youth work at University of St. Mark & St. John whilst mirroring Andy's responsibilities in the workplace. Together they will work to secure Livewire's future.

⊙ Installed an **accessible ramp** for use by people with mobility issues.

⊙ Installed a **new lighting desk** to provide young musicians with up-to-date equipment.

⊙ Built **three new counselling rooms** to facilitate Livewire's ever-growing mental health provision.

⊙ **Celebrating 80 years of Livewire** as a charity at The Waterside in Saltash.

⊙ Hosted a well-attended **AGM** (for the period ending 31st March 2025) in November 2025 followed by a public performance from our members.

⊙ Continued to host a **women's-only open access** nights on a Tuesday for young women to make use of Livewire's facilities and socialise in a safe environment.

⊙ Ran **successful events including Edfest and Metal 2 The Masses**, important in terms of profile and fund-raising.

⊙ **Encouraged young bands and performers** to develop their skills by playing at regular, local and regional events such as Boardmasters Festival and Saltash Regatta.

⊙ Provided a team of **stewards for Glastonbury**.

⊙ Converted the charity to a **Charity Incorporated Organisation (CIO)** on 1st December 2025 with the deeds of the building transferred to the new Livewire CIO – new charity registered number is 1205758.


⊙ Implemented a **new data/CRM management system** to track Livewire's members, counselling sessions, youth work, music sessions and interactions with clients.

⊙ Been **nominated by Plymouth Pavilions**, now rebranded as Plymouth Arena, as their charity of the year.


⊙ **Helped circa 30 young people grow and develop their musicianship** through the formation of new exciting bands.



Watch our film clips and read our articles

 **FILM:** A shout out by Pete Townshend of The Who (patron of Livewire) playing at The Eden Project followed by Andy Rance, Head Youth Work Coordinator and Livewire members saying what Livewire means to them:


<https://youtu.be/FcLiUF6ic3E>

 **FILM:** Brief talk about Livewire and its significance, Andy Rance:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JU2nMBWhRJU>

 **ARTICLE:** Interview with Andy Rance by Plymouth Culture:

<https://www.plymouthculture.co.uk/creative-community/in-conversation-/in-conversation-with-livewires-andy-rance>

 **ARTICLE:** Succession planning with Andy Rance and Joe Day:

<https://www.cornish-times.co.uk/news/livewire-legend-looking-to-the-future-with-new-appointment-832297>

2 OUR MISSION & VISION

What we do and how we do it

Livewire Youth Project is a unique charity that combines professional traditional youth work practice/ activities with music-making and mental health support, aimed at helping young people aged 10 to 21 navigate their journey through adolescence into adulthood.

Through music, participants are encouraged to unlock their creativity, develop musical skills, and, most importantly, learn to enjoy music. Livewire offers one-on-one counselling and youth worker support for targeted and vulnerable individuals.

Whilst many young people attend Livewire due to their passion for music and the opportunity to pursue their musical ambitions with access to state-of-the-art facilities and a wide range of free lessons, others come seeking friendship. A great many also seek to overcome personal challenges such as anxiety, lack of confidence and low self-esteem in a safe and welcoming environment.

We are committed to helping young people face and conquer their challenges, regardless of the obstacles they encounter in their lives. With **thirty plus years of experience**, we enable young people to reach their potential, both musically, socially and personally. Our aim is to change young lives and foster productive engagement through music and traditional youth work activities, helping young people to become confident and active members of their communities whilst developing resilience to navigate life's challenges.

Livewire uniquely blends **youth work, music-based activities**, and **mental health** and **well-being** services, offering a holistic approach to supporting young people in Cornwall and Devon.

Our charity has been operating since the end of the Second World War (*images below*) starting as **The Waterside Boys Club**, later to be known as the **Saltash Boys Club** before becoming **Livewire Youth Project**.

This year, the charity is celebrating 80 years at The Waterside, with its base located beside the stunning twin bridges in Saltash on the banks of the River Tamar.



Mission and Vision

- ⦿ To create an appropriate environment for young people to gain the skills and confidence to reach their full potential and offer that environment to young people aged 10 to 21 from Cornwall, Plymouth and Southwest Devon.
- ⦿ To provide support, tuition, opportunity and encouragement to young people for the development of their skills and talents in music, with the result that they increase their confidence, wellbeing and better their opportunities to gain employment.
- ⦿ To provide professional support and referral advice to young people for all personal, financial and other issues that may cause them concern or distress.
- ⦿ To provide one to one counselling and youth worker support to young persons aged 10 to 21, as required.
- ⦿ To seek out opportunities to undertake relevant contracted youth education work with young people through public or private organisations during the daytime.
- ⦿ To become and remain an effective independent organisation, fully funded through voluntary, public and private sources, in accordance with our funding strategy.
- ⦿ To create resilience against future funding and policy shocks through developing sustainable and diverse funding streams.
- ⦿ To support young people becoming emotionally and socially resilient, so they are better prepared to navigate growing up and life in general.

**With the help of The National Lottery Community Fund,
we are achieving our mission and vision – thank you.**

Our Facilities

Livewire provides a full range of quality facilities and activities including music, lessons, guitar, bass and vocals, rehearsal and recording studios and a 200-capacity music venue plus coffee bar area with pool table.

The key areas are:

The Venue

Our state-of-the-art venue gives young people the chance to live out their wildest musical dreams, offering them a chance to thrive among like-minded people through live performance. It is a place where foundations of confidence and resilience are laid and live performance skills can be honed.

It is also a place where young people learn about the music industry; lighting engineering, sound engineering and stage crewing can be carried out, equipping young people with the knowledge and skills to support new and exciting career prospects. This venue has hosted prestigious events like the Metal to the Masses heats and occasional gigs such as Stiff Little Fingers, The Damned, Phil Campbell (Motorhead) and Enter Shikari. The main purpose is to give every young person the chance to practice, enhance their skills, perform in public and simply learn how to use a professional stage.



Band Development (BD)

Kitted out with drums, guitars, amps and other miscellaneous instruments, BD is a space where young groups can work on team-building and creative collaboration with the help of a professional musician. Members are guided through performance and songwriting and encouraged to explore musical ideas.



Pete's Place

Our music studio houses a sound desk donated by our patron, Pete Townshend (The Who). Pete's Place gives young people the opportunity to professionally record their music, learn how to operate equipment and hone their professional musicianship skills with the help of a qualified musician and sound engineer.



Ed's Place

This smaller practice space gives young bands a space to make some noise and create/collaborate musically. It's a place where collaboration and creativity can thrive and young people can deepen creative relationships and form long lasting memories.



Through the above facilities, young people get the opportunity to do the following:

- ⦿ **Learn to play music** – using instruments such as guitar (acoustic, electric and bass), drums, keyboard and piano.
- ⦿ **Learn to sing** – for those who prefer a microphone in their hand, there are vocal lessons.
- ⦿ **Technical skills** – learn professional studio mixing, live sound making on the Electrovoice line array system and vital backstage 'know how' including stage lighting and mixing and recording in Pete's Place.

Our Services

Livewire offers three core services: **Youth Work**, **Music** and **Counselling**; services are intrinsically linked as the diagram demonstrates.

Youth Work

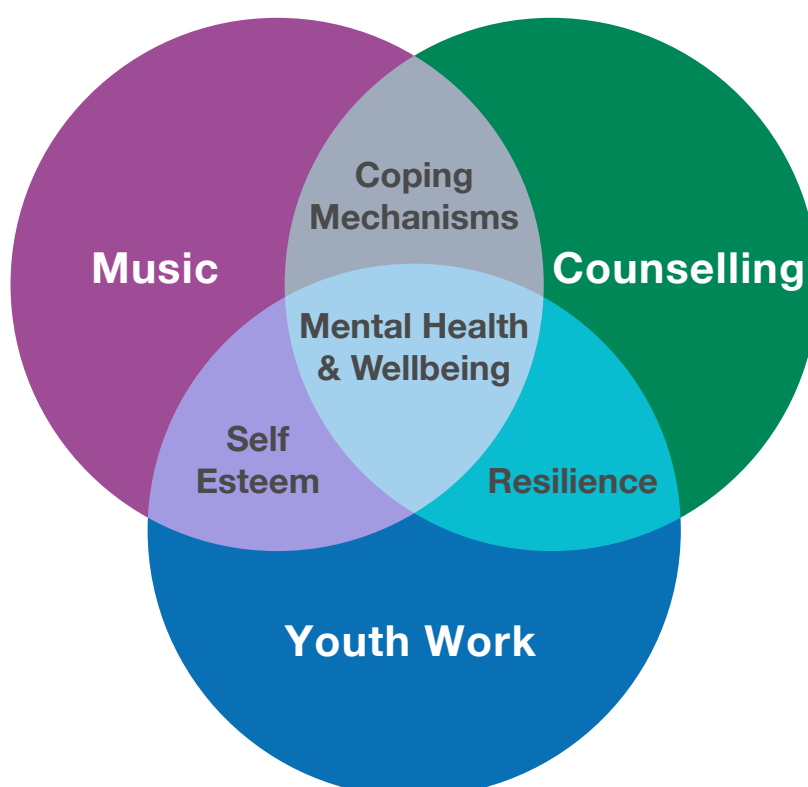
Without youth work, Livewire would not exist. Our core purpose is to guide, mentor and support young people to ensure their lives are **thriving** and successful. We help young people to find a voice, gain essential **life skills**, overcome **barriers**, embrace **passions**, and find their place in society. With a team of JNC-qualified youth workers offering 1:1 support and mentoring, supported by a wider community of musicians, counsellors and volunteers, Livewire offers a safe and supportive environment for young people to explore and grow into the best version of themselves.

Music

Music is at the heart of what Livewire is all about. Our name and ethos are built upon the foundations of rock 'n' roll. We strive to build **confidence** and **self-belief** in our members by involving them in the creation and performance of live and recorded music. With the help of musicians, we tutor and mentor young musicians, encouraging them to form bands and friendships with like-minded people who will support and encourage them in their journey. A number of music sessions are held five days a week.

Counselling

Since 2018, Livewire has provided **mental health** support to young people in the community. With a team of **qualified volunteer counsellors**, we help young people **identify the issues** they face, **teach strategies** to navigate and deal with those issues and encourage a **wider exploration of self**, allowing for growth and self-compassion in later life. Blocks of six sessions can be booked and up to three blocks can be offered meaning young people have up to **18 sessions of free counselling** in a safe space where they can talk about anything and receive the help they need.



3 YOUTH WORK

Our approach and outputs

Support is available from qualified/trained and volunteer youth workers on a one-to-one basis either through formal booked sessions or more informally as required. Youth worker support is less formal compared with counselling although some elements are similar.

Youth workers can offer young people support in various areas; these include anxiety, self-harm, drug and alcohol use, employment, unemployment, relationships, sexual health and pretty much any issue a young person may face.

This table demonstrates the youth work sessions carried out with young people:

February 2025 to January 2026 Number of Youth Work Direct Interventions													
Session	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Totals
Monday	16	25	18	15	18	17	15	8	16	14	9	59	230
Tuesday	9	12	9	10	12	10	8	7	13	11	7	8	116
Wednesday	15	21	12	15	14	18	13	9	12	15	19	50	213
Thursday	27	34	15	17	17	21	20	12	23	13	16	32	247
Friday	21	30	15	26	15	13	20	16	14	17	20	28	235
Totals	88	122	69	83	76	79	76	52	78	70	71	177	1041



4 MUSIC

Our approach and outputs

Music is at the heart of what Livewire is about and hence each week day night, there is a different session to support young people in different ways.

Livewire adapts the sessions in response to the needs of young people catering for all age groups and emotional needs. For example, the young women's sessions not only support women in a single-sex environment but also encourage greater female representation within the music industry.

What sessions are delivered, when and for whom?

The sessions held during the past 12 months are as follows:



Day	Session
Monday Seniors 13-21 year olds 7.00pm – 9.30pm	Open access session for all young people aged 13 to 21. The session includes access to music lessons, youth worker support, counselling and a general opportunity to socialise. There is also an Open Mic for anyone to join in or spectate!
Tuesday Women's Group 12-21 year olds 7.00pm – 9.00pm	Targeted session for young women aged 12 to 21. This session is for young women who wish for a safe space to develop their music skills, access female youth worker support and counselling, and socialise with other young women.
Wednesday Juniors 10-13 year olds 6.30pm – 8.30pm	Open access session for young people in school years 6 to 8. The session includes access to music lessons, youth worker support, counselling and a general opportunity to socialise. There is also an 'Open Mic' for anyone to join in or spectate!
Thursday Seniors 13-21 year olds 7.00pm – 9.30pm	Open access session for all young people aged 13 to 21. The session includes access to music lessons, youth worker support, counselling and a general opportunity to socialise. You can also use our stage for band rehearsals.
Friday Wellbeing Group 13-21 year olds 6.00pm – 8.00pm	Targeted session for young people aged 13 to 21 who might struggle with anxiety or socialising. It is a very small group of up to 8 young people who book their attendance on a week-by-week basis. These sessions include music, arts and crafts and a wonderful therapy dog called Akira.



The table below demonstrates the attendance levels at each of the weekday sessions each month during the 12-month period from February 2025 to January 2026:

Day	Activities & Services	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	
Monday Seniors 13-21 year olds 7.00pm – 9.30pm	Music lessons, youth worker support, counselling, coffee bar, stage karaoke	325	361	221	240	237	194	157	243	265	287	353	266	3149
Tuesday Women's Group 12-21 year olds 7.00pm – 9.30pm	Music lessons, youth worker support, counselling, coffee bar, stage performances	94	107	96	67	58	81	49	53	59	48	64	37	813
Wednesday Juniors 10-13 year olds 6.30pm – 8.30pm	Music lessons, youth worker support, counselling, coffee bar, art club, stage karaoke	228	257	249	237	271	314	206	117	247	211	200	173	2710
Thursday Seniors 13-21 year olds 7.00pm – 9.30pm	Music lessons, youth worker support, counselling, coffee bar, band development, bands on stage	304	443	228	332	264	276	318	206	276	289	301	278	3515
Friday Wellbeing Group 13-21 year olds 6.00pm – 8.00pm	Music, arts and crafts, Akira the therapy dog	21	30	15	26	15	13	20	16	14	17	12	20	219
Totals		972	1198	809	902	845	878	750	635	861	852	930	774	10406

5 COUNSELLING

Our approach and outputs

Livewire provides enhanced services in relation to the provision of mental health and well-being needs with a fully qualified lead counsellor and team of qualified and trainee counsellors. Trainees have built upon their existing professional qualifications by undertaking a number of mental health related training courses ensuring the best level of support to young people.

Counselling helps young people to identify what they may want to work on and teaches strategies that help to manage stress, anxiety, low mood or intrusive thoughts.

The table below shows the number of sessions served to our 164 counselling clients during the past year – February 2025 to January 2026:

2025-26	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	TOTALS
Sessions	61	21	18	51	57	56	26	37	27	50	46	52	502

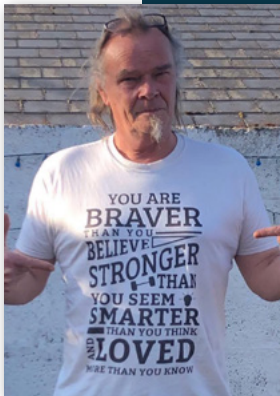


6 WHO DELIVERS OUR SERVICES

Our dedicated Livewire team & staff

Livewire's team includes: 9 volunteer counsellors, 1 counselling lead, 3 youth workers, 1 apprentice youth worker, 25 volunteers and 4 musicians.

Our Paid Professional Staff



Andy Rance
Head Youth Work Coordinator

Livewire's beating soul, Andy has transformed the place into a music haven for young people. He carries out youth work, organises events, carries out fundraising and fights every day to keep Livewire running!



Julie Rance
Office Administrator

Julie has been an instrumental part of Livewire's history, practicing youth work alongside Andy for many years. Together they have fostered an incredible space for young people and have always advocated for the rights and wellbeing of young people.



Karen Coleman
Youth Worker

Karen works closely with Andy to carry out youth work at Livewire and has set up a Women's Night on Tuesdays to allow young women a safe space in which they can enjoy everything Livewire has to offer.



Lisa Chaffer
Counselling Lead

Mental health services at Livewire wouldn't have been the same without Lisa and her team of volunteers. Together they ensure that free, accessible counselling remains available for young people in the area. Lisa also works closely with the youth work team to make sure everything is being done to support young people in need.



Will Rogers
Senior Musician

Musician, studio engineer, live sound engineer, stage manager – Will is the music man who makes it all happen. Alongside offering tuition during evening sessions with other volunteer musicians, Will helps young people interested in live production put on shows in Livewire's venue, teaching them how to use the sound desk, set up stages, maintain gear and everything else that goes into putting on a show!



Joe Day
Apprentice Youth Worker

Joe is an ex-member of Livewire and has been mentored by Andy Rance since his mid-teens. Taken on as an apprentice as part of Livewire's succession plan, he currently shadows Andy whilst studying Youth & Community Work at the University of St. Mark & St. John. Livewire has been a huge part of Joe's life, and he is dedicated to ensuring it lives on to benefit young people long into the future!



Our Volunteers

The contribution made by volunteers to Livewire is significant. Whilst there is a paid staff team providing counselling, youth work and music services, our charity relies heavily on volunteers to support our sessions. This ensures that there are appropriate individuals for smooth and effective operation of our open-access sessions, people who can be a friendly face, provide music lessons, and identify where young people may need further support and help. The volunteers work with the paid staff to allow them to triage the need for mental health and well-being services when necessary. Volunteers also support Livewire to run events and manage operations and fundraising working with our Trustee Board.



Volunteers at Livewire are largely members of the local community who see its value and wish to help it thrive. From the town's ex-mayor to members of the local police force, retirees with an interest in music and parents of young people who attend, volunteers are drawn from a whole host of backgrounds.

Opportunities to grow and develop often come from these volunteers: our logo, branding and promotional material is produced by Mark, who is a graphic designer by trade; public access live music events which help promote our young bands are organised and promoted by Mike, who is a parent of an ex-member; our digital database system was developed in partnership with Jon, who alongside teaching bass to young people during our sessions, works as a database designer for local schools.

Another large proportion of our volunteers are young people who help run our junior session. Through a young volunteer award scheme, young people can set personal aims and strive to achieve them through running the junior session. Responsibilities include running the coffee bar, operating live sound and lighting in the venue, offering peer-to-peer support to younger members, delivering music tuition, and making sure everybody has fun!

In summary, volunteer roles include the following:

- ⦿ Peer mentoring
- ⦿ Running the various sessions including ensuring the smooth running of the junior clubs
- ⦿ Getting involved in teaching music including drums, guitar, bass, keyboard and vocals
- ⦿ Helping to run the coffee bar, art workshops, organising and operating karaoke
- ⦿ Volunteering in the studio, helping to record peers
- ⦿ Running the venue, doing the live sound and lighting as well as stage management and event promotion

Our Trustees and Governance

During the past year, there have been 10 trustees who bring a variety of skills and experience to Livewire, meet every month and have six main duties:

- ⦿ To ensure compliance with Livewire's governing document and the law
- ⦿ To ensure the charity is carrying out its purposes for the youth benefit
- ⦿ To ensure that Livewire is accountable
- ⦿ To act in Livewire's best interest
- ⦿ To manage Livewire's resources responsibly
- ⦿ To act with reasonable care and skill

Trustees have specific roles such as Chair, Treasurer and have specialisms/expertise around event management, health and safety, safeguarding, fundraising, education and marketing.



Our Delivery Partners

We work with all the **local secondary schools** in the area, alongside **local colleges** and **specialist alternative provision schools**. The primary aim of these relationships is to provide mental health and wellbeing support to young people experiencing difficulties in school. Our main partnership is with **Saltash Community School**, where we provide a weekly mental health and wellbeing drop-in service; we also arrange visits and provide specific advocacy and support for young people who are not able to receive the support they need from school.

We also work with universities to provide similar support, alongside placement opportunities to youth workers and counsellors in training. We are occasionally invited to **deliver lectures, workshops** and **talks** at local universities. We maintain strong communicative relationships with other local youth work organisations to ensure local young people are getting the most out of all local provisions, and to communicate issues affecting the local area.

Our relationship with **The Zone, Headstart, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)**, local **doctor's surgeries** and other **non-NHS mental health services** involves channelling referrals into Livewire's free counselling service, ensuring young people do not suffer from the long waiting lists currently experienced within the NHS.

We will work with **social workers** to provide alternative provision opportunities to young people outside of mainstream education.

We are a member of **Saltash Team for Youth, a sub-committee of Saltash Town Council** for youth work delivery in the town by Livewire and The Core, another local youth organisation. We are also a member of **Saltash Youth Network** which brings together all youth-adjacent organisations in the area to confer and collaborate, and Saltash Together, a wider network of local organisations. We occasionally attend other local meetings which may be relevant to young people and Livewire; it's important to us to be active in the local community.

7 OUR MEMBERS

Livewire has 410 members from across Cornwall and Devon – see chart below.

There is no initial cost for becoming a member; members can use all facilities, lessons, undertake training and access youth and counselling services free of charge. When attending the youth club, members are invited to contribute £1 each time but no young person is turned away.

Many young people come from deprived areas shown by the **Indices of Multiple Deprivation** information below.

Livewire has a healthy spread of ages amongst its members with many members joining at a young age and staying with the club until their late teens and early twenties (see table below). New data gathering from our digital database will soon allow us to track these journeys and get an idea of how long members generally stay with us.

Our current members come from the following area and age spread:

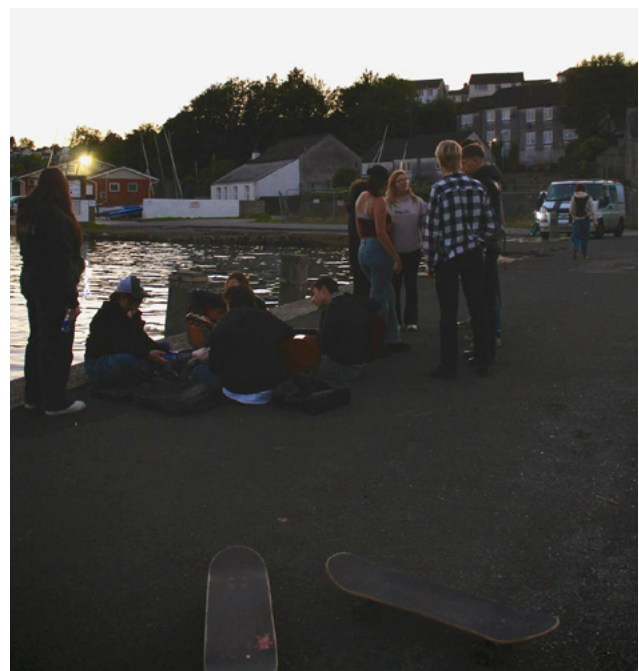
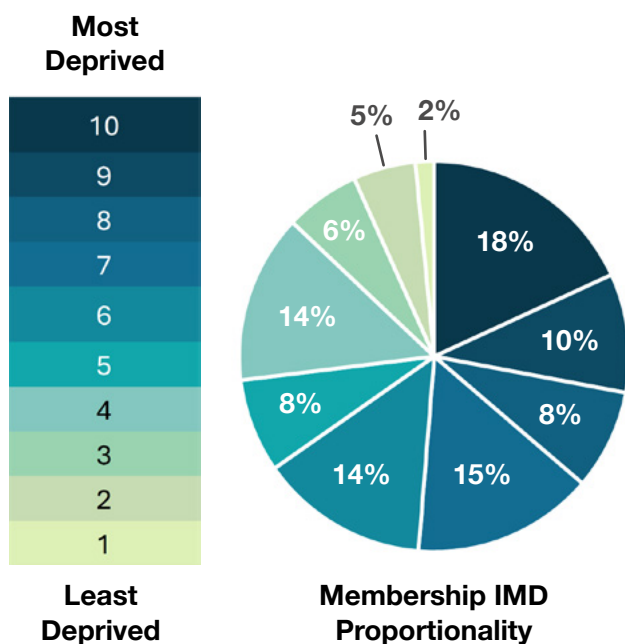
AREA	NO. OF MEMBERS	PERCENTAGE
SE CORNWALL	75	18%
SALTASH	138	34%
PLYMOUTH	161	39%
SW DEVON	26	6%
NOT PROVIDED	10	3%
TOTAL	410	100%

Age	Percentage
10	3%
11	7%
12	6%
13	7%
14	13%
15	17%
16	16%
17	12%
18	12%
19	5%
20	1%
21	1%

Livewire Membership Deprivation Data

[Indices of Multiple Deprivation Explained](#)

(links to GOV.UK 'English indices of deprivation 2025: statistical release' web page)



8 SURVEY & ANALYSIS

What our members say (appendix 1)

During September to November 2025, Livewire launched a survey and encouraged young people to complete it. The survey was completed by 51 respondents, whose ages ranged from 12 to 21, from South-east Cornwall, Plymouth and West Devon.

The results show that Livewire plays a very important role in the lives of the respondents, not only in terms of music but also as a safe and sociable meeting place for young people. The benefits of Livewire include a place to make friends, help build confidence, improve self-esteem and learn new music skills.

Every respondent who answered the survey rated Livewire as an **excellent/good** facility and its importance is emphasised by the fact that over 80% of the respondents would be **devasted/would really miss it** if it did not exist. The respondents are generally satisfied with the services Livewire provides, with few suggestions for any improvements needed.

The young people responding had concerns about their mental health, what the future holds for them, making friendships; all these concerns were mitigated by the support received from Livewire. As a result, a big concern for young people was the threat of Livewire closing.

Alongside concerns, young people expressed their hope and ambitions for the future and their interests which included music – both playing, listening and writing music.

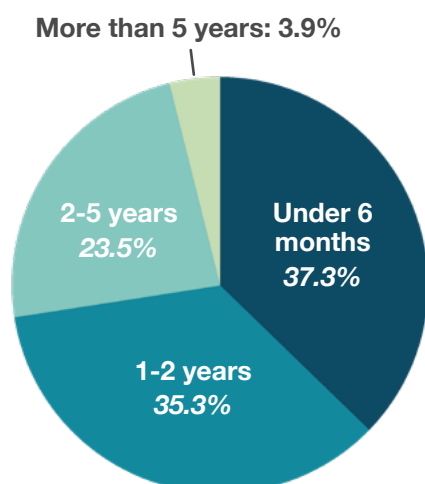
Testimonials from the respondents are included in the outcomes section (pages 22-25).

SURVEY

A summary of answers to the key survey questions:

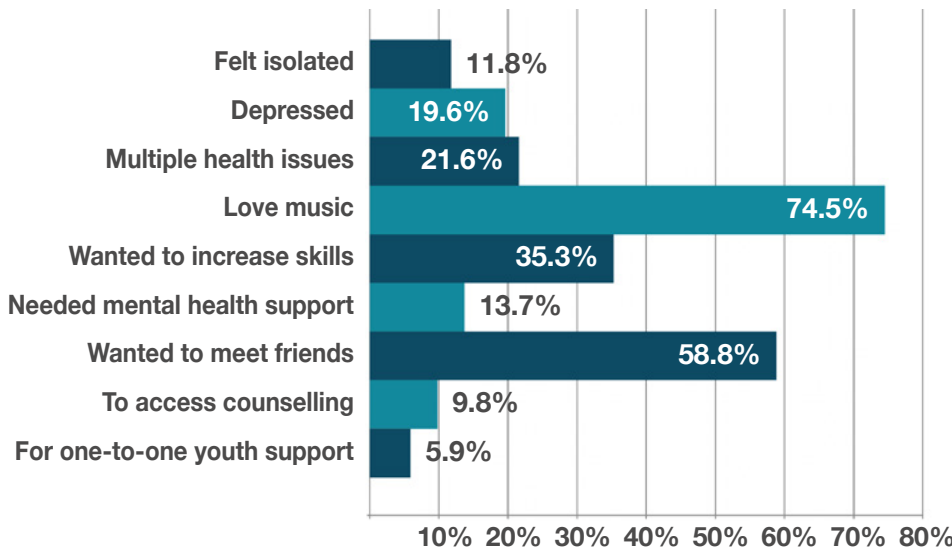
Q2. How long have you been coming to Livewire?

The respondents reflect a good cross-section of members with a mix of longer-term users and more recent users. Almost a quarter of the respondents have been coming to Livewire for between two and five years, whilst over a third have been coming for between a year and two years. 37% had been coming for less than six months. Our digital database system logs when a member has been added to the system, meaning we can accurately pinpoint when they joined as well as tracking their journey with us since joining.



Q3. What led you to come to Livewire?

Respondents come to Livewire for several different reasons and for many there is more than one reason. The most cited reason is the **'love of music'**; with almost 75% of respondents choosing this, followed by **'wanting to meet friends'**, selected by 58% and **'wanting to increase skills'** chosen by just over one third of respondents. The main other reasons selected were multiple health issues, being depressed and needing mental health support.



Further comments from respondents:

'I helped build the counselling rooms I have now used, and it really does make me glad I have had my part in that!'

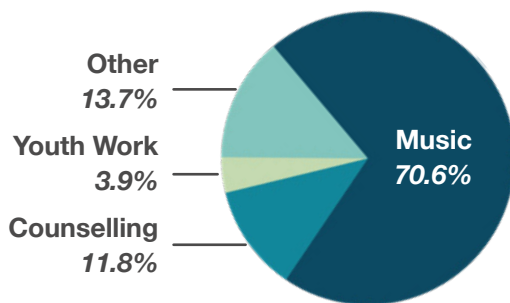
'I mainly came to Livewire because I remember attending a session a few years ago when I was younger and saw the stage, the lights and the community they had but I couldn't bring myself to go on stage back then. However, recently I remembered Livewire through my friend who comes here regularly and after realising how much I loved to sing and be on stage, I decided to give it a go again. Now, it's been a year, and I've made many new friends and become more confident in my skills and being on stage.'

'Amazing place to make friends and no one is enemies.'

'Good place, have fun.'

Q4. What services do you use at Livewire?

The service used the most by respondents is **music** with over 70% indicating they use this service which correlates with the main motivation for accessing Livewire initially. **Counselling** is the other main service used with 11.8% accessing this.



Respondents' comments:

'I mainly use the music services but having the youth support has been a great help at times.'

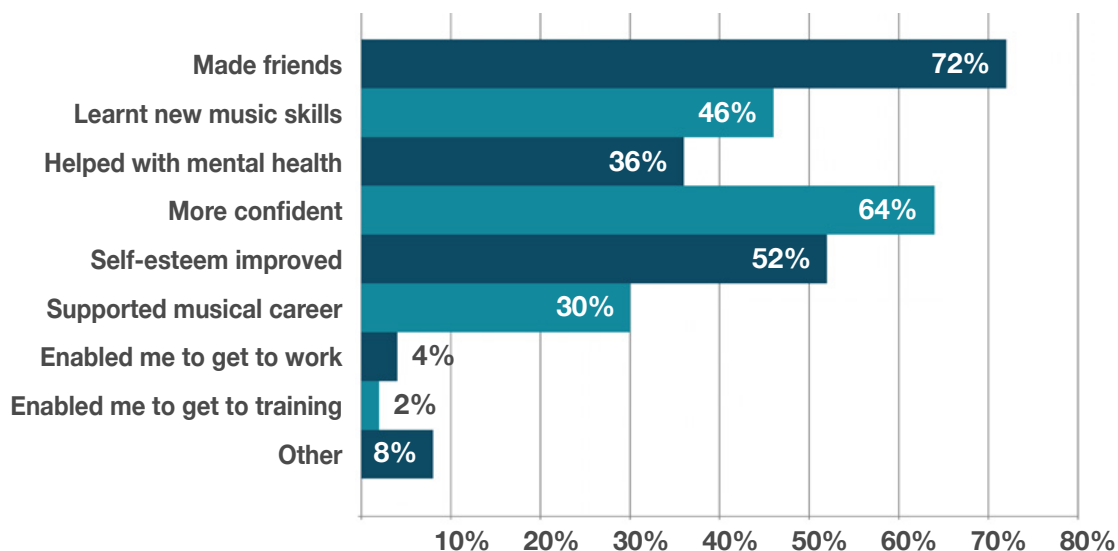
'To see my friends and make new ones.'

'Pretty much everything.'



Q5 What has been the main benefit for you of Livewire?

The benefit mentioned most by respondents is **making friends** with over 70% choosing this. The second biggest benefit is **feeling more confident** with almost two-thirds of respondents selecting this followed by **improving self-esteem** with 52%, **learning new music skills** with 46% and **supporting a musical career** with 30%.



Q7. Is there anything that Livewire could improve for you?

Generally, the respondents are satisfied with Livewire and see little that could be improved. There were a few suggestions for possible improvements as outlined below:

Possible improvements:

- ⊙ Extending the length of the Tuesday group by half an hour
- ⊙ Sport
- ⊙ Fixing any broken instruments
- ⊙ More inside quiet spaces
- ⊙ Warmer
- ⊙ More pasties

Further comments:

'Personally, as unhelpful as it is, I don't think there's anything I could think of to make it better for me.'

'No, it's all amazing, prices affordable.'

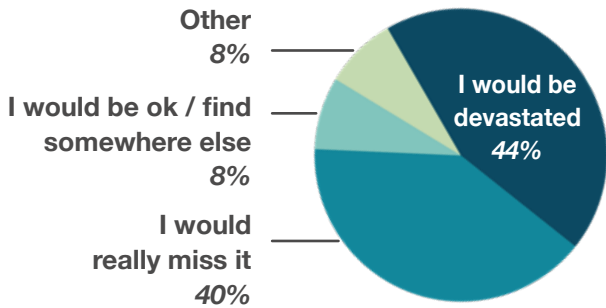
'No, I think it's great the way it is and should stay running for a very long time.'

'I would also love if they expanded the Tuesday group by half an hour, even if it's fortnightly or monthly, that extra half an hour would be nice.'



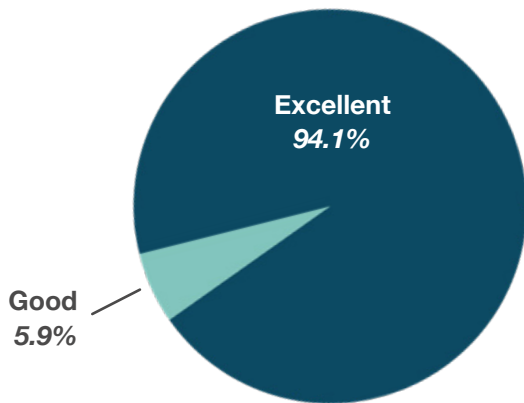
Q8. How would you feel if Livewire didn't exist?

If Livewire did not exist it would have a significantly detrimental effect on the lives of many of the respondents, with 44% indicating, they would be **devastated** and a further 40% **would really miss it**.



Q9. How do you rate Livewire?

The respondents rate Livewire very highly with **94.1% saying it is excellent** and **5.9% describing it as good**. Not a single respondent rated Livewire as average or poor.



Comments:

'If this place didn't exist, then I think I can say for all people that come here they wouldn't feel at home nor have a place to feel like they can be themselves and express themselves.'

'I would cry to be honest.'

'I would miss Livewire so much, this is where I met some of my closest friends and have joined a band that I am really enjoying being in.'

'Livewire has made me more comfortable and confident in myself with making friends and helping others.'

'A fantastic place for young people to see their friends and have a place to talk about stuff.'

'I would really miss it because I find it very beneficial for young people including myself due to regular appointments and have a routine set around it.'

'I've grown to love the women's community I'm a part of and I truly don't believe I would be able to find another place like this that's accessible and as welcoming as Livewire is.'

So yes, I would be devastated.'

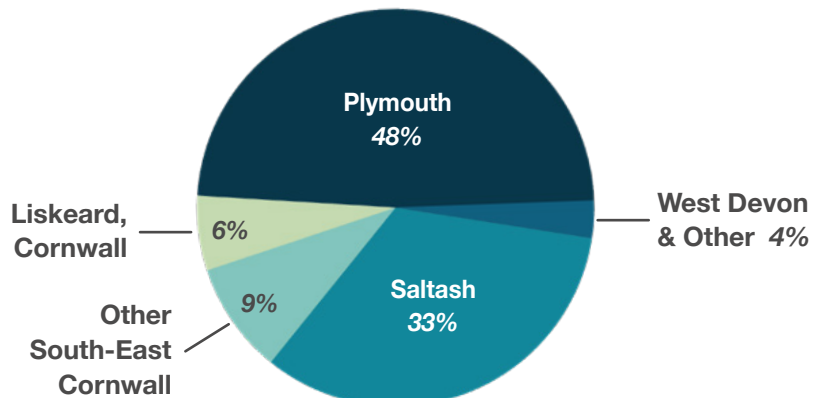
'Without Livewire I wouldn't be able to play music or socialise with other people.'

About the Respondents

Below shows that the survey attracted a good cross section of Livewire members. This was an optional part of the survey so not all of the respondents answered this section.

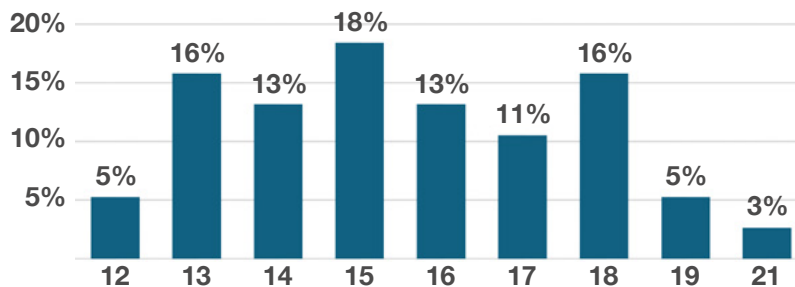
Where do you live?

33 (65%) of the 51 respondents answered. 16 (48%) respondents were from Plymouth and 11 (33%) from Saltash. The remaining respondents were from other places in South-East Cornwall, Liskeard and West Devon. This is proportionate to the geographic spread of Livewire's membership.



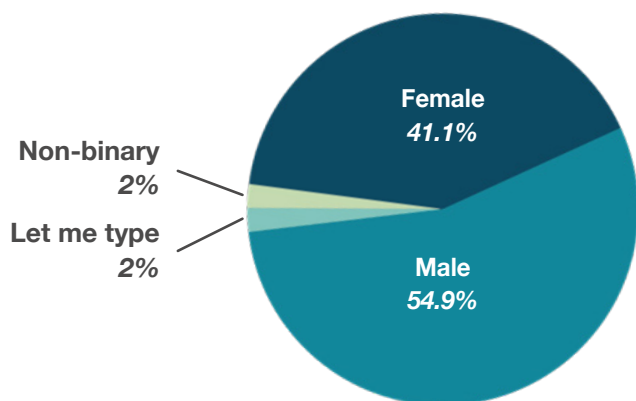
How old are you?

Thirty-eight of the fifty-one respondents (74.5%) answered this question. The respondents ranged in age from twelve to twenty one, with the majority between the ages of thirteen and eighteen. The age groups with the largest representation were fifteen with 18%, thirteen with 16% and eighteen also with 16%.



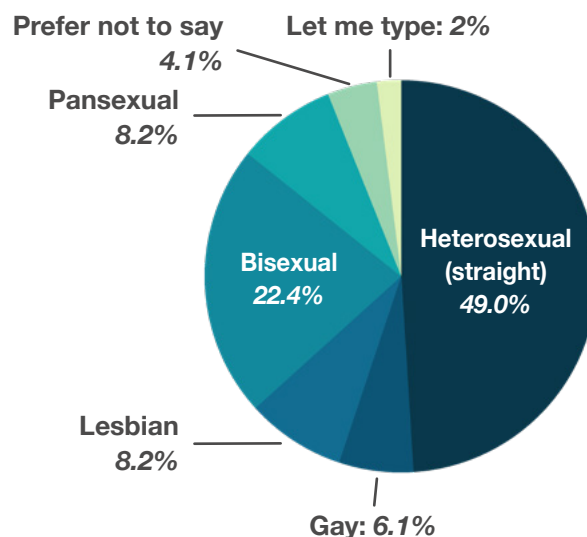
How do you describe your gender?

41.1% of respondents described their gender as female, 54.9% as male, 2% as non-binary and 2% as gender fluid.



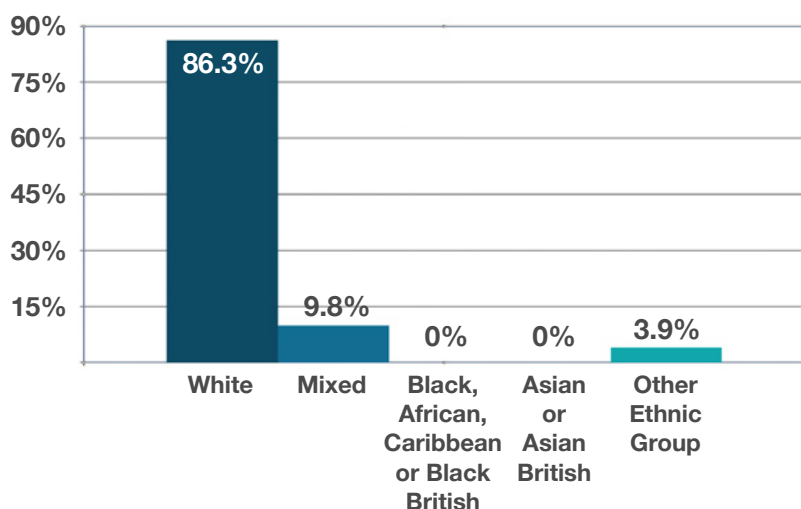
What is your sexual orientation?

49% of respondents indicated their sexual orientation was heterosexual, 22.4% as bisexual, 8.2% as lesbian, 8.2% as pansexual and 6.1% as gay.



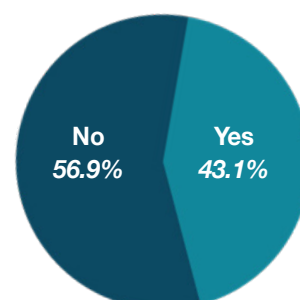
How do you describe your ethnicity?

86.3% of respondents described their ethnicity as white, 9.8% as mixed and 3.9% as other ethnic groups.



Do you consider yourself to have a disability?

43.1% of respondents considered themselves to have a disability. Those respondents that were prepared to give more information about their disability/disabilities mentioned ADHD, autism, dyslexia, spina bifida, anxiety, Lyme disease and dyspraxia.



9 OUTCOMES WITH TESTIMONIALS BY THE YOUNG PEOPLE SUPPORTED

During the last year, the project has achieved the following outcomes consistent with those that were pledged as part of the Heart ‘n’ Soul funding:

OUTCOME 1: INCREASED MENTAL WELLBEING FOR YOUNG PEOPLE ATTENDING COUNSELLING (80 per year)

Ⓞ **Counselling Sessions:** There have been 502 sessions delivered by counsellors with 164 young people aged 12 to 21 participating from February 2025 to January 2026. The chart in section 5 shows the outputs by month.

Ⓞ **Livewire Survey:** Feedback from the Livewire survey carried out during September to November 2025 asking respondents to indicate the main benefit of Livewire had the following responses:

36% of respondents said the main benefit was the support given with their mental health by the Livewire team.

What young people who undertook our 2025 survey said:

Mental Wellbeing Testimonials

I had bad mental problems for a few years and when I started coming to livewire I was in the stage of improvement. Personally, I believe having an activity that I came to weekly and making new friends and just being able to release stress and sing was one of the main reasons I’ve improved my mental health now.’

‘It has allowed me to create strategies for overcoming my anxiety; additionally, it has given me the reassurance that I needed to move on with my life.’

‘Livewire definitely saved me at my lowest and helped guide me on the right direction when I had no one to turn to for help.’

‘I find it’s improved my mental health because I can talk with other people with similar interests to me.’

Ⓞ **Counselling Client Feedback:** Data collected from counselling client feedback forms demonstrates the benefits of Livewire’s counselling service; without doubt, this is positive. Clients feel that time spent in counselling has lessened the impact their issues have on their lives.

Clients were asked to rate three metrics indicating how they felt pre-counselling compared with post-counselling – (Note: the higher the score the more positive the client felt):

Metric	Score Pre-Counselling	Score Post-Counselling
Feelings/emotions	3.8	5
Ability to cope	4.0	5
Life as a whole	4.2	5

16 individual clients were also tracked:

The chart below shows their progress – (Note: in this chart, the lower the score the more positive the client felt):



⊙ **Counselling Client Feedback:**

Clients gave the following testimonials:

'I feel more confident and willing to go out and do more things. I'm less anxious in public'

'I've developed self-compassion, self-acceptance, confidence and the ability to manage my worries'

'Helped me to come to terms with a lot of things about myself and better my self-image'

'It's kept me alive. I couldn't have carried on and been where I am now without this support'

'Helped me see things the way they really are instead of how I perceive them emotionally'



⊙ **Parent and Carer Feedback:** see case study information in **section 9** (page 30).

OUTCOME 2: INCREASED CONFIDENCE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE *(95 per year)*

⊙ **Youth Work:** 1,041 direct youth work interactions with young people aged 10–21 years old carried out by the youth work team. The chart in section 3 has full details.

⊙ **Livewire Survey:** Feedback from the Livewire survey carried out during September to November 2025 asking respondents to indicate the main benefit of Livewire had the following responses:

64% of respondents said the main benefit was being more confident and 52% cited that their self-esteem had improved since attending Livewire.

What young people who undertook our 2025 survey said:

Confidence Testimonials

'The team at Livewire are very supportive and playing with other people as a band has helped me with my confidence and communicating with other people'

'Singing on stage has helped my confidence skyrocket'

'Livewire has genuinely saved my life, time and time again. Before I started coming here, I was a fraction of the person I am now. I've gained confidence in everyday life; I've made friends that'll last and become happier in day-to-day life'

'I would say Livewire and the team over there have really gotten me out of my shell and I do things that I never knew I could do'

'I think Livewire has changed me in the best ways possible. I've always had a problem with my confidence and self-esteem, and this has really helped me bring that up. And it also has helped me make a lot of new friends and given me a lot more opportunities'

'Livewire has helped me become a better version of myself and has helped me develop better social skills'



→ ◎ **Counselling Client Feedback:** Client feedback in the previous section is also relevant to increased confidence

◎ **Parent and Carer Feedback:** see case study information in **section 9** (page 30).

◎ **Case Studies:** see **section 9** (page 28).

**OUTCOME 3:
INCREASED
FRIENDSHIPS
AND POSITIVE
CONNECTIONS**
(50 per year)

◎ **Livewire Music Sessions:** There have been 230 sessions delivered with 10,406 attendees per year, five days a week for young people aged 10-21 from February 2025 to January 2026. The chart in section 5 shows the outputs by month.

◎ **Livewire Survey:** Feedback from the Livewire survey carried out during September to November 2025 had the following results:

72% of respondents said the main benefit was making friends which had in turn supported them to be more confident, improve self-esteem, be more positive about their futures.

What young people who undertook our 2025 survey said:

Friendships and Positive Connections Testimonials

'I made new friends and joined a band'

'Livewire made me more happy meeting new friends having a blast'

'Livewire has made my life better because I have met more people and have loads of new friends'

'I've met some good friends here and I enjoy the atmosphere of it'

◎ **Parent and Carer Feedback:** see case study information in **section 9** (page 30).

◎ **Case Studies:** see **section 9** (page 28).



**OUTCOME 4:
INCREASE THE
NUMBER OF YOUNG
PEOPLE RETURNING TO
EDUCATION, TRAINING
OR WORK** (15 per year)

◎ **Music Education:** A natural by-product of our music provisions involves pointing young people towards music courses at both Plymouth City College and Access to Music. A significant proportion of our members are currently home-schooled or considering home-schooling (accurate data on this will be a by-product of our database system). A positive relationship with music is reportedly resulting in encouragement to enter music-centric education. 1-1 support offered to young people in tandem with these provisions has helped older young people access new jobs.

◎ **Livewire Survey:** Feedback from the Livewire survey carried out during September to November 2025 had the following results:

6% of respondents said the main benefit was that Livewire had enabled them to get into work or training.

What young people who undertook our 2025 survey said:

Young People Returning to Education and Training Testimonials

'Andy helped me get work experience for college. I usually meet here with my friends when they go on stage and I love the music that gets played here.'

OUTCOME 5: YOUNG PEOPLE IMPROVE MUSICIANSHIP SKILLS *(200 per year)*

© **Livewire Music Sessions:** Through the 230 sessions held from February 2025 to January 2026, there were more than 200 young people who had the opportunity to improve their musicianship skills.

© **Livewire Survey:** Feedback from the Livewire survey carried out during September to November 2025 had the following results:

46% of respondents said the main benefit was that Livewire had enabled them to learn new music skills with 30% saying Livewire had supported their musical career.

What young people who undertook our 2025 survey said:

Young People Improving Music Skills and their Future Ambitions Testimonials

'I want to learn how to play bass on a professional level'

'I mainly use the lessons available - Lizzy and Kirsty. Both of them have greatly helped my confidence when it comes to singing and I appreciate how welcoming and non-judgmental they are, giving me the self-esteem to accept that I can sing. They even helped push me forward to do an open mic opportunity when I asked for advice on whether I should do it'

'They have let me sing and that makes me really happy, and I love learning drums'

'I have improved my abilities in guitar and increased my confidence'

'I am able to get lessons here that I would have to pay a lot for elsewhere; they definitely benefit my confidence too'

'Livewire has made me happy and has expanded my music career'

'Livewire has made me more confident with my singing and inspiring me to make my own songs'

'I enjoy playing drums and guitar at Livewire; I hope to make it big in the music industry'

'I want to be a rockstar'

'In the future I want to become a musician'

© **Parent and Carer Feedback:** see case study information in **section 9** (page 30).

© **Case Studies:** see **section 9** (page 28).

OUTCOME 6: INCREASED YOUTH VOICE AND PARTICIPATION *(20 per year)*

27 of Livewire members are also volunteers and hence have an increased voice and participation in the delivery of Livewire's services which in turn gives them an understanding of how the charity operates as well as its challenges – **see Volunteer section** (page 14).

Young people have shaped the services that Livewire offers – for instance, the Tuesday women's only session and the Friday wellbeing session were both instigated following feedback from Livewire members.

New workshops are due to start in 2026 for four distinct groups of young people to find out how Livewire can support them by better understanding their needs - young women, young men, LGBTQ+ and people who are neurodivergent. It is hoped that these workshops will lead to the creation of a youth committee with representation from these groups; the committee will come together to innovate and further hone the services that Livewire offers.

See Section 13 - Next Year – Our Ambitions (page 32).

During local and national elections, we ensure young people have an opportunity to voice their issues and concerns to prospective councillors and MPs.

OUTCOME 7: ADDITIONAL MENTAL HEALTH WORK SKILLS FOR STAFF THROUGH TRAINING *(up to 20 per year)*

⊙ **Appointment of an apprentice:** The appointment of Joe Day, as an Apprentice Youth Worker, has bolstered the support network of mental health support to young people; the apprentice is being thoroughly trained in mental health work skills as part of his overall education.

⊙ **Training:** Safeguarding training and suicide alert training has been undertaken by all paid staff.

Supervision training has been undertaken by the Mental Health lead. Trainee Counsellors have built upon their existing professional qualifications by undertaking a number of mental health related training courses ensuring the best level of support to young people.

OUTCOME 8: INCREASE PARTNERSHIPS WITH LOCAL SCHOOLS/COLLEGES

⊙ The appointment of an Apprentice Youth Worker expands the potential for programme delivery in schools and colleges, thanks to the ability to share responsibilities more widely across the youth work team.

⊙ Alongside Livewire's mental health and wellbeing drop-in service, invitations have been received to deliver talks on sexual health, sexting and positive relationships.

Saltash Community School

There is a strong partnership between Saltash Community School and Livewire with Andy Rance being a vital element of the school's pastoral support network, visiting the school on a fortnightly basis for the following:



a) 1:1 Sessions: Saltash Community School has an inbuilt referral system with 1:1 sessions undertaken in school, which forms a key part of what our Heads of Year can offer to students and parents with special educational and mental health needs.

b) Drop-in Sessions: very positive feedback from students on this provision. The confidential nature of the space is one of the key draws along with Andy's accessibility according to the Assistant Headteacher. Sessions are well attended and support students some of whom attend the music project.

Testimonial from Nick Evans, Assistant Headteacher/Designated Safeguarding Lead at Saltash Community School

'Our in-house referral process gives children 3 one to one sessions with Andy (of 30 mins). From this we have had expedited referrals into Livewire's counselling sessions following triage by Andy. We have been able to identify needs following these sessions and this helps us to make decisions on further referrals/amend support in school.'

To be rolled out shortly is a questionnaire to be completed before and after the 1:1 session to assess the impact further. The feedback will also influence the work that Andy Rance does in the future during those sessions.

Our other partnerships across 2025 include:

Liskeard Secondary School, T Plus and The Wave Academy: alternative specialist provision schools who send students for specialist music sessions with musicians and youth workers

Ace School: young people referred for counselling and youth work support

Daytime 1-1 music-based sessions are provided for students from:

- ⊙ Fountain Head School
- ⊙ City College
- ⊙ Plympton Academy
- ⊙ Sir John Hunt School
- ⊙ All Saints
- ⊙ Social Services
- ⊙ University of St. Mark & St. John



OUTCOME 9: REDUCE PERMANENT EXCLUSIONS FROM SCHOOLS/COLLEGES

⊙ A huge amount of the work we do with young people during open access sessions is orientated around school; we mentor young people and carry them through personal difficulties to ensure that they survive school life and remain within the system until college or work.

⊙ The youth work team are aware of 15 young people who are or have been at risk of being excluded from school – the very nature of youth work with under 16s is focussed on school and difficulties in schools with the intention of keeping them in education until they leave.

OUTCOME 10: DEVELOP CLOSER WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH CHILD AND ADOLESCENT MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES (CAMHS IN PLYMOUTH/DEVON AND CORNWALL)

⊙ Livewire has worked across the funding period to achieve a maximum of 3 weeks waiting period before counselling begins, reducing risk to young people being referred from Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS).

⊙ Due to Livewire's well-established counselling service and the shortness of our waiting period, it is overwhelmingly the case that young people are referred from CAMHS to Livewire. The range of counsellors available to young people means that most issues raised can be dealt with within Livewire's provision.

⊙ Our relationship with CAMHS has been consistently positive for many years particularly when CAMHS's waiting times enter the extremes; in these cases, we have offered to take on referees to both ease the pressure on CAMHS and reduce the risks to young people's wellbeing.

10 **CASE STUDIES****Further positive impacts of Livewire****Livewire Current Members****Young Person 'A'**

'A' is a well-known face at Livewire. Whilst attending senior sessions she is always on the lookout for peers who may need a shoulder to lean on and is the first to lend a hand when others are in need. As a volunteer for junior sessions, she operates the sound desk and helps young people build confidence on the stage, shouting words of encouragement and making sure everybody has equal opportunity to shine.

When 'A' first came to Livewire, she was too scared to even to get out of the car. Her anxieties were so intense that she could only manage a brief conversation with Andy through the window before she asked to go home. Before she left, Andy pleaded with her to come back.

"You can do it," he told her. "Just come back and try again. We'll still be here."

For the next few weeks, Andy would speak with 'A' through the car window and talk through her anxieties to work out what was holding her back. He empathised and encouraged her, refusing to give up on the girl in the car. On the fourth week, 'A' built up enough courage to pull the handle, step out and take her first steps into Livewire.

Andy has been 'A's youth worker for over a year. In that time, they have found ways to overcome her anxieties, alongside other issues that have affected her all through her life. She is now considering her own pathway into youth work.

Young Person 'B'

'B' is the drummer of a band regularly seen up on Livewire's stage. They have been together since September 2025 and are already working toward positive goals, endeavouring to work on their own material and join the Plymouth music scene. 'B' is also developing skills as a guitarist and vocalist and provides singing lessons to juniors on Wednesdays.

When she first turned up at Livewire, 'B' could only stand by herself in the corner. She had been home-schooled for much of her life and spent most of her free time caring for her four younger siblings alongside her mum. She hadn't known anything like this before.

Staff allowed 'B' to stand with them during sessions, as they were friendly faces who made her feel wanted and welcome. They would speak to her about hobbies and interests, point out people 'B' would likely get along with, and encouraged her to book some music lessons. Eventually 'B' found another young person whose music tastes and interests lined up with hers. Before long they were getting along like a house on fire, talking about music, sitting on the sofa with snacks from the tuck shop, mingling with other young people. Her confidence began to grow, and her small group of friends grew to include three young and keen musicians who were desperate to start a band!

'B' is now thriving at college, where she is studying music with her bandmates. She has a boyfriend, a group of friends and a band she pours her heart into. She's living her best life, and we can't wait to see where the road leads for her.

Young Person 'C'

'C' is a bright and uplifting face at Livewire; whenever he enters a room, people know about it. He is loud and bright, happy to speak to anyone, super-engaged with learning the bass guitar, and actively engaging with all staff in his mental health struggles. Prior to becoming an active Livewire member, he found it difficult to get out of the house and make friends. His learning difficulties led to a distinct lack of confidence in his abilities and problems at home brought about some difficult feelings which he

struggles to navigate on his own.

'C' now meets regularly with a youth worker at Livewire to talk and work through how he feels and often gets on stage to sing his favourite songs alongside friends he has made at Livewire. He is distinctly more positive and engaged in what Livewire has to offer, and has recently started a band with a few friends.

Livewire Alumni

Jonah

Jonah first attended Livewire in 2011 and remained an active member until his late teens. Whilst a member, he explored passions in photography, lighting and stage crewing. He was eager to enter a career in photography and had passion for putting on live shows and being an active part of the crew. When old enough, he went with Livewire volunteers to local festivals, where he helped in building and breaking down staging. He continued volunteering himself for events, making a positive impression with a local company who went on to employ him as stage-crew for a wide range of festivals including Boardmasters and Glastonbury!

Jonah's photography has since blossomed and he is successfully self-employed as a photographer. He is also closely involved in events management and promotion in Plymouth.

Dom

Dom is the current drummer of The Wurzels! – <https://londondrumsticks.co.uk/artists/dom-chiswell/> - an opportunity which landed at his feet after many years acting as a stage tech, sound engineer and stand-in drummer for the band. Dom's interests in music were formed at Livewire, where he struck up relationships with peers as well as the sound engineers. He formed bands, relationships and grew immensely in confidence. Dom's interest in music and live sound led him to work at Boardmasters festival as part of Livewire's volunteer stage crew, and this, combined with his musicianship, led to employment with the manager of various bands, eventually bringing us to his current success!



Finn – aged 19, told in his own words:

My name is Finn and I first came to livewire at around 13/14 years old.

I had recently lost my dad to suicide and was both numb and closed off, acting out both at school and at home. My mum, bless her, had put me into a series of phone call based grievance counselling sessions and it just didn't help whatsoever. Through local community groups she had heard of Livewire and recommended that I try attending.

And so I did and this is when I met Andy and the crew. The crew themselves are all absolutely lovely, selfless individuals who provide a safe, non-judgmental environment for people of all age ranges who potentially are struggling in their lives or just want to make friends. Most of my time at Livewire, however, was spent with Andy.

I can truly say that Andy was exactly who and what I needed at that time in my life in order to progress and learn. I dreaded the idea of counselling, a clipboard, a pen and just being another case. Andy spoke to you

as a friend, he really deeply cared. And as said, it was exactly what managed to break through to me at that point in my life. An older sense of guidance with a young sense of humour.

I have known Andy and the team for half a decade now and try to keep in contact when adult life and other commitments permit me to. And speaking to him, it's easy to see just how much he cares.

I also have a deep love for music which is a passion Livewire shares. And the young people I have seen them nurture into young artists using the facilities over the years is just incredible. I was also provided with the tools and lessons to learn both the guitar and piano here, as well as experiment with a sound control board in a booth, a peaked interest that helped me relate to my dad as he was a DJ in his spare time.

I would invite anyone to sit in the hall as I did and just listen to it all, taking in the rawness of the performances.

Parents/Carers

Feedback from parents and carers demonstrates that Livewire helps young people in a variety of ways:

- ⦿ Expanding their horizons via music.
- ⦿ Providing opportunities that young people wouldn't ordinarily have.
- ⦿ Building confidence and widening their social groups.
- ⦿ Nurturing a safe and non-judgemental environment.

'K', Parent

'I am just so impressed with the work at Livewire. As a retired psychiatric nurse, I spent time working at a young offender establishment and at an adolescent unit and realise how important your service and work is to young people'.

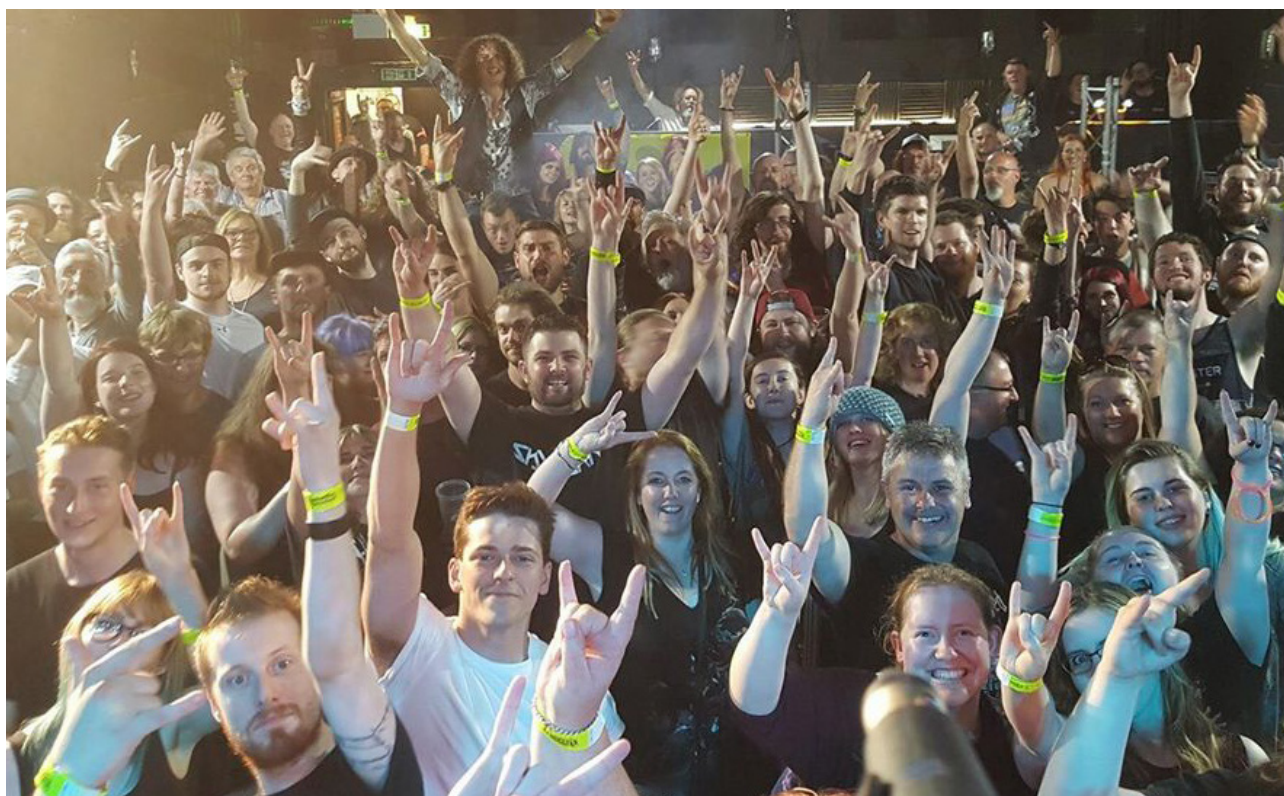
'B', Grandparent

'She has really grown as a musician and has gained confidence from Livewire to perform. As a musician myself, I am very proud of her and so glad that Livewire has nurtured her talent. Long may you continue to inspire young people to play and learn from your sessions.'

'P & P', Parents

The moment we drove round the corner and saw young people queuing to attend, dressed in their finery, we knew he'd found his people. The way Andy greeted him confirmed this. He has regularly attended ever since; it is the highlight of his week. He has grown in confidence considerably, has widened his social groups and has discovered that it's ok to be an individual. It has also inspired him to see music/sound as a potential career path.

We can't thank all the youth workers and volunteers enough for all the support and knowledge they have shown him. Livewire is an invaluable resource for young people in this area. An inspiring, accessible project that truly nurtures through the community of music.



11 LEARNINGS

What's gone well?

- ⊙ Delivery of music sessions, youth work and counselling as per report.
- ⊙ Feedback from Livewire members, parents and carers – all positive.
- ⊙ Remaining sustainable through a variety of income streams.
- ⊙ Retaining valuable staff and volunteer support as well as attracting new trustees with knowledge and expertise that Livewire needed.
- ⊙ Started succession planning (and executed it!)

What's been challenging?

- ⊙ Moving towards digital database tool with a **new membership database** – now done.
- ⊙ Converting the charity to a **CIO** – now done.
- ⊙ **Fundraising to sustain the charity** – success with new small grants. Importantly, a fundraising/income generation strategy is being prepared for 2026.
- ⊙ Shortly after Livewire received funding from the lottery, Livewire's Head Youth Work Coordinator suffered a heart attack, significantly affecting the organisation's ability to maintain reporting and deliver provisions. Not long after, Livewire's internal Office Administrator's health also took a negative turn, further impacting internal processes. These issues are still, in some cases, ongoing, and the appointment of new staff has been instrumental in restructuring record keeping and other internal processes.
- ⊙ Considering the sustainability of Livewire from a staffing perspective – succession now in place with the appointment of an Apprentice Youth Worker.

What's been interesting and unexpected?

- ⊙ A guitar that was donated from a famous musician to another well known musician has generated a £25,000 donation to Livewire.

- ⊙ **Pete Townshend, patron of Livewire** gave Livewire a shout-out during his performance at the Eden Project, helping raise Livewire's profile and reaching more young people in need:  <https://youtu.be/FcLiUF6ic3E>



- ⊙ One of Livewire's members made their way to the finals of **The Voice** in 2023!

 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-vU1VgAJ1zw>

- ⊙ The uplift granted to Livewire by **The National Lottery**

Community Fund in autumn 2025 has supported the collation of evidence contained within this report. This has led to the charity being able to record and document the immense impact Livewire has on the lives of young people in Cornwall and Devon. The systems to enable full evaluation into the future are now in place – thank you to The National Lottery Community Fund.

- ⊙ The **donation of £10k** from a local patron toward a new sound system, which led to the acquisition of a cutting-edge line array system.

- ⊙ The knowledge that **virtually every band in Plymouth** has a Livewire member or ex-member as a band member!



12 ISSUES, CHALLENGES OR RISKS

Finance

The principal risk and challenge facing Livewire is the continued availability of appropriate and relevant sources of income which can be successfully applied for or sought. Livewire needs circa £220,000 per year to meet its expenditure; revenue costs particularly staff, constitute the majority of expenditure.

It is hoped that Livewire's track record and successful delivery of essential services for young people will put the charity in a strong position to secure available funds, recognising that given the current economic climate, funds may be harder to secure. In addition, during 2025, the charity has secured external support to help with making grant applications or sourcing other income.

During January 2026, the trustees met to discuss and agree a Funding Strategy and Action Plan considering all sources of income including grants. Opportunities to minimise expenditure without compromising on the delivery of services which impact young people, are an ongoing consideration.

The funding strategy and action plan linked to marketing is being drafted as this report is published. A wide range of opportunities are being considered with each rated according to level of difficulty/time input required versus likely reward.



Succession

During 2025, in close discussion with staff at Livewire, trustees recognised the need to consider HR requirements to enable the continued running of Livewire.

Joe Day, Apprentice Youth Worker, has been appointed and is working alongside Andy Rance to provide sustainable management support for Livewire in the future:



<https://www.cornish-times.co.uk/news/livewire-legend-looking-to-the-future-with-new-appointment-832297>

13 NEXT YEAR

Our ambitions

1. Implement Funding Strategy and Action Plan including grants and other sources of income.
2. Continue mentoring and training of Joe Day under the guidance of Andy Rance.
3. Continue to enhance our CRM system to keep even better track of Livewire's members, counselling, youth work, music sessions and interactions with clients.
4. Strengthen governance through the allocation of specialist roles to trustees.
5. Survey children at Saltash Community School to assess the impacts of the 1:1 sessions run by Andy Rance and influence the shape of these in the future.
6. Continue to survey Livewire members to ensure services are meeting their needs and use feedback to inform future delivery.
7. Run workshops for four distinct groups of young people – young women, young men, LGTQ+ and neurodivergent, to find out how Livewire's services benefit each and to plan/tailor any improvements.
8. Create a youth committee with representatives from the groups above; the remit being to innovate and develop ideas for Livewire's members, ensuring delivery is in line with what young people need.
9. Review the member survey feedback and consider any changes – e.g. extending the Tuesday group session by half an hour.

14 FINANCES

To the end of March 2025, Livewire achieved a small operating surplus despite an increase in costs.

It is the policy of the charity that unrestricted funds not designated for a specific use are maintained at a level equivalent to three to four month's expenditure. Should there be a significant drop in funding, this allows the trustees to continue the charity's activities whilst urgent consideration is given to ways in which additional funds can be raised. This level of reserves has been maintained throughout the year.

Funds remain tight and a Funding Strategy and Action Plan for 2026 has been discussed by trustees at their January 2026 meeting.

15 THANK YOU

The trustees and staff team at Livewire together with the 410 young members who use Livewire wish to thank the National Lottery Community Fund for their continued support.

Livewire Youth Music Project

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Social  [LivewireYouthMusic](https://www.facebook.com/LivewireYouthMusic)

Registered Charity No: 1205758

(formerly 300632 before registered as a CIO)

Official Patrons

Pete Townshend (The Who)

Brian Johnson (AC/DC)

Lord Teverson

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Report prepared February 2026

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APPENDIX 1 – Livewire survey



Please tell us what you think by Friday 21st November 2025

We are privileged to help and support you. We hope Livewire is making a big difference to your life.

Livewire relies on funding to keep running; the majority of our income comes from external grants. We are continuously applying for new funds to sustain our future. Whenever we receive a grant, the funding authority understandably wants some information from us on what services we have delivered. In particular, they are really keen for us to demonstrate what impact our work has had for the young people we support. In short, they need to know what difference their grant has made to your life.

Please can you help us by completing our survey so that we have valuable feedback from you. We may also use this information in the future to adapt our service to deliver what you need. What you tell us will also be used as evidence to support future funding applications so by completing this survey, you are helping to keep Livewire sustainable to support more young people like you, long into the future.

Thank you.

How We Will Use Your Data

At the end, we ask for a bit more information about you – whilst you can do this survey anonymously, it is helpful for us to collate this data. We assure you that unless you give us consent, the information will not be attributed to you as an individual but will be analysed and summarised when liaising with our funders. If you do give us any personal information, this will be kept confidential in line with data protection legislation. Individual responses will remain anonymous unless you tell us we can publish any information e.g. supportive testimonial.

Are you aged 16 or over?

Yes

No

If under 16 (ticking 'No') Please can you confirm you have consent from your parent/guardian to complete this survey?

Yes

No

If 'No', please gain consent before continuing

1. Tell us a bit about yourself

What you enjoy doing, what you are good at, what you want to do in future, what worries you, what interests you?

.....

.....
.....

2. How long have you been coming to Livewire? (please tick as appropriate)

- Under 6 months
- 1 – 2 years
- 2 – 5 years
- More than 5 years

3. What led you to come to Livewire?

Below are some suggestions (tick as many as you wish) or feel free to write your own answer

- Felt isolated
- Depressed
- Multiple health issues
- Love music
- Wanted to increase skills
- Needed mental health support
- Wanted to meet friends
- To access counselling
- For one-to-one youth support

Comments:

.....
.....

4. What services do you use at Livewire?

- Music
- Counselling
- Youth Work
- Other Please state:

5. What has been the main benefit for you of Livewire?

Below are some suggestions (tick as many as you wish) or feel free to write your own answer

- Made friends

APPENDIX 1 – Livewire survey

- Learnt new music skills
- Helped with mental health
- More confident
- Self-esteem improved
- Supported musical career
- Enabled me to get work
- Enabled me to get training
- Other

Comments:

.....
.....

6. Can you give us a bit more information in relation to your answers to question 5 so we can understand what difference, if any, has Livewire made to your life?

Please tell us if you have subsequently accessed new training or educational opportunities, secured work experience or paid employment. If attending Livewire has helped with your musical career aspirations, we would also like to know. Any improvement to your mental health, confidence or self-esteem is also really important – being happier than you were before is a great outcome.

.....
.....

7. Is there anything that Livewire could improve for you?

.....
.....

8. How would you feel if Livewire didn't exist?

- I would be devastated
- I would really miss it
- I would be OK/find somewhere else to hang out
- Other

Please comment:

.....
.....

9. How do you rate Livewire?

- Excellent
- Good
- Average
- Poor

10. Would you be happy to give us a quote to say what a difference Livewire has made to you?

Yes No

11. If yes, we will be in touch with you.

Can we use your name?

Yes No

About You (optional but completing this will help Livewire)

1 Name:

2 Where do you live? (street and postcode or area)

.....

3 How old are you?:

4 How do you describe your gender?

Female Male

Non-binary Prefer not to say

Let me type

5. What is your sexual orientation?

Heterosexual (straight) Gay Lesbian

Bisexual Asexual Pansexual

Prefer not to say Let me type

6. How do you describe your ethnicity?

White Mixed

APPENDIX 1 – Livewire survey

Black, African, Caribbean or Black British

Asian or Asian British

Other Ethnic Group

7. Do you consider yourself to have a disability?

Yes

No

Please tell us as little or as much as you are happy to do so

Comments:

.....

.....

Thank you for completing this survey

TO THE PERSON
BEHIND ME:

YOU ARE
AMAZING
BEAUTIFUL

&

ENOUGH

Remember That



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