

The Core Youth Project
End of year report to Saltash Town Council – May 2021

What the money has been spent on and what has been delivered.

The money that Saltash Town Council awarded The Core Youth Project continues to employ our Youth Work Coordinator who manages and develops the youth provision at the centre. We have a staff team of 1 full time youth worker and 2 part time youth support workers, which has enabled us to continue to offer various youth work sessions. The following projects are funded by STC and the match funding we have secured from other grants.

Covid-19 and changes to provision

Since receiving the STC monies the pandemic has forced us to close several times in the last year. However we have maintained contact with the young people throughout the lockdowns via Zoom quizzes and 1:1 phone calls where needed. We have also been unable to offer our usual drop-in's at the secondary school this year with the sexual health work and triage support, therefore our 1:1 work has been less this year as a result. However this time has given us the opportunity to relook at our provision and at what has worked and what hasn't and we have now got a wide variety of youth sessions to suit a range of interests and needs.

Following guidance from the National Youth Agency we limited our numbers to a max of 15 young people per session and reduced the sessions to 1 hour. All sessions were pre-booked and a full risk assessment was in place to keep young people as safe as possible.

Since the beginning of May the guidance has changed and there are now no limitations on the number of young people we can have in the centre, which has meant that we are now able to return to our usual sessions, however the booking system is still in place.

The following sessions are what we are offering this term;

Open Access Youth Sessions

Senior club for 13-18 year olds every Monday evening 7-9pm

Junior club for 11-13 year olds every Thursday evening 6.30-8.30pm

Grub Club

Cooking workshop every Monday 3.15-4.30pm (Years 7-13)

Craft Club

Arts and crafts workshop every Thursday 3.15-4.30pm (Years 6-13)

Just be You

LGBT+ group offered weekly where young people are able to meet and share experiences. Every Monday. This session has had to be put on hold since December, due to low numbers, it is hoped that once we can get into school again

we will be able to promote it in the Autumn.

We are also hoping to re start our sexual health outreach sessions at Saltash Community School in September. However this is still a service that can be accessed by any young person and we are a registered C-card venue.

Since the lockdown hit last summer we have working hard on creating an outside space for both young people and the community to enjoy. The garden is already being enjoyed by the young people on youth nights and they are getting involved in the planning of planting out the vegetable beds, flower beds and trees. We are also nearly finished building our fire pit area, which will provide a lovely space for young people to sit outside around a fire. Our hope is that the garden will provide a space to grow, play and reflect which we feel is extremely beneficial for young people, especially in these challenging times.

Match funding

IWill Fund - £5000

Build Back Better Fund - £12,872

Total = £17,872

In house funding

- Weekly subscriptions for youth club
- Revenue from room hire at the centre – Approx. £20,000 per year. Whilst this money is essentially raised to pay for the general running costs and other staffing costs, it does show that we are bringing in revenue to help keep the centre open for both the community and the young people.
- Fundraising and donations – £2000. During the lockdowns we were fortunate enough to have received private donations.

Outcomes and outputs achieved – These have been severely affected during the last year due to the restrictions we have been under.

Total current number of members at The Core = 64

Number of open access sessions delivered 2020/21 = Due to the pandemic all our sessions have to be pre booked so we have been unable to offer open access sessions.

Number of young people receiving individual support = 10

Our usual drop in's at school have been unable to happen this year so our numbers have been affected.

Number of young people helped back in to employment, training or work = 3

Number of youth volunteer hours worked = The only opportunity we had this year for young people to volunteer has been through the food project we offered during the lockdowns and our young volunteers helping at our Junior youth session.

Youth Work

We believe after the year we have all had it is even more important that we can offer young people not only a safe space to meet and socialise but also a range of support and activities to keep them healthy and happy and ensure that we make our programme diverse and interesting. Our programme now offers; Cooking courses, Craft club, a range of sporting activities, LGBT+ support group, 1:1 advice and guidance, Sexual health advice, training and volunteering opportunities.

A vast majority of the young people who attend our sessions have experienced difficulties at school, have chaotic and sometimes unsafe home lives, are young carers, suffer with mental health problems, such as anxiety, low mood or self harm, are transgender or questioning their sexuality, have experienced bullying, are looked after children, suffer with autism/aspergus syndrome or have a disability (learning or physical) or are just finding the transition from childhood to adulthood difficult and need some support.

We work with a great deal of young people who have been through traumatic events in their lives and are experiencing a complexity of problems, by providing them with a safe space to come and access to professionally trained youth workers they have begun to increase in confidence and develop as individuals

Our successful partnership working with a range of outside agencies and local organisations has meant that we are able to offer more opportunities and activities for the young people we work with. We continue to work closely with Saltash Community School, Early Help Team and Social Care, Police, Saltash Health Centre, Safer Saltash, Xenzone, Young People Cornwall and Saltash Town Youth Council,

We hope it is evident from this report that the funding which we receive from Saltash Town Council is enabling us to continue to provide and develop a professional and innovative service to the young people of Saltash and the surrounding villages.

Due to the Coronavirus outbreak we have had to close The Core at several points during this year. We are extremely concerned about the effect this pandemic will have had on young people and their mental health and have been proactive in getting all our groups back up and running as soon as the guidance allowed. Our groups are filling up fast and we are delighted to be welcoming the young people back into the centre and enabling them to socialise and meet new people again after the tough year they have experienced.