

The Core Youth Project
End of year report to Saltash Town Council – March 2022

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

We have been unable to offer our usual drop-in's at the secondary school this year again, with the sexual health work and triage support, therefore our 1:1 work has been less this year as a result. However as the centre is recovering from the pandemic, we are now seeing all our sessions get full again we are naturally seeing more young people at the centre requiring 1:1 support and advice.

The following sessions are offered weekly at The Core for young people;

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 3.15-5pm (Years 7-13)

Craft Club

Arts and crafts workshop every Thursday 3.15-4.30pm (Years 7-13)

Just be You

LGBT+ support and social group every Monday 3.15-4.30pm

Home Education Group

Every Monday 10.30-12.30pm for parents and children who are home educated.

Saltash Amateur Boxing Club and Climbing Club – Both of these clubs also run out of the centre and offer activities to young people five times per week.

Match funding

IWill Fund - £5000

Awards for All Lottery Funding - £10,000

Total = £15,000

In house funding

- Weekly subscriptions for youth club
- Revenue from room hire at the centre – Approx. £25,000 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 – We hold regular events for families, craft fairs and our bingo nights which all help to bring in much needed revenue.

Outcomes and outputs achieved

Total current number of members at The Core = 181

Number of open access sessions delivered 2020/21 = 108
Plus 54 sessions which are booking only.

Number of young people receiving individual support = 15
Our usual drop in's at school have been unable to happen for 2 years 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 = 162

Youth Work

It has been another difficult year with the pandemic threatening closure again, however we have remained open now since April 2021 and have seen a significant increase in our numbers, reaching capacity now in many of our sessions. Since the National Youth Agency's guidelines changed last summer to allow us to open our sessions up fully and no longer have a limit of 15 we have seen an overwhelming need from young people to get out of their homes and return to socializing in person with their friends.

We have never seen our session as busy as they are presently and this is evidence that young people need places to go and socialise and take part in activities. It is essential that youth centre's continue to open their doors and provide professional youth work, a safe and non-judgmental space, advice and information and most importantly...fun!

We believe after the 2 years that young people have lived through 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 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. We have seen an increase in young people requiring specialist support from agencies such as CAMHS and the Early Help Team due to their poor mental health, especially amongst our LGBTQ+ group. Our Youth Work Co-ordinator undertook her diploma in Trauma Informed Schools during the lockdown and is now a fully qualified practitioner, which has helped in supporting those young people with more complex needs.

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 Safer Saltash, Saltash Community School, Intercom Trust, Early Help Team and Social Care, Police, Saltash Health Centre, 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.