

## **Report for Saltash Town Council for 2022 from Livewire youth project**

Another year on and the young people of this town and surrounding areas continue to inspire and amaze us with their commitment, motivation and zest for life and all that it can offer.

We have also experienced many young people in need during this past year whether because of the rise in living costs or because of ill mental health or both, but we have been delighted to be in the privileged position to be able to go some way at least towards meeting those needs.

At Livewire we have been opening 5 evenings a week and our delivery is:

Monday evening: 7 to 9.30 open access for young people aged 13 to 21

Tuesday evening: 7 to 9 young womens music session ages 12 to 21

Wednesday evening: 6.30 to 8.30 Junior club for school years 6 to 8

Thursday evening: 7 to 9.30 open access for young people aged 13 to 21

Friday evening: 6 to 8 wellbeing group (for particularly anxious young people) age 13 to 21

Saturday: 10am to 4pm recording session for young people from year 6 upwards

Young people that come to Livewire can access music lessons which include, guitar, vocals, bass, drums, keyboard and music technology (which includes live sound, sound technology and music production) Young people can also engage with the youth work team on a variety of activities and single issue programmes. We also offer one to one youth work support which is probably the most crucial part of the role of a youth worker. We also run a counselling service which young people can be referred to or self refer to.

This last year has been particularly busy and for the first time ever in November 2022 we had to stop new members at our junior club because we passed 100 attendees each week.

At the beginning of 2022 we started a recycling fashion project because a few of the young people were concerned about the environment and clothes that were going to landfill. The initial intention was to have a few fashion shows to draw attention to this. However it has grown and with the fast fashion that was recently on the news and as the cost of living has risen it has taken off in a big way with some young people just taking the clothes away that have been donated and recycle them that way whilst others are using what has been donated to create new designs.

We have also been both amazed and truly blessed by the generosity of this community when we began feeding young people following an incident when a young woman collapsed from hunger whilst at Livewire. We were devastated and started to make soup and offer

that and toast to young people that came here. We have been inclusive with this sighting the cold as the main reason so that nobody feels singled out. The community kitchen now brings us food on Monday's. We have also had donations from the sailing club as well as members of the public so this has truly become a community concern. And most importantly young people are not leaving Livewire hungry.

We were also involved in the Mayfair of 2022 having young people perform on the stage and we also had a presence in the Victoria garden area where the youth organisations from around the town showcased their projects, young people also performed at Saltash regatta and again at Boardmasters where we had 130 young people performing from all over Cornwall over the 4 days of the festival.

We again secured funding from Saltash Town Council towards the youth work at Livewire and we are approaching the end of the first years funding from the big lottery fund that awarded us £219 thousand over 5 years for our heart 'n' soul project. We also had another year's contribution from AC/DC of £11 thousand amongst other donors who have given generously to keep us able to provide local young people with the invaluable service that we offer.

We are ever grateful to all the donors that keep Livewire open, we would also thank everyone that works here both paid and voluntary. We are also grateful to the wonderful team of volunteers that make up our management committee and trustees but mostly we are grateful as always to the young people that attend Livewire and give purpose and inspiration to all that we do.