

The Core
Interim report to Saltash Town Council – Sept – Dec 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, 2 part time youth support workers and 4 sessional youth support worker, which has enabled us to continue to offer various youth work sessions. The following projects are funded by STC plus the match funding we have secured from other grants.

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

First Monday of the month 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 4 times per week.

Match funding

Multi year funding from Cornwall Community Foundation - £10,000

Police & Crime Commissioners Fund – £4,997

Waitrose - £975

Total = £15,973

Plus - 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 plus craft fairs.

Outcomes and outputs achieved

Total current number of members at The Core = 255

Number of open access sessions delivered Sept - Dec = 75

Number of young people receiving individual support = 5

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

Number of youth volunteer hours worked = 250

Youth Work

Young volunteers

We are extremely proud of our team of young volunteers and our growing Youth Committee. We feel that offering young people the chance to gain experience and skills in a safe and supportive environment enables them to grow as young adults and helps them to gain other opportunities or work.

We currently have a team of 6 young volunteers who help each week at our Junior Youth Club, which is invaluable help, as this is our busiest session. In addition to these volunteers we have our Youth Committee that currently has 6 members, they meet fortnightly and plan fundraising events or ways to involve young people in decision making about the service we provide. They get involved in town events such as May Fair and events which we offer at The Core such as Family Fun Days which are very popular. We also take part in the lantern parade in Saltash as part of the Christmas festival.

Youth Sessions

Our sessions continue to be well attended which 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!

Our Junior youth sessions have become so popular in the last year that we had to move towards a booking system to keep the sessions both safe and fun for the young people.

We are currently running climbing training to our staff to enable us to offer our climbing club twice a week, instead of once, as we have a fantastic climbing wall in our sports hall, which is a resource, we are keen to utilise more. It will also give us the opportunity to offer climbing within youth sessions, which the young people would enjoy.

It is so 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/asperger 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 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, Saltash Town Council, Police, Saltash Health Centre, Community Enterprises and Saltash Town Youth Council (which our youth work coordinator is Vice Chair of).

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.