

**The Core**  
**Interim report to Saltash Town Council – April – July 2023**

**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.

**Climbing Club**

Wednesdays - 3.45-6pm for young people to learn climbing skills on our climbing and traversing walls.

**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**

Iwill Social Action fund - £5120

Police & Crime Commissioners Fund – £4,997

Coop Local Causes Fund - £3990

Howton Solar Farm - £2416

Build Back Better Fund (Cornwall Community Foundation) - £2199

**Total = £18,722**

**Plus - In house funding to include;**

- 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 – Family Fun Days and Craft fairs.

**Outcomes and outputs achieved**

Total current number of members at The Core = 250

Number of open access sessions delivered April to July = 48

Number of young people receiving individual support = 12

Number of young people helped back in to employment, training or work = 5

Number of youth volunteer hours worked = 60

**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 offer a variety of opportunities for young people to volunteer and enable them to gain skills for their CV's and a deeper understanding of youth and community work. They can help out at our Junior Youth Club, in the tuck shop, helping organise sport or craft activities, they can use this as their placement for D of E or become a member of our Youth Committee.

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, the lantern parade and events which we offer at The Core such as Family Fun Days, which are very popular.

Our Youth Committee is currently working towards planning a trip to The Houses of Parliament so that they can learn more about politics on a national level.

We have also set up an opportunity where young people who have shown significant commitment to volunteering in the youth sessions have been offered a trainee youth support worker post, this has proved to be very successful and we are on our second trainee, the first person we had is now over 18 and has been given a permanent position as a Youth Support Worker. This shows the progression we are able to offer the young people who are keen to volunteer and has a significant impact on them.

## **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!

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.

This term we have piloted a new programme alongside Groundwork South and Saltash Community School who referred 5 of their Year 11 students who were most at risk of exclusion. Groundwork devised the programme and we offered as part of it a chance to cook and eat together and also a boxing session with SABC.

It was encouraging to see the young people develop over the time they spent with us, learning new skills such as making sushi, which they thoroughly enjoyed and were also inquisitive about the Japanese culture and country.

We made a different meal each week and they cooked for themselves and all the staff, then eating together. It was interesting to learn of their different family situations and dynamics and that they rarely sat with family to eat.

All of the young people sat their GCSE's which was a great achievement as they were very close to being expelled when they came to us, they also all have places at college or apprenticeships arranged for September.

This, again, shows the impact an emotionally available adult can make to young people on the edge of education and by spending time with them and listening to them we were able to understand what had gone wrong in their lives to have brought them to this point.

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 would like to thank STC for their continued support in funding our youth work and hope that you can see by this report how valuable it is.