

Rural Youth

PHASE 2 REPORT FOR WARMINSTER AREA BOARD

Community First Wiltshire

APRIL 2022-OCTOBER 2022



Project background

The Area Board in the Warminster area have identified a need to increase engagement with young people in their areas, particularly in more rural areas. We are seeking a provider who will work across several community areas to develop a stronger offer of positive activities and other services aimed especially at those who are potentially at risk.

Desired outcomes from the project are:

- Improved level of engagement with young people in the community areas, particularly with isolated young people in rural areas
- Increase in positive activities available
- Reduced isolation of young people in rural areas
- Identification of young people with issues around mental health, educational attainment, and physical health issues
- Evidenced improvement in the above areas for those individuals identified
- Evidence that the needs of minority groups have been addressed
- A sustainable model has been developed in collaboration with key local partners and stakeholders

The project delivery work in two phases. Phase one has been an initial period of consultation and research to ensure that the programme complements and strengthens what already exists, addresses need, has local ownership, and will make a difference. Phase two will work alongside local partners, clubs and organisations would be required to design and execute a programme of activities in each community area.

This project initially takes place over a 12-month period from August 2021 and this report covers activity from phase two.

Phase 2

Heytesbury, Codford, Chapmanslade, Upton Scudamore, Knook, Maiden Bradely, Upton Lovell, Chitterne, Corsley, Horningsham, Kingston Deverill, Longbridge Deverill, Sutton Veny. Warminster Town centre and Kingdown school.

We have engaged with all of the above villages through on the ground engagement (door knocking), we have been into the school, local shops, community spaces both inside and out (parks, libraries). Public houses, garages, churches and doctors' surgeries.

Warminster Area (Phase 2 Figures and Feedback)

Total people engaged with in conversation	517
Young People engaged with in conversation	151
Number of Areas/locations	14
*Referrals to Splash	17
*Referrals to Building Bridges (Age 16-24)	5
Referrals to existing Youth Club/Providers	45
Attendees to Pop up in Codford	43
Attendees to Pop up in Champanslade	23
Potential volunteers in Codford	10
Potential volunteers in Champanslade	3
For both pop ups we recruited 2 volunteers keen to be involved in supporting The Rural Youth Outreach project.	

*Building Bridges is for those aged 15plus who need support to overcome their barriers when getting back into employment or education.

*Splash provides positive activities and youth worker support for young people who are facing challenges in their lives, by providing fun opportunities where young people learn from each other. Splash raises aspiration, increases confidence and self-esteem. It empowers young people to realise their own capabilities and potential.

Promotion for both Pop Up Youth events were displayed in the establishments listed above, as well as all local Facebook sites. We also contacted Warminster football club to share with the youths that attend.

Approximately 200 flyers were hand delivered for each event and Bill Parks kindly asked for the local Parish Councillor's and the civic centre to share on their platforms. All noticeboards (that we could open) had a flyer displayed. Most villages halls were very accommodating in displaying a poster, as were the Pubs and libraries.

Pop Up 1 in Codford was very well attended and the atmosphere was really warm, friendly and inviting. Some were so keen that they were waiting outside the venue a good 30 minutes prior to the start time.

It was nice to see so many children from different villages getting along and making friends. The ages ranged from 11yrs – 16yrs, all of whom got involved and tried out every activity.

Running alongside this event was the offer of transport, which would have come in the form of a minibus from Community First, however, no one signed up to this or even enquired.

At this event we had Zorbs, dodgeball, rock decorating, create towers using marshmallows and spaghetti, playing cards, colouring. Pool table, table football and a Skittle alley along with Ginger beer pong at the end of the evening which caused great amusement. We also provided burgers and pizza.





Pop Up 2 in Chapmanslade was another well attended event, however it only seemed to attract the children from Chapmanslade and the ages went from 10yrs to 12yrs despite the same level of promotion for the first pop up. The children thoroughly enjoyed trying out all of the circus equipment and the girls really enjoyed decorating bags and rocks. At this pop up we opted for a tuck shop as this was a 'request' from a few of the young people we met when out in the community. The Circus group bought with them some young leaders (14yrs - 16yrs old) and the young people that attended appeared to be impressed with their skills on the equipment and this encouraged them to get involved in an activity, that they might not have done if the activity had been led by adults. (Adults were supervising).

The activities on offer were, Circus Skills (inc bicycles, juggling, trapeze) bag decorating, rock decorating. Fire performance display from the circus group.





The team out and about.





Evaluation/Feedback

After delivering on a year's project with many days of outreach and engagement we are pleased to have delivered 2 very successful but very different evenings. Providing positive activity for 66 young people across the Warminster area and reaching out to those in the rural villages.

During those evenings, the young people made new friends and learnt new skills, including designing new games. They worked together in teams and at times some of them were clearly out of their comfort zone but they persevered and were delighted that they had, as they finished the evening laughing and more confident.

Throughout phase 2 this project has enabled us to refer 67 young people to other service providers in Wiltshire and over the course of the year we have made a total of 72 referrals for young people aged 13 and above.

In total we engaged and had conversations with 637 people, 190 of these were young people of secondary school age. Phase two shows a higher number of people engaged with, this is because after the initial groundwork in phase one, we found out where the young people lived, where they 'hung out' and visited the local senior school. Some parents gave contact details for us to have conversations with their children via phone.

Finance breakdown for Year 1

Events (pop up)

- Resources £757
- Staff costs: £830

Total: £1587

- Overall delivery of engagement: £3,500

Total: £5,087