



Service Update July 2020—September 2020

BoA Youth Adapted Universal Youth Provision

In August 2020, we held summer activities to support young people in Bradford on Avon. We have worked alongside government guidelines to ensure the safety of the young people and our staff as we are passionate about giving guidance and support during this difficult time of the Coronavirus pandemic. We have ensured that all our summer activities were risk assessed and kept relevant of any additional information that the government gave us to keep each other safe.

We had a lot of fun planning activities that would appeal to young people aged 8-19 years old. These included virtual game sessions on the xbox and playstation as well as a forum for young people to be able to connect socially with others during the lockdown period. All these sessions were managed and supervised by our Youth Support Workers. We held activities that we were able to be physically present which were spread out over the summer holidays. These activities included the following; Paddle boarding, selfie landmark challenge, multi sports day, kayaking and a craft day. Here are some pictures of the activity days below:



This is Cherry, our youth support worker ready to take our young people paddle boarding!



Pictures of the young people enjoying the summer activities



Social Media

We have used our social media platforms over July, August and September to keep our young people, family members and partners informed of what is happening within BoA Youth as well as any opportunities that families within Bradford on Avon can access. We use facebook and Instagram and this is monitored and responded to by our two Youth Support Workers.

Moving Forward

Fortunately, with the current government guidelines, on 8th September, we were able to reopen the youth club on Tuesday evenings. We started using the outside space within the youth centre to ensure safety and social distancing. We have now completed a risk assessment so that the young people will be able to have the youth centre sessions inside the Youth Centre which we are all excited for as this will enable us to continue the sessions as the weather is turning colder. Our young people are supported to wear face masks when inside the building and we encourage young people to book spaces to come to the sessions so that we can anticipate how many young people will be attending. Our youth support workers arrive at the building at 4pm so that they have time to prepare for the sessions and sanitise the materials that they are planning to use.

Our Youth Support Workers
ready to start Youth Club!



There are two separate sessions which are split into two age groups. The under 13-year olds session takes place at 5pm – 6:30pm. The older group sessions take 7pm-8:30pm. This allows time at the end of each session to ensure that equipment and materials have been sanitised so that they can be re-used. We have completed a risk assessment for using the inside or outside areas of the Youth Centre which are followed by our Youth Support Workers. The groups are made into smaller groups (groups of 5) to ensure that we are following the government guidelines of groups of 6, the groups are then in separate spaces. The youth centre has provided how many numbers of individuals are allowed in each room to allow room for social distancing, we ensure that we comply with that number for the young people's and our Youth Workers safety. All equipment is sanitised once used and this occurs before, during and after each session. The Youth Support Workers have been provided with visors and face masks to use for the Youth Centre.

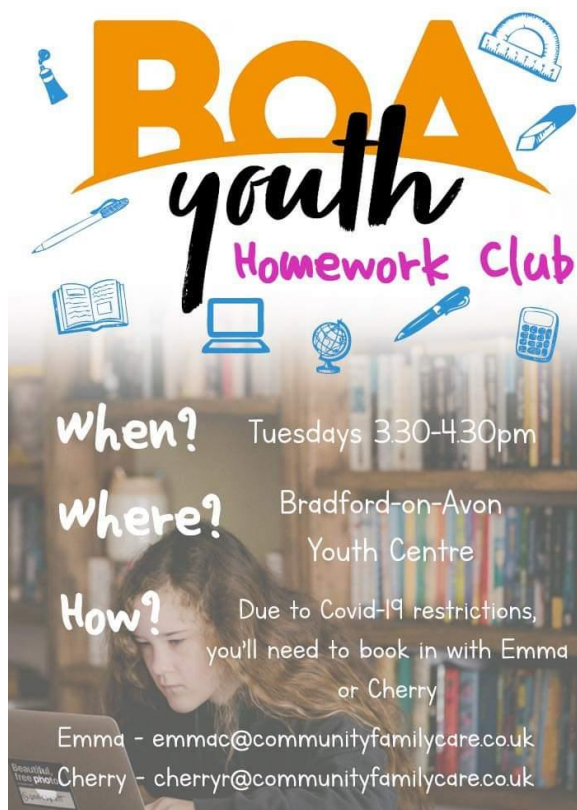
Session	Number of Young People Attending
Under 13 year old group	5
13 years and older group	10

The sessions activities vary as the Youth Support Workers have a vast variety of skills and the young people will suggest ideas for the activities which enables continued engagement and interest. The first session was focused on crafts and goal setting for the future, the session also allowed the space for the young people to talk about any worries that they had about attending school after the long absence following lock down. Other sessions in September included making stress balls and a fire pit with s'mores which the young people thoroughly enjoyed. I have included some pictures below of the returning youth club below.



Homework Club

We have an exciting new session that we will be running from 14th October 2020. This will be a organised space to allow young people to come and be supported to complete their assignments. We have a Youth Support Worker with teacher experience who will be able to support the sessions. There are limited spaces of 10 so they will need to be booked prior to attending. This is the information that has been distributed on social media.



Individual Referred Work

Direct 1:1 work has continued following restarting in June 2020 using PPE and social distancing measures. Before any direct work takes place, a risk assessment is conducted that is relevant to that individuals circumstances and permission is given by all adults involved to ensure that they are happy for the direct work to take place with these safety measures in place. We are working closely with St Laurence School and will be accepting new referrals now that schools have been opened. The direct work is aimed at supporting young people residing in Bradford on Avon and the surrounding villages which would be beneficial given the impact of the pandemic causing isolation to keep members of the public safe. Although this is a necessary measure, this has caused negative effects such as loneliness, mental health concerns and anxiety.

BoA Youth Survey

It is following this understanding of the impact that the coronavirus is having upon young people that we have sent out a survey for young people to complete. This will allow us to gain feedback from the young people about what they are struggling with in different aspects of their lives and includes questions relating to the pandemic. This will then allow us to look at the results of the feedback so that we can ensure that we have better insight into what support is needed and how we can be efficient in using our service to help those areas. This survey will be live until the end of October when we will gather the results.

Partnerships

Maverick Industries

BoA Youth have been supporting the young people to become involved in the designs for the skate park. This is a really exciting prospect for our young people!

Police

BoA Youth have been working alongside Louis (PCSO) to discuss the possibility of a Youth Shelter in BoA. Young people have stated that they would want a neutral setting where they can go and socialise. Our Youth Support Workers have contacted the town council to involve them in this project.

Wiltshire Climate Emergency Resolution (on hold)

We have also been busy planning a new art project with Wiltshire's Climate Emergency resolution, the project will run over 6 weeks and will encourage young people to work in groups and explore Climate Change to create a final master piece to display to the local community. Dates TBC post Covid-19 restrictions.