

Rural Youth

PHASE 2 REPORT FOR PEWSEY, TRENCHARD LINES, UPAVON
AND BURBAGE

Community First Wiltshire
SEPTEMBER 2022-AUGUST 2023



Project background

The Area Board have identified a need to increase engagement with young people in Pewsey, Trenchard Lines, Upavon and Burbage. We are seeking providers who will work across several community areas to develop a stronger offer of positive activities and other services aimed especially at those young people from 11 years plus.

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.

This delivery of this project has taken place 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 has worked alongside local partners, clubs and organisations to design and execute a programme of activities in each community area.

This report covers engagement from September 2022 to date.

Phase 2

On the ground engagement has continued to take place in Pewsey and the surrounding areas, using the door knocking method, visiting local parks, schools, community spaces, shops and the Leisure centre in Pewsey.

Promotional material for all the Pop-Up Youth events has been displayed in the establishments listed above, as well as all local Facebook sites.

We approached Pewsey Vale School and asked if we could come in and meet with some of the young people. This was hugely supported by the headmaster, who arranged for us to meet 8-10 children from each year. This gave us a great insight into what the young people of this area would like, what they feel is missing and share with us their ideas for moving forward.

In addition to phase 1 we now have a stronger relationship with The Army Welfare Service and this has been instrumental in reaching the military families in Trenchard Lines as they granted us access onto the site.

From the very start of the project we have been aware that Lisa and Kat willing and able to take the lead on running a youth club in Pewsey. They have been involved in the events that have taken place and we supported the Cinema evening in June.

We have continued to engage and promote events in the Upavon area and in Burbage we have done on the ground engagement and signposting.

Prior to each event approximately 300 flyers were hand delivered, Parish Councillor's and The Army Welfare Service have also shared on social media platforms. The event has been on Facebook sites for the Pewsey area and any noticeboards (that we could open) had a flyer displayed. Local shops and the Leisure centre have also been very supportive by displaying the flyers.

Pewsey, Trenchard Lines, Burbage & Upavon Area (Phase 2 Figures and Feedback)

Total number of Pop up Youth Events	3
Pop ups and number of young people attending	
April	33
May	57
June (we supported) open air cinema.	42
July	69
Total number of young people that have engaged in positive	201

201activities from January to June 2023	
Young leaders	0
Potential Volunteers	15

Pop-Ups 1-3

Every event has been very well attended and has grown in numbers each time. The atmosphere has been warm, friendly, and fun. The ages have ranged from 10 years to 16 years old and everyone of every age has engaged in all of the activities on offer.

All the pop ups have seen a vast array of activities available during the time including Zorbs, a pool table, darts, table football, fizzy pong, jewellery making, rock painting, designing, and making keyrings and pencil cases, wax relief, mosaic making, seed planting, mine sweeper, colouring books, card games, chess and Bingo which was a clear favourite. In addition to all of these, we have had a sports coach who engaged the young people in a game dodgeball, football, Cricket, Nerf wars, and rounders. We also supported the Parish Council on a very successful Cinema evening.

As well as the activities provided, the children have been offered food which has been greatly received. We have provided, toasted sandwiches, hot dogs, cheese/ham sandwiches for food and hot chocolate, squash, and water. I think we can safely say these were all a big hit with the young people.







Evaluation/Feedback

After our initial 4 months of engagement, we have provided positive activities for 201 children over 6 months and during these evenings we have seen the young people make new friends and learn new skills.

It was clear at times that some of the young people were out of their comfort zone, but they persevered and came back again and again.

One of the most pleasing things to see is how rarely the children reach for their mobile phones when they are attending these pop-up youth events.

The older children requested their own space at the pop up in Bouverie Hall – this was feedback given to us when we went into Pewsey Vale School. We were able to do this at this venue and the children were appreciative of being able to have this luxury.

At the second pop up, there was quite a lot of equipment to take from the marquee back to the car and it was pleasing to have 4 older young people offer their help and carry the things back to the car for us.

At the first pop up we met a young lady who was not quite so keen to come along to any of our events. She was anxious and felt uncomfortable in new surroundings. Mum managed to get her through the door, and she finished the session not wanting to go home! The quiet and interactive jewellery table allowed her the perfect place to have her quiet time to get comfortable in her new

surroundings. This young lady enjoyed the session so much, she came along to one of the pop ups that we held in Ludgershall.

Feedback from young people and parents....

“My son has special educational needs and was very unsure about going as he finds it hard to socialize with others, however, he found out that his best friend was going and this made him feel a little more confident about going along. I am so pleased that he did as his first words on arriving home were “Mum, I loved it, I want to go again”.

This is huge to my son and me as he finds making friends his own age tricky, but he said everyone was lovely. “

“My son has only been to a couple of events so far, and he’s booked in to go to the next one on 19th July. He really enjoys them. They are extremely well run, and the kids are really doing things they want to do. It’s great for them to have somewhere to go and be with their friends, which is a change of scene and an activity. I also think that with him being a bit younger (he’s 11 nearly 12) it’s a great time to involve him and others of the same age ... I’m working on my older children coming but it’s trickier since they are in that being cool stage!

“Thanks for providing these events - it’s really appreciated. Your scheme is such a positive addition to the community!”

“We really appreciated these events being held in Pewsey”.

“I found it difficult to navigate the e-ticket system”.

“The boys really enjoyed the Zorb’s”.

“They enjoyed the little of what they did in the craft tent, and it was nice to have a quiet space for anyone who needed it to retreat to”.

“Overall, I think it went well and appeared to be enjoyed by all the children”.

“We would attend events in the future”

“My children have very much enjoyed the events hosted so far. Especially the Zorb activity”

“It's so nice to have a something for the children in the village now, gives them something to look forward to.”

“ Incredibly empathetically done, the small team that have run this so far are relentlessly dedicated to provide a fun, safe and interesting activities and place for Pewsey’s youth to go. Currently there is unnecessary crime and vandalism happening in our village, which is unnecessary and caused by only a few. Unfortunately, this seems to be rising and could be due to boredom and peer pressure. A youth club could be a good and positive start to starting to reduce this. Thank you to the staff & volunteers”.

“My sons have very much enjoyed the pop-up events and they have been very beneficial for our community and families”

“Regarding feedback for the last event, it was amazing!!!! My girls enjoyed every activity they tried, the staff on the zorbing and jewellery making stands were both professional and understanding to the needs of all the children. Please pass on my thanks to every member of staff.”

“My daughter really enjoyed it, and it got her off her phone and out of her bedroom, so I’m very much for it.”





