

Splash Overview for Calne LYN

Splash provides specifically designed and highly structured out of school activities for around 250 young people aged 9-16 in Wiltshire.

Having been established by Wiltshire Police in 1989 to divert young people from anti-social behaviour, the charity has evolved to support a much broader range of young people in Wiltshire who are finding life tough. We prioritise those young people facing challenges in life, for example those with special educational needs or disabilities, on child protection plans, in care, at risk of anti-social behaviour, young carers, or from families facing bereavement, breakdown or financial hardship.

The Splash programme gives young people the opportunity to experience new, challenging, positive activities during school holidays. The focus of Splash activities is to work with providers to increase participants' self-esteem, self-confidence, communication skills and leadership skills. Experiential, hands-on learning sessions provide an excellent environment for young people to express themselves and learn from one another. Splash and our partners provide positive role models who listen, encourage, mentor and coach the young people. This positive interaction raises aspirations and self-belief and helps the young people to identify a positive future for themselves.

By targeting young people who are facing challenges in life we can support, develop and encourage them. Often the young people do not know each other beforehand and it is rewarding and beneficial for them when they develop new, positive friendships. Securing a place on a Splash project gives a young person something to look forward to, plan for and something to enjoy.

Merger with Community First

November 2014 saw the merger of Splash with Community First with the aim of strengthening the support both charities are able to offer to young people in our county and securing the future of the Splash programme.

The 'Splash' name and brand - as a provider of positive activities during school holidays - will still remain.

Our focus remains on the benefits and outcomes for the young people who attend Splash activities and we believe this merger will ensure Splash remains sustainable for many years to come.

Dawn Whiting Splash Programme Coordinator and youth worker Ben Jarvis will be focused on ensuring young people get the most out of our programme. Ben will also engage further with those young people that need it on a longer term basis – touching base with them during school term time and following up any appropriate matters with them.

"Twenty five years on Splash is a highly regarded and successful home grown charity which must be recognised for its outstanding contribution to improving outcomes for 9-16 year olds. Through the provision of positive leisure-time activities across the county during school holidays, the organisation has reached those most in need of support, helping children raise their self-esteem and confidence and diverting them away from negative behaviours. Thank you Splash."
Jane Scott OBE, Leader, Wiltshire Council

Community First charity number: 288117. Splash/Community First/Youth Action Wiltshire are Wiltshire Council approved providers of positive activities and are listed in the accredited providers' catalogue.



Evaluation

Returns from a recent 6 month survey of parents/guardians and referrers have provided us with some excellent data. Attending Splash projects over the past 6 months has led to notable improvements in the following areas:

Self esteem - feeling of pride and self worth	96%
Self confidence - belief in themselves and their abilities	96%
Attitude & behaviour - towards you & others	88%
Knowledge - level of learning	92%
Social skills - communication & interaction with yourself & others	96%
Happiness	92%
Health	72%
Home life	84%
Attendance at school	64%
Taking part in exercise	80%
Time playing outdoors	92%

“Thank you for helping me in your Splash projects. Over the last 3 years, quite a lot of my decisions have been made or altered because of Splash. Splash is an amazing charity that helps many people like me overcome the many challenges in life. Again thank you.”
12 yr old girl

Funding

100% of funding for Splash delivery costs is received from non-statutory sources - grants from trusts and foundations, businesses, local organisations and fundraising events.

Proposed Activity Programme for Calne Area

Based on information gathered from young people and from the Local Community Youth Adviser we initially propose to deliver a multisports session at Beversbrook Sports Ground on Monday 25th July. This is a 5 hour activity for 12 local young people to attend to try out a range of different sports. This activity session is delivered by our own Youth Support Worker Ben Jarvis. The session includes warm up games, team games and individuals' games. We provide equipment for various sports and provide the support, guidance and opportunity for the young people to try their hand at something new. This session is focussed on fun, sportsmanship, confidence building and friendship building and is about more than being an expert sportsperson; however for those that discover a genuine interest or skill in any particular sport, we offer support to sign post them onto localised longer term engagement, such as youth sports clubs, after school clubs and youth clubs.

In addition to the Multisports activity session we would also like to propose other popular and successful activities to be considered. Some of these activities would take place in the Calne area; others would involve Splash transporting Calne young people to different towns/locations to take part in the activities. This in itself adds to the confidence building, as for some it will be the first time they have been on an activity in an unfamiliar area/town without a school or family adult being present.

Wiltshire Outdoor Learning Team deliver several outdoor activities for us including 'Catch It, Cook It, Eat It' and 'Wet N Wild'. Both of these activities involve using the most basic items to build the appropriate equipment to complete the task. For 'Catch It, Cook It, Eat It' this means building a fishing rod from a bamboo cane, short length of fishing twine, a hook and float. The young people then set to work to catch a fish. They then move on to build a fire, gut and fillet a fish and then have a taste of that fish. For the 'Wet N Wild' sessions young people have the opportunity to use raw materials to make a floating raft. Once built they then face the challenge of paddling and steering it on the River Avon. Both of these sessions are fun and challenging and provide the perfect opportunity to develop team working, communication and leadership skills, trust, celebration and empathy skills.



In addition to outdoor activities we also run successful Music Matters and Animation projects which offer activities in an indoor environment. These activities provide a good

alternative to our more adventurous outdoor activities; as we recognise outdoor activities do not appeal to all young people. Music matters provides the opportunity for young people to work with local musicians to compose pieces of music using computer software. Again, this can be completed on an individual basis or in small groups. Each attendee leaves the activity with a CD of the pieces composed on the day; which is always something they can be proud of and can listen to, to remind themselves of the experience and the friends they met on the day.

Our Fun Animation sessions involve creating animations and models in small groups and using stop frame cameras to record movements and create animation clips. These clips are uploaded to the internet so that family, friends and the young people can see the finished Animation. Both of these activities provide the opportunity to develop team work, communications skills, patience, celebration and empathy skills.

Experiencing the best of indoor and outdoor activities we also work in partnership with The Natural Theatre Company to deliver a Comedy Street Theatre session. Initial participation games are used to help diminish the young people's inhibitions. These games are fun and fast. The objective of the day is to perform a piece of street theatre in front of the public. One example was a silent protest for "National No Smiling Day!" Highly amusing the young people fell into character perfectly and were greeted warmly by the shoppers of Devizes High Street.

