

Durrington Youth Provisions

Durrington youth and community centre
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Evaluation of youth provisions provided throughout 2016

Thanks to Wiltshire Council funding, approved by the LYN and Amesbury Area Board and the support received from Durrington Town Council, my team and I have been able to provide youth provisions in Durrington since October 2014 with the continuation of The Bridging Project. In January 2016, we re-opened our doors to 2 additional sessions for young people, providing a range of sessions inclusive to all young people, a new youth service under The Community Led Model.

I have been the driving force in providing youth provisions in Durrington by approaching young people, parents/carers, colleagues, Durrington Town Council, The Community Church, local fundraising charities and The LYN to ensure there was a need and to establish a support network to enable our community to deliver such a service for young people.

Our staffing team is made up of 2 paid experienced/qualified youth workers and 3 volunteers whom offer support on different sessions. We also have a volunteer that provides arts and craft sessions to our Bridging Project on a fortnightly basis.

We have had a successful year having engaged with over 120 young people. We have 97 young people registered with a few outstanding registration forms. As we provide 3 different sessions the attendances are varied.

In addition to our funding we have also been raising our own funds through a small entrance fee and snack bar sales, raising over £1300 which goes back into the centre for resources, replenishment of stock, activities and trips.

The Durrington vehicle show gave us a donation of £100 to provide the youth centre with some console games and a new controller.

The Community Church has been financially contributing towards unexpected heating costs and cleaning costs of the centre.

Durrington Youth Sessions

Our aims and objectives for all youth sessions is provide a safe and welcoming environment where young people can have a sense of belonging. For young people to be empowered, try new skills and make a positive contribution to their youth service and the community.

Youth workers provide young people with information, advice and guidance in an informal educational delivery.

The Bridging Project is a targeted group for young people with disabilities. The Bridging project opened with 7 young people attending from the ages of 13 – 19. Over the year, we had 5 new members and through natural progression we lost 4 members.

We have 8 young people registered. 4 who attend on regular basis and the other 4 who attend irregular sessions.

At the start of the year we had one of our young people attending the LYN meetings to represent views of young people. Due to work and college commitments he is no longer able to attend but enjoyed participating.

More recently we have welcomed a peer mentor into this group from our Thursday sessions. She is giving good support to others and encouraging young people to take part in some activities.

We are aware that our weekly attendees are still quite low regardless of advertising. We are in discussions about lowering the age group to 11 years in the hope to bring in new members. As I manage another youth session for Durrington Town Council; 'Kids Friday Club' for ages 7 – 11, I am aware of a few young people with disabilities whom I believe would benefit from these sessions. In turn this would provide a good continuation of youth provision.



Tuesday is a junior session for year groups 7 – 9. Our original members have now progressed up to our Thursday session. YP attending 'Kids Friday Club' have come up through to these sessions evidencing a good continuation of young people's involvement in the youth services provided in Durrington, a need.

On average, we get 20 young people attending each Tuesday. These figures have fluctuated because the young people we originally had at the start of the year have now moved on to our Thursday sessions. The majority of the young people attending these sessions are new members.



Young people enjoyed 2 visits from Wessex Circus from Jonathan the Jester, with a fire display and the tumble track.

Thursday is for young people in years 10 – age 19. We provide the two separate sessions for the different year groups because it works well. Younger young people can be intimidated by some older young people. By providing the two sessions we can tackle different issues, some issues needing to be raised may not be suitable for our younger members.

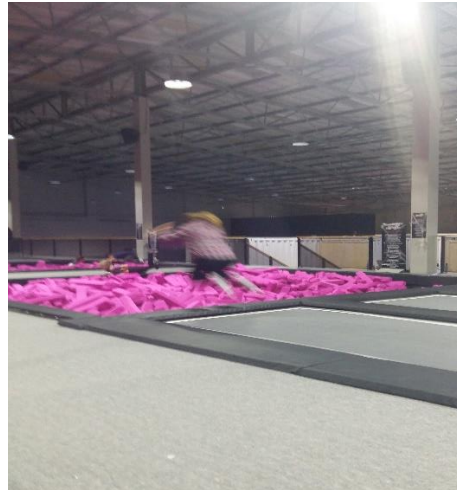
On average, we have 40 young people in attendance for these sessions.

Through building positive relationships with the young people that have come up from the Tuesday sessions to the Thursdays we have got them involved with the LYN meetings making a valued contribution and providing the LYN with a good future connection to their school council. Our LYN member recently attended and engaged in the JSA event.

From these sessions, we also have 2 Peer mentors. One whom I have previously mentioned who is supporting young people in 'The Bridging Project' and the other is provide support and guidance in the 'Kids Friday Club'. This has evidenced a full circle of attendees to peer mentoring throughout all youth sessions provided in Durrington.

We have recently joined up with Shrewton youth club to provide our young people with a trip to 'Freedog' a trampoline centre. This was a huge success and great to work in partnership with another group. We aim to provide more of this for the future.

I volunteer and am a committee member for the 'Bluez Discos' held in Durrington. Through advertising these events we have many our members from the Tuesday and Thursdays sessions attend the discos.



Young people taking part and having fun during a session activity and our 'Freedog' trip.

What we have delivered throughout all youth sessions in accordance with the 'Every Child Matters' outcomes

All sessions provided are evaluated, evidencing what the outcomes were in accordance with the Every Child Matters framework. Evaluation is a key part of what we do. It enables the staff team to reflect on a session to establish if we could have done something better or what else can be delivered based on what Young People have discussed or requested. Outlined below is a little of what's been happening within our sessions and the issues we have discussed and supported our young people with.

Be Healthy;

- We have tackled a range of health issues from dietary to physical and mental health and wellbeing.
- Young people initiated a sexual health project with clay which was informative and very educational. As I am 'No Worries' trained I provided a session with information and demonstrations so young people can stay healthy and safe.
- During the year, we have given information, advice and guidance to young people living with mental health issues, the loss of a parent and exam pressures plus much more.
- Young people have engaged in quizzes about the effects of smoking, alcohol and drugs.

Stay Safe;

- We have unfortunately had a couple of arguments break out and near fights between young people but with staff support young people have been enabled to safely air their grievances preventing the issues from escalating.
- Through quizzes and games, we tackle a range of issues such as; drugs and alcohol misuse, sex and relationships, mental health, online safety and much more. Through building positive relationships, the young people open up about a range of issues which we tackle in a fun way to support them in coping with whatever their issue may be.
- We promote general safety practices throughout the centre and for when young people are not in our care but out on the streets either on bikes or to being alone in the evenings. Young people have listened to general safety rules when providing activities.
- Young people are made fully aware of our zero tolerance to any form of bullying or discrimination and will be asked to leave if it is demonstrated in any way. All young people are made welcome and free to be who they are when they are welcomed into our sessions.



Young people listening to the safety expectation of 'Freedog'

Enjoy and Achieve;

- Young people participate in activities provided within the sessions, demonstrating communication, negotiation and sharing skills.
- Young people took part in our outing to 'Freedog' alongside Shrewton youth club.
- Young people engage with others and with staff during a session with lots of laughing and discussions had.

Make a Positive Contribution;

- Young people have engaged in the sessions providing ideas and participating in activities, listening to and abiding by the boundaries of the centre.
- Young people have become involved in the 'LYN' offering young people's views to help with providing positive activities to others.
- Young people are peer mentoring others in different sessions provided in Durrington.
- Young person participated in a 'Splash' event held at the centre.

Achieve Economic Well – Being;

- Young people help with the running of the snack bar.

- We have provided information, advice and guidance to young people going through exams, moving up to college and moving out of home.
- Young people discuss with us issues they are having with teachers and the problems they face at school and the pressures of general teenage life.

Our future aspirations

To continue to provide youth services within Durrington whilst there is a need. To continue to find funding sources to finance the youth provision being provided. To have secured premises to deliver youth work from.

We are currently leasing 'The Ham Centre' from Wiltshire Council.

Avon Valley College has approached Wiltshire Council for the use of the land to where the building is situated for their own development of the school site.

Wiltshire Council has extended our lease of The Ham Centre until September 2017. In partnership with Durrington Town Council we are seeking to find alternative premises. We have viewed a possible 2 buildings at Avon Valley College and are in discussions with the Academy about leasing one of them after September 2017.