



# Cricklade Youth Project Report – June and July 2017

## SUMMARY:

June and July have seen the start of the Cricklade Youth Project. The aim of the project is to reduce the amount of anti-social behaviour being committed by young people by engaging them in meaningful youth projects in the town.

Earlier this year a piece of research was done with young people in Cricklade. The outcome of this was that they were not keen on entering “youth clubs” and preferred to hang out in the town with their friends. This is, of course, their right but in recent months there has been a spike in reports of anti-social behaviour from this group. Therefore, the objectives of our project are:

- To form positive relationships between the young people involved in ASB and professional, trustworthy youth workers
- To understand their preferences for hanging out in certain places, and if necessary negotiate with them about hanging out in other more pro-social places
- To challenge anti-social behaviour when it arises and/or when it is reported by the group
- To work with the young people holistically about other issues in their lives (the youth work staples of relationships, school, work, drugs, alcohol, sex etc)
- If the group is willing, at some point this year, to move with them inside for a couple of evenings a week to give them a positive alternative to hanging out on the streets/parks

Continued overleaf

**TWO MONTHS SESSIONS** (with number of young people engaged with):

5/6/17 – 8 young people

7/6/17 – 12 young people

12/6/17 – 13 young people

14/6/17 – 18 young people

19/6/17 – 15 young people

21/6/17 – 25 young people

26/6/17 – 8 young people

28/6/17 – 13 young people

30/6/17 - No FIGURES

5/7/17 – 8 young people

7/7/17 – 17 young people

12/7/17 – 15 young people

14/7/17 – 27 young people

## ISSUES FACED:

All young people have been polite to our youth workers; after a couple of months most tolerate our youth workers presence and over half seem to enjoy having youth workers about in their groups.

## **SUMMARY (continued):**

In the first two months our youth workers have made a good start. They work Mondays and Wednesdays between 6-9pm (and wear distinctive light blue hoodies – do say hello if you see them!) and tour the town going to the places we know young people hang out.

Detached (or street based) youth work is a difficult task being at the mercy of the weather, the changing plans of young people and working out which group(s) are the best to work with. We have made contact with a group of about 20 who are (we are very sure) the ones involved in ASB about Cricklade. They are happy to chat to our youth workers and have done some issue based work on sexual health and drugs.

The next stage for our youth workers is to build on these relationships so that they have a “pull” with the young people. Moral authority is a very hard thing to quantify but that is what we aim for, where through virtue of the relationships they are in with our responsible adults young people will be willing to reflect on, and hopefully change, patterns of behaviour.

### **PARTNERSHIP WORK:**

Just this week our MD and Lead Youth Worker (Ben Evans and Jude Deaman respectively) attended a meeting with representatives from Wiltshire Council, Green Square Housing, Wiltshire Youth Offending Team, Cricklade Town Council and the local police. This was a good forum for professionals and community members to share information to ensure our efforts are directed in the right place.

### **CMAS behind the scenes:**

As new youth project the first months have been characterised by a considerable amount of work behind the scenes to allow the face to face work to continue successfully. Behind the scenes the Managing Director (Ben Evans) and Business Manager (Kate Tilling) have been busy:

- Advertising, interviewing and recruiting two new members of staff to cover to work specifically in Cricklade
- Completing DBS (police) checks with all staff, back-filling lapses
- Putting staff on to payroll and started paying them in line with HMRC responsibilities
- We have had one staff meeting where all new and old staff met and discussed the past, present and future

Away from Wiltshire Community Mentoring and Support CiC (CMAS) continues to grow. In Gloucestershire our educational mentoring programme is growing in popularity, offering solutions to schools and local authorities who need to offer an education to young people but cannot house them safely and successfully in any established provision. We have recently advertised for staff in Devon and Cornwall and appointed a Director to lead in this geographical area to roll out this provision there.

Also in April we opened the “GCAFE” – a commercial café that operates as a social enterprise to raise funds for the core aims of CMAS. It also offers regeneration to an unused council building AND work experience for young people – it’s a win, win, win! We hope to replicate this model in other areas.