



Royal Wootton Basset and Lyneham – June and July 2017

SUMMARY:

Good news in Wotton Bassett – we have found a new home! After using outdoor space for a lot of the summer we have moved in to United Reformed Church hall. It is a better option than previously as the toilet arrangements are much easier and we have space to cook. It is *not* ideal as sharing a church space with a group of 30 teenagers brings its own challenges!

In Lyneham work continued across June and July with only one wash out. Although summer seems like a distant memory it cant have been that bad a summer if we only had to cancel one outdoor session.

Sessions on the following themes have been successful:

- Mental health (particularly PTSD)
- Healthy eating
- Drug box and beer goggles
- Chlamydia testing and sexual health
- Making jam
- Visit from local PCSO

The great thing about youth work is that we plan sessions on the needs and wants of young people but you never know what will be pressing for them when they walk through the door. As ever a lot of the best work is based on trusting, professional relationships between youth workers and young people that allows all manner of issue to be brought up, discussed and where necessary signposted on.

TWO MONTHS SESSIONS:

1/6/17 – RWB – 34yp

2/6/17 – Lyneham – 15yp

8/6/17 – RWB – 29yp

9/6/17 – Lyneham – 25yp

15/8/17 – RWB – 32yp

16/6/17 – Lyneham – 28yp

22/6/17 – RWB – 22yp

23/6/17 – Lyneham – 25yp

29/6/17 – RWB – 24yp

6/7/17 – RWB – 30yp

7/7/17 – Lyneham – 25yp

13/7/17 – RWB – 20yp

14/7/17 – Lyneham – 24yp

20/7/17 – RWB – 27yp

21/7/17 – Lyneham – rained off

ISSUES FACED:

The friendship groups in RWB fall in and out with each other meaning attendance is sometimes thrown

We also (unusually!) have a lot of older age young people who we will have to move on in the near future

PARTNERSHIP WORK:

We attended a meeting, organised by the Town Council in RWB, and attended by residents, the police and CCTV operator, discussing the provision of a youth shelter (or “people shelter”!) in Otter Park. This was a very instructive meeting with older residents expressing their opinions on young people and the best place for them to hang out. I hope I was able to convey the reality that young people are the responsibility of the community and professional bodies such as the police and youth workers are less influential than parents, families and neighbours. I found the residents to be receptive despite having strong feelings on the subject and they were disappointed to hear that the only space young people can call their own in the Town had no toilet inside! As a follow up Councillor Hughes was due to visit the young people at one of our sessions for further consultation.

CMAS: THE BIGGER PICTURE

We are continuing to plough through paperwork to write the BTEC: Level 1 in “Developing Citizenship Through a Youth Organisation”. It is an onerous and time consuming task but we remain on target to start delivering it (to train young people to be able to work in youth centres) in October.

CMAS is currently making an application to hold a large pan-European event in April 2018, with youth workers from across the continent coming together to explore the future of European Youth cooperation post-Brexit, with a residential for young people to explore the same theme in Cyprus in September 18. We hope to include young people from RWB and Lyneham in this.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE YOUTH CLUBS:

CMAS have sent Jude Deaman on foundation level and then advanced practitioner level Safeguarding courses. This will enable Jude to ensure the health, safety and well-being of young people more securely, whilst also adding to the capacity of statutory services in the County to manage their increasing work loads.

We have new staff working across Lyneham and RWB. Jess is away at the moment and we have recruited Jo and Natasha in this area to replace her. If you see them wearing CMAS-blue hoodies be sure to introduce yourself and say hello