



Royal Wootton Basset and Lyneham – June and July 2017

SUMMARY of RWB:

Through August into September we spent our sessions on Longleaze Park engaging in various activities and numerous sports and were quite lucky dodging the rainy days! Sessions included:

- exercises on healthy friendships and personality traits
- positive use of social media
- support leading up to and with exam results
- positive encouragement with transferring to college
- Henna art was very popular
- Plus the usual fun games.

RWB sessions are always well attended. However, some of the young people in attendance are in need of ongoing support with various social issues. Sometimes the youth workers struggle to meet the needs of these young people within the session time so will stay longer in order to support these individuals.

Mid-September saw us move indoors to our new hall so the young people have had the opportunity to bake and cook healthy meals.

During the summer councillor Sue Hughes visited us to gain young people's views on provision for young people in RWB. She has promised to visit again in October. In discussion with Sue some of the young people showed interest in participating on the LYN committee.

TWO MONTHS SESSIONS:

RWB-

03/08/17- 12 young people
10/08/17- 17 young people
17/08/17- 10 young people
24/08/17- 26 young people
31/08/17- 27 young people
07/09/17- 23 young people
14/09/17- 23 young people
18/09/17- 32 young people
25/09/17- 24 young people

LYNEHAM-

04/08/17- 18 young people
11/08/17-14 young people
18/08/17-14 young people
25/08/17- 17 young people
01/09/17- 14 young people
08/09/17- 9 young people
15/09/17- 15 young people
22/09/17- 16 young people
29/09/17- 10 young people

ISSUES FACED:

RWB-We now have a new room which is much more suitable than the last room, however, this brings with it new challenges in regard to hiring a shared venue which is also in close proximity to residential housing.

LYNEHAM- We have said goodbye to a number of our regular young people due to relocation with in the military but have made contact with a number of new young people.

LYNEHAM:

We have seen a small drop in numbers mainly due to young people being relocated out of the area (one of the few downsides of working with a large percentage of military-involved families). During the summer we have supported a few individuals with feelings and concerns around moving. We have met a few new young people who have recently moved to the area.

Outside sessions at Lyneham included BBQ, bullying awareness, exam support, healthy friendships and positive social media use. Lyneham have made good use of our new “beer goggles”, which are a tool to increase alcohol awareness. From the beginning of September we moved indoors so the young people requested cookery sessions. The young people at Lyneham continue to enjoy group games even encouraging the local PCSO to join in when he paid us a visit!

CMAS: THE BIGGER PICTURE

CMAS is increasingly involved in working in alternative education for young people who are not attending school. This brings with it many challenges and the last three months have been marked by a self-auditing process to ensure that we are ready for any inspection that may come our way.

We are even mulling over the idea of forming a free-school. This is an arduous and paper-heavy task but, as CMAS grows and works with more and more young people in creative ways, one which may be of benefit to the organisation.

CASE STUDY:

“K”, 14, is a young woman who attends our youth club on a weekly basis. She lives in a family where there has been a break down in relationship between her parents, to the extent that one of her parents is not allowed to spend time with her unsupervised.

“K” approached one of our youth workers who she has a strong and ongoing relationship with. She asked the youth worker whether she would mind being the person who went with her to her appointments with her parent, the “minder” for want of a better word! After doing some ground work with the young woman’s social worker our youth worker agreed and it is planned to take place soon this month.

This is a very good example of the purpose of youth work – through fun and informal activities youth workers create trusting, professional relationships with young people. When crisis’ happen for young people they have someone to turn to who they can trust to act professionally and supportively.