



# Royal Wootton Bassett and Lyneham – October to December 2017

## SUMMARY:

### Attendance at Sessions:

#### Royal Wootton Bassett

Numbers are still growing and workers are increasingly working outside the session time to support the needs of some of the young people. In attendance there are a number of young people who need additional support, some are registered with CAAMHS and others see the school counsellor, but all too often these services (like others) are full to capacity, so we play an additional, complementary role.

JD has been supporting a young person individually with family contact (with full support of the family and social services) and this has proved positive and has a good outcome so far.

The young people like the new room and have wanted to utilise the kitchen for cooking whenever possible. We have also included issue based sessions which include drug awareness (this is very much a current need in RWB as a lot of young people are exposed to or indulging in illegal drug use), also sexual health, healthy lifestyle and choices, discrimination awareness and various mental health issue based subjects.

Some of the young people in RWB have enjoyed art projects which we intend to build on in the new year. Sue Hughes has been present for some of the sessions and has engaged positively with the young people with a view to enlisting them onto the LYN committee so they have a voice in their community.

#### LYNEHAM

Summary overleaf

## LYNEHAM

We have been back inside at Lyneham St. Michael's Hall, they have been as welcoming as ever to have us using the space. We meet weekly on Friday evenings. We have seen an increase in young people coming, but also a fair proportion have left recently due to military lifestyle.

We have facilitated a variety of sessions over the last few months led by young people's needs including various crafts and cooking projects and the usual issue based sessions. These have included drug awareness, sexual health, black history and diversity, bullying, e-safety and mental health. A few of the young people at Lyneham could benefit from more ongoing support with regard to mental wellbeing and self-care, and this is something we are working in to future programmes.

The big news is that, as of the end of January, we are moving out of St Michael's Hall and into the Community Centre on the edge of the military camp. In the past we have tried to do this on several occasions but haven't been able to maintain communication with the MOD "Families" staff. However, Amy Dallimore, the new community support worker, is very keen to work with us on this. She is – like us – keen to offer better provision to the young people of the community, both those from military families and those who are not. We are moving slowly, giving the young people plenty of notice, to make sure we take them with us in the move. We are sure this is really positive and can only enhance our work with young people due to better and more specific facilities for our age range.

## ISSUES FACED:

RWB – We have a new room in the United Reform church, the Rev. Sarah Simpson has been very welcoming. However, with increasing numbers of (well-behaved but sometimes boisterous!) young people attending, it has become a balancing act keeping the people who manage the hall happy with young people using the hall. This has put added pressure onto the limitations of sharing a space – youth workers have to be extra mindful when in sessions and often feel they are policing the well-being of the building rather than working positively with young people. Due to the lack of youth-friendly community space in the Town we are protecting the relationship as well as we can!

On a similar note, our conversations with young people tell us that they do feel that they are unwelcome in some parts of the community and feel that they are constantly being 'moved-on' because they are congregating with friends somewhere other than at home. (Bear in mind – the young people who attend the youth club are largely well behaved and not criminal in any way.) They are aware that a purpose built shelter was mooted but then did not materialise. Some of these young people struggle to engage with adults they don't know because of feeling unsupported within the community. We have been working with Sue Hughes to engage them in the up-coming LYN, and hopefully the LYN committee will take this opportunity to better understand the needs and wants of young people in the community.

**The current contract to deliver youth work in Royal Wootton Bassett and Lyneham ends at the end of March 2018. We would appreciate an indication from the Area Board whether they wish to continue post-March *as soon as possible* to enable us to a) plan for the new financial year of b) work out exit strategies for our work**

