

# Cricklade Youth Project Report – October-December 2017



## SUMMARY:

Youth workers continued to engage with the young people we have targeted to work with. This can be a long process, especially when the method is street based with no prior, regular engagement. We have built good relationships with a group of about 12 young people who we see at least once a week, sometimes twice depending on weather and other considerations.

The young people's attendance is still irregular, especially due to the trend since October of their migration to a peer's property when there is an offer of shelter where they can smoke without fear of disruption. It has also become apparent that some of the older group have started to travel into Swindon to meet friends they have made through college and work.

The youth workers have started to engage with some younger young people whom to choose to hang out with the older group if the opportunity arises, some are siblings of the older ones, others are friends of the siblings, these are young people we need to engage with as some have admitted to smoking cannabis and need to be supported now to have any chance of facilitating positive choices. However, because of the dark night and weather, we have seen them in the past six weeks.

Workers continue to support the young people with advice and raise awareness of the continued use of cannabis (and some class A drugs) with regard to their mental health and lifestyle choices and general impact on their day to living. Of the young people in the group that started college in September, a large proportion have dropped out, some of which have found employment or apprenticeships locally

## THREE MONTHS SESSIONS (with number of young people engaged with):

03/10/17 – 9 young people  
05/10/17 – 0 young people  
10/10/17 – 6 young people  
17/10/17 – 8 young people  
19/10/17 – 6 young people  
23/10/17 – 3 young people  
24/10/17 – 13 young people  
31/10/17 – 12 young people  
01/11/17 – 2 young people  
08/11/17 – 9 young people  
09/11/17 – 9 young people  
15/11/17 – 4 young people  
16/11/17 – 15 young people  
22/11/17 – 0 young people  
23/11/17 – 4 young people  
29/11/17 – 9 young people  
30/11/17 – 12 young people  
6/12/17 – 5 young people  
7/12/17 – 4 young people  
13/12/17 – 12 young people  
14/12/17 – 6 young people  
20/12/17 – 6 young people  
21/12/17 – 8 young people

## **SUMMARY (continued):**

A couple of the young people we work with are now excluded from school, whilst one young person who was previously excluded has now gone back to school.

Both age groups are keen to having a room available for them, when asked why they want the room next to the leisure centre the opinions were:

- that it is easily accessible
- its next to the skate park
- and some of the older young people remember it as the old youth centre building.

Youth workers have explained to the young people who remember the old youth centre that it would now be a shared space so wouldn't have the same facilities as before but would be a positive move to meeting some of their needs as a starting point.

## **ISSUES FACED:**

- Dark nights!
- Older group moving into Swindon and mixing with 18+ young adults
- Young people having somewhere to smoke cannabis without interruption has led to irregular numbers.

Engaging with these young people has not been an issue, however, building good regular relationships with them is a slow process to enable to build trust.

We need to focus on younger members of the group to assist them to make informed choices.

Lack of indoor space – now workers have started to build relationships with these young people it is important to move this group forward by having a regular, indoor space

## **CMAS organisational update**

Community Mentoring and Support CiC (CMAS) continues to grow into one of the larger providers of youth work and services for young people in Gloucestershire and Wiltshire. Our three main areas of work remain:

- 1) Providing youth clubs for commissioning bodies such as town, parish and County Councils, and youth club committees
- 2) Providing one to one mentoring for young people who need bespoke, individual support
- 3) Providing alternative education for young people who, for one reason or another, cannot attend full time education

## **DECISION PLEASE...**

Ben Evans met with Councillors from Lyneham, Purton, Cricklade and RWB in December and the issue of building use was discussed. It would be very useful to know if/when the building next to the Leisure Centre will be available so we can plan to move the young people in there in a structured way

