



Royal Wootton Bassett – Jan-Feb 2018

TWO MONTHS SESSIONS:

08/01/18 – 26 young people

15/01/18 – 33 yp

22/01/18 – 42 yp

29/01/18 – 36 yp

05/02/18 – 28 yp

12/02/18 – 34 yp

19/02/18 – 35 yp

26/02/18 – 33 yp

SUMMARY:

Bassett sessions continue to be busy with numbers still growing. Working with over 30 young people in a session is really good news, but also a challenge for staff!

Many of the young people have ongoing everyday mental health issues, most mild some more serious. A number of these young people are having support from either CAAMHS or school counselling. Youth workers are also committed to offering support whenever possible.

The young people over the last few months have made full use of the media speaker, organising on one occasion a session based around music that reminded them of growing up and parents' favourites. This was great fun and quite insightful. We have done some simple cooking and some young people are now bringing in their own food to heat up/cook for their supper, which workers supervise when required as its good to see the young people becoming self-sufficient.

Some young people are still using cannabis and alcohol, however this has definitely been less apparent in the last two months. Issue based sessions over the past couple of months have included sexual health and relationships around Valentine's Day, safe social media, alcohol awareness plus we made over 60 pancakes for Shrove Tuesday.

We have facilitated some ethical dilemma activities which bought up discussions around LGBTQ issues. Cooking was focused on healthy eating in January which also made for conversations about the cost of food.

ISSUES FACED:

Throughout the sessions there has always been group discussions around mental health, but when possible one to one conversations. So, in March and April we will be focusing on mental health integrated with drug use, mindfulness and healthy lifestyles. The room is still a concern as we have to be super careful not to leave anything out of place, and getting the young people to leave on time can be challenging, only for the fact that they would happily stay longer.

PARTNERSHIP WORK/LYN MEETING:

Some young people attended the LYN meeting and shared their opinions on Bassett provision for young people. There were discussions regarding ideas for a youth café which the young people were really enthusiastic about. One young person has committed to see this project through. Some of these young people struggle to commit to school or college so to attend this kind of meeting and share opinions is quite an achievement.

CMAS also hosted a couple of local councillors (early in March) to look at examples of youth and community cafes and spaces and what can be achieved with community support. I hope Sue and Mary will feed back on this soon. (Ben)

DEVELOPMENT OF THE YOUTH CLUBS:

The model of commissioning youth activities in the Area Board is a positive one in that it gives stakeholders an opportunity to respond to community need, and in the cases where LYN's operate an opportunity for young people to feed in to this directly.

However – in terms of providing continuity of staff and sessions, that we know young people respond to best – they can cause difficulties for an organisation like ours. We keep costs low by keeping overheads low, and this means we do not have a “bank” of staff to call on. Rather – we employ specific staff for specific pieces of work. This means that being notified early of start and finish dates is key to our financial planning, to say nothing of planning the work with young people so it is coherent and starts/ends well. At the time of writing we are unsure of whether we will continue in as little as 3 weeks time! – this is very tricky to manage although we understand how we have got to this point.

If officers/members could consider this for review it would help small organisations like ours no end