



Cricklade Youth Project Report – Jan-Feb 2018

SUMMARY:

It would seem as if our period of outdoor, detached youth work has paid dividends! In terms of number of attendees, that is, which of course is only the beginning of the work...We have had 19 and 17 young people attend in the first two weeks after hours of tireless work on the streets by staff; and at first glance they are the “right” groups.

We have had a group of younger young people attending the session which has been really positive, they want to engage with the youth workers playing issue-based games, for example safe use of social media, healthy friendships, sexual health. We also have a group of older ones, but when they arrive the younger ones seem to feel intimidated and have left early. In the near future the team has a decision to make regarding the older ones, some of whom will turn 18 this year so may move on organically. But we don't want to lose the engagement with the younger members as we have the opportunity to establish trusting relationships to move forward with the young people encouraging positive choices in their lives. It's a typical youth work dilemma, as the older group are the most “in need” in terms of behaviour and lifestyle choices.

The room comes with its drawbacks in that it's not geared up for young people with gas bottles, hazardous cleaning materials about etc, but at least it is warm and dry. Sharing space often comes with drawbacks but we hope to manage this successfully.

The older group that attend are frequently under the influence of cannabis or alcohol, mainly the males during sessions. There have also been conversations around class A party drugs being used at the weekend.,

But we are now having regular young people in which is really a positive start to building positive relationships with them!

Two months sessions:

January attendance was infrequent whilst doing detached in winter weather

Centre based:

19th Feb: 19 young people

26th Feb: 17 young people

ISSUES FACED:

Establishing the group: time will tell how this progresses. Facilitating the sessions safely. Getting young people to invest in the session and have input into what they would choose to do.

