

Summary of LYN funding for 2017 / 2018

For the financial year 2017 / 2018, Wiltshire Council delegated £24, 285 to Amesbury Area Board for positive activities for young people. This has been used to support 5 different projects across the community area and has also levered in a total of £126,000 from the partner organisations.

In addition to this the Local Youth Network has met on 6 different occasions to determine funding for projects, look at key issues across the community area, support voluntary groups and held a LYN area board event with around 100 school pupils from Stonehenge School and Avon Valley College.

A summary of LYN Event

The purpose of this conference was to seek the views of young people 13 to 19 years of age growing up in Amesbury Community Area on the following issues:

Cyberbullying, keeping safe, diversity, volunteering, mental health and leisure.

Approximately 100 pupils from Stonehenge School and Avon Valley College were joined by members of Wiltshire Council's Amesbury Area Board, Wiltshire Police and other professionals.

Attendees were split into the categories mentioned above. These groups were facilitated by a professional from the appropriate discipline. Each pupil had the opportunity to attend all six workshops on a round-robin basis.

Summary of points raised by each group

Cyberbullying

Porn, SPAM, Social media, many different ways to be bullied, not always easy to identify initially, easy to get sucked in.

Good things about internet – social media, music, school work

Worst things about internet – bullying

How do we support people?

Keeping safe

Being home alone - Don't answer the door until you know who it is. Ask for ID, safety chains on doors.

Local park - Know your location, go with people you know and trust, know your safe route home, let people know where you are going, let people know what time to expect you home.

Knives – Do not ever carry one. There is never a reason, always call the police, never tolerate knife crime.

Mobiles – They are a good thing but misuse can also be bad, while on the phone and walking you are not aware of what is going on around you, pressure of social media.

Concern about anti-social behaviour at some parks.

Diversity

We are all different but this is what we have in common, diversity is not always visible, we benefit from having a diverse community, need more education and awareness about diversity.

Things that effect the way we feel and sometimes treated. Age, colour of skin, sexual orientation, size, income, gender, looks, the way we dress, ethnicity, disabilities, academic ability, religion,

Need more awareness and understanding.

Volunteering

More help for the elderly, link school and nursery for homework sessions, lunch time clubs for older people, litter picks, helping neighbours, life, closer links with local businesses, helping disadvantaged groups, help wanted signs, more people want to help but do not know how to, build volunteering into school. People knew how to get involved but more would volunteer especially with the elderly if a scheme was put under their noses i.e. at a school in a break. Needs someone to kick start this off and I reckon you could get some traction.

Mental health

The main causes of stress and anxiety are school pressure, home life, bullying, loneliness, having no-one to listen. We need to know where to seek help. The majority of people know someone who suffers with mental health, has experienced trauma, school pressure and constant testing, and/or bullying in any form. We need to hear about mental health problems and how to stay healthy in order to tackle stigma. We need to talk about mental health. This could include events, assemblies, talks, awareness raising activities. We need more professional support from trained staff. We need more peer support, including mentoring, in school.

Top points:

Peer pressure and bullying. More professional trained support. Emotional wellbeing – more awareness about mental health. School/ home pressure- more reassurance from school staff to reduce stress.

Leisure

Transport is an issue especially for people in villages. Facilities are dated. Needs more investment. Prices are an issue for most YP. Need more and better access to clubs.

Next Steps

We will identify any priorities or areas where we can carry out some partnership working.

We can then meet with partners to explore what action we can take, and where possible we could identify some area board funding to work on identified priorities. We can feed any ideas into the Joint Strategic Assessment and make WC aware that these are priorities.

Work closer with schools and other partners to have a joined-up approach.

Amesbury Area Board met shortly after this event and awarded funding to God Unlimited (GUL).

Young people were on the LYN panel that made recommendations to the area board and made links with the LYN event and what was being offered under this project banner.

Below is a summary of what has been achieved by the organisations who have received area board funding.

Amesbury Youth Café

101 Youth Cafe Sessions (Open Access)

26 Additional Cafe Session (Targeted)

Organised a Skatejam

Took part in the Amesbury Festival of Youth

Took part in Amesbury Carnival

Performed 400 hours of pastoral youth work

We led the Amesbury Youth Forum

We held the following special events:

2 comedy nights, 1 magic/illusionist night, 1 Live Guitar Musician Cabaret, 6 Disco led parties, a Retro Cinema Roll in Movie night (drive in movie for skateboards and scooters).

3 Barbecues at various rec grounds in Amesbury

We attended Salisbury Carnival, a Theatre night, A community Theatre Evening,

Over 150 individuals have attended the Youth Cafe. Averaging 18 people a night.

We have delivered training and induction in safeguarding, food safety and first aid to 8 volunteers.

Shrewton Youth Club

The year of 2017 has seen the Shrewton Youth again being extremely popular with our young people.

Sadly, our Youth Leader (Jenny Bowley) had to resign because of health reasons towards the end of the year but we can report that Abbie Edwards has now accepted the role. This appointment has proved extremely popular with the young people. Helpers at each session number two adults and the Club Committee numbers five.

The Club has its own website and its new logo was designed by one of the young members.

The club meets once a week and during the year averages between 15 to 20 members. We encourage the involvement of pupils from Appleford School and they are occasional visitors boosting numbers.

We aspire to ensure each evening, though informal, nevertheless includes an activity that is fun, perhaps active, confidence building and encourages friendships and new experiences. Friendships and dynamics of groupings over the age range of 11 to 16 are interesting but we have achieved some success in this.

A summary of some activities over the year - Cooking (Healthy eating and new tastes) Arts Sessions including a very popular Graffiti programme, Music and Song writing, Evening trips to Better Extreme, Bowling and Laser Quest.

The young people understand that they own their club and need to contribute to its success. This they have achieved through three fundraising activities during the year - A Jumble Sale/ Bingo Evening/Sponsored Walk.

Wiltshire Council and Shrewton Parish Council funding is important to the underpinning of the club finances and the club is extremely grateful for the opportunity for grants. Much of which stays within the County as it generally covers fees for local providers and rent,

Durrington Youth Services

Through funds received between April 2017 – March 2018, Durrington Youth Services (now known as 'Community Youth Services') has provided a total of 128 sessions for young people, a total of 254 hours.

This has been achieved by providing 4 different sessions:

- 1) The Bridging Project
- 2) Junior Youth Session
- 3) Senior Youth Session
- 4) Street Based Youth Work (SBYW)

Our youth provisions and location has changed a lot over the year. We have been presented with many challenges out of our control but out of the changes has come new and different sessions such as SBYW.

THE BRIDGING PROJECT closed at the end of December 2017 due to a lack of members, making it financially unfeasible to continue. We had 2 members with only 1 member attending regularly.

THE JUNIOR SESSIONS which were targeted at young people in year groups 7 to 9 also closed but was merged with the senior sessions. This was due to having to move from our premises at The Ham Centre to Bulford Village Hall. The Hall was only available for hire twice a week when we moved in October. We were welcoming on average 15 YP per session. These sessions provided a good continuation of youth provisions. We have unfortunately lost the majority of our members as an outcome of having to merge the sessions, with only 6 YP joining us in Bulford out of a possible 25.

THE SENIOR SESSIONS which is now a generic session for young people in year groups 7 – aged 19 has continued to be extremely successful. We have been overwhelmed by the commitment and support from young people with our recent move to Bulford with ALL of them joining us there. On average, we welcome 30 YP per session. More recently we have 30+ and 40+ attendees with a regular flow of new members.

THE SBYW SESSIONS were introduced in October with the purpose of continuing engagement with young people in Durrington in light of our move to Bulford leaving no youth provisions in Durrington. We were also aware of reports of anti-social behaviour in specific areas in Durrington.

From October – December these sessions were self-funded. This provision has recently been awarded funds from Wiltshire council to see us through from January to December 2018.

Our attendees have been variable per session, this may be due to the winter months. On average, we engage with 5 YP per session, we have engaged with 40 YP in total.

During these sessions we provide Information, advice and guidance on a range of issues relevant to young people. Issues such as; Anti-Social Behaviour; Drugs; alcohol addiction; smoking; sex and relationships; mental health issues; laws; education; driving; community issues and much more.

We have available the use of the Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) which the young people have used twice for football.

Young people have had the opportunity to voice their opinions and solutions at a community meeting held about Anti-Social Behaviour. Their views were represented at the meeting. The Local Police came out during one of our SBYW sessions to feedback alongside youth workers the outcomes from that meeting. Good community working.

PROVIDED DURING CENTRE BASED SESSIONS

We provide a range of activities and resources for young people to utilise during the session. Informal education, advice and support is provided on a range of issues such as; Drugs; alcohol addiction; smoking; sex and relationships; a range of mental health issues such as anxiety disorders and self-harming; laws; education; homelessness; death and suicide; community issues and much more.

Young people often choose to cook or bake during the session.

Ultimately, we provide a safe and welcoming environment for young people to be young people.

We have a couple of young people that have been actively involved in the LYN. They have been proactive in providing a vital link between the school council and the LYN, supporting Darren Henry. More recently they produced a poster advertising and promoting the LYN and attended the LYN event held at Avon Valley College.

We also had 2 young people that were supporting another youth session in Durrington as peer mentors.

A large group of our members support the local Bluez Discos held 4 times a year in Durrington.

Splash

Since Splash was awarded the grant in July 2017 we have been able to provide the following for young people from the Amesbury LYN area:

4 free, fun, activities specifically for young people from the area who are facing challenges, accommodating 48 places on local positive activities during 4 school holiday periods. The activities delivered were Rythmmania, Fun 1st Aid, Generation Code and Generation code advanced.

Rythmmania is a fun, music making session using tubes and young people's imaginations.

Generation Code and Generation code advanced are micro bit coding sessions which have proved very popular.

We have also accommodated a further 74 places for young people from the area on activities slightly further afield, providing free minibus pick-ups from the area for 7 more activities.

Our latest parent/guardian survey results recorded the following impact on those that have attended Splash activities:

Self-esteem - feeling of pride and self-worth	93%
Self-confidence - belief in themselves and their abilities	91%
Attitude & behaviour - towards you & others	82%
Social skills - communication & interaction with yourself & others	90%

We were able to provide this amount of provision as we match funded the £2900 kindly awarded by the LYN.

GUL Outdoor Therapy

It has been an incredible year at Gul, we recorded over 20,000 hours of provision across the charity's two SP3 sites, of this 13,000 were supporting vulnerable people at our Bustard site with temporary accommodation. The remaining 7,000 hours were sessions provided at our Riverside (outdoor therapy) site. Each of Gul's sessions was an hour in length and supervised by a member of our team.

The Lyn Funding Gul has received has been focussed at our Riverside site. In the last financial year 343 young people from across the county attended Gul for a broad range of activities including Horse riding, stable management, alternative education provision, outdoor skills, bush craft, navigation and fitness. Since its last award (Jan 2018) Gul has helped two young people in extremely difficult family situations attend our provision, I have seen one of them during a session and the smile on her face was huge so please do convey our thanks for the support again.

On top of this figure, Gul has 15 young people who volunteer on a regular basis with whom we are currently organising a camp, which will take place during the summer holidays.

During the same period, Gul awarded over 200 participation rosettes and 141 riding qualifications including national coaching awards.

As an organisation, Gul supports the work of the LYN through an in-kind donation of the time of one of its management team.