



Royal Wootton Bassett –

MAY- JUNE 2018

TWO MONTHS' SESSIONS:

- 14.05.18 - 37 yp
- 21.05.18 - 33 yp
- 04.06.18 - 34 yp
- 11.06.18 - 38 yp
- 18.06.18 - 42 yp
- 25.06.18 - 38 yp

Very very busy sessions!!

SUMMARY:

The first part of this month has been focused on mental health and wellbeing. We completed a positive message stone project and yp distributed them around the high street. May and June have been a stressful time for the yp mainly due to exams and college decisions. We have included some CBT based exercises into the sessions to assist the yp with tools to cope outside the sessions, should they feel the need.

Also included in the past months sessions are healthy eating food recipes and we looked into what actually is in foods we eat regularly. As well as drugs awareness, sexual health and coping with bullying. And the usual issue based/conversational games which still prove popular. Youth workers have also supported individuals outside the sessions with grief and mental health.

Good things 😊....

Our **POSITIVE STONE PROJECT** really seemed to capture the imagination. We had heard about it being done elsewhere and thought we would try it. Our Facebook post on the subject had 4400 likes (a record by miles) and the story was picked up by the North Wilts and Glos Standard.

It is a very simple idea: “hiding” pebbles with positive messages around a town or village in the hope that young people (or anyone, for that matter) find them. In and of themselves the messages may brighten someone’s day a little. But the wider message is that, at a time when young people’s mental health is increasingly under pressure, messages of positivity and support are invaluable. Some of us were lucky enough to grow up in homes where positive messages were reinforced regularly but this is not always the norm. A positive message to a young person could make more difference than you think!

Not so good things 😞....

The sessions continue to be extremely well attended, busy and can be noisy (not great given the residential setting of the hall, although no complaints as of yet!). The hall still gives workers concern due to feeling unwelcome to teenagers. In conversation young people say that they feel they are not really welcome by some of the community.

We are looking for an alternative space in RWB (again!). The URC have said we are not to use the garden (originally this was included in the agreement) and even worse it is currently unusable due to building work. Luckily the weather is on our side so we have been out in local parks for the past 2 weeks and will continue as long as we can maintain good links with young people – and the sun shines!



Lyneham – MAY-JUNE 2018

TWO MONTHS' SESSIONS:

04.05.18 - 10 yp
11.05.18 - 11 yp
18.05.18 - 6 yp
25.05.18 - 6 yp
02.06.18 - 9 yp
08.06.18 - 12 yp
15.06.18 - No session
22.06.18 - 4 yp

SUMMARY:

The sessions are slowly starting to increase again, the yp who attend are working well together as a group and are enthusiastic about engaging in activities and have also planned sessions for the summer.

The space is great and they take full advantage of all the facilities. There is no use of the kitchen at present but as there are other things on offer this hasn't seemed to impact on them and they have planned food activities around this. May was spent concentrating on mental health and well-being and the group painted positive messages on stones which they distributed around Lyneham. We included conversation around our personal mental health in these sessions and what coping mechanisms we use to help attain good mental wellbeing.

ISSUES FACED:

We had at the start of the year been really quiet (this is the nature of youth work with regard to numbers and friendship groups), but slowly we are picking up in numbers and also seeing some new members. Amy is really welcoming, very supportive of the group and has built good relationships with the young people. She has been more than accommodating when it has been necessary to stay later to deal with safeguarding issues that have needed reporting by youth workers and has provided a safe space (private room) to deal appropriately with these issues.

We had one extremely serious safeguarding issue brought to our attention (it did not happen during youth club sessions but out in the community in the week before the session) and our staff stayed and worked with the police on the Friday evening to make sure it was dealt with sensitively and professionally.



Cricklade – MAY-JUNE 2018

TWO MONTHS' SESSIONS:

14/05/18 – Trip to Xtreme – 4yp
21/05/18 – 8yp

4/06/18 – 9yp
11/06/18 – 12yp
18/06/18 – 9yp
25/06/18 – 11yp

SUMMARY:

The group in Cricklade is beginning to take shape. We now have a fairly regular core group of 10 to 12 who attend and take part in activities. This term we have done a trip to Xtreme trampoline park in Swindon; a BBQ in the park; games and sports in the park; and more lately watching a lot of FOOTBALL!

The group varies in age from 11-16, the main cohort being aged about 13 and 14, with a few of the younger ones showing an interest (and some really younger ones asking to be involved but a bit too young to join as yet). Organising trips is really useful as it allows us to visit parents chasing consent forms and getting interest from other people who are more interested in going out and doing activities.

Realistically, a group of 20 regularly would be ideal and is what we aim for.

ISSUES FACED:

The main issue we continue to face is with the building (as in RWB...can you see a theme here?!). The old youth centre is an ideal space but shared use of buildings is very often a challenge. The Leisure Centre staff have been supportive and last week suggested we used some of their other facilities with the young people. But as a step forward a base for young people would be very good for Cricklade. Something that paid for itself such as a youth café or something similar would be the most financially viable long term.

