



We're making a difference

TCAF Report to Trowbridge Area Board October 2019

TCAF have been working hard in the rebranding of the organisation to be known as Trowbridge Future. This is a direct result from public and business consultation which has been conducted over the last few months, identifying that a large number of people in the local community don't have a complete knowledge of our purpose and activities. Under our new brand as Trowbridge Future, we keen to engage with the local community to ensure we are meeting their clearly defined needs. We hope that Trowbridge Future will present a positive message to young people and local residents we were are working with.

Youth Programmes

We have continued to work hard to deliver a series of youth cafes in in the three deprived communities of Trowbridge: Seymour, Studley Green and Longfield. The youth cafes cover a range of issue-based work, alongside creative activities planned by our sessional youth workers. In the summer we ran a successful Waste Attack project where young people were able to create art works and take photographs using rubbish collected through litter picks in the local areas. The project culminated in an exhibition which was shown as a part of a celebration in Longfield Community Centre and in The Shires Shopping Centre. A group of young people had the opportunity to go to Brokerswood for a team building day. We have been working with Love Sounds to deliver digital music workshops as part of our work at Longfield Community Centre. We have continued to work with John of Gaunt school to deliver a lunch time drop-in session and one to one mentoring support with identified young people. As part of the rebrand a group of young people were able to participate in this year's Trowbridge Carnival. We also going to be starting a new youth café at Trowbridge Town Hall working with young people who are currently home schooled. TCAF have continued to partner with Greggs the Bakers to distribute leftover food three days a week at the youth cafes and as part of our outreach work at Stallards Skate Park each week. We have successful fundraised to have a portakabin to be used for youth and community use on Studley Green and are in the process of securing the planning permission to create a dedicated space on the Estate to deliver activities. We have been working hard to build new partnerships with organisations such as Bath University to build opportunities for young people in Trowbridge.

Community Programmes

Community Hub at BA14: We are pleased to have been able to extend Zoe Meaden our Community Hub managers hours that has meant that the work at the Hub has gone from strength to strength. The Community Hub has become a calm space for members of the public to visit. Trowbridge Future offer signposting, general advice, assistance in making phone calls, writing letters and accessing online resources to all residents in Trowbridge and surrounding areas. The Community Hub hosts regular pop-up events promoting local charities and awareness raising. The Community Hub is staffed by a team of dedicated volunteers, including some that represent local organisations, such as Trowbridge Lions and Trowbridge Town Hall

Arts. TCAF have continued to run a weekly 2hr Kindness Café that offers an informal space for local people to come and chat. The cafe is particularly targeted at older people to help develop peer support to meet their health and wellbeing needs. Radio BBC Wiltshire are going to be live from the Kindness Café on Friday 24th October. TCAF continue to run a successful Computer Club every Wednesday 10am-12pm where anyone can come and get support using computers or smart phones. In the run up to Christmas the Hub will be offering workshops in lantern making to be part of the big Christmas light switch on and lantern procession in Trowbridge.

Pop-Up events: Recent pop-up events have included The Fostering Team using the Hub as a place to promote fostering opportunities in Wiltshire. The Rucksack Project, that provide essential items to families that are most in need, have used the Hub as a place to promote their work and encourage local people to give donations. The Wiltshire Centre for Independent Living led a consultation event from The Hub to discuss local health and wellbeing needs.

Neighbour Activities: TCAF have successfully supported a range of local residents groups to undertake litter picks using equip that we are able to lend out. The Trowbridge Neighbourhood Group has now merged with the Community Safety group and we are planning to hold a meeting in November 2019 in the Community Hub in The Shires to bring the current partners together to re-establish some identified priorities for the group.

Meg Aubrey
Youth and Community Development Manager
24.10.19