

The Core Youth Project **End of year report to Saltash Town Council – May 2020**

What the money has been spent on and what has been delivered.

The money that Saltash Town Council awarded The Core Youth Project continues to employ our Youth Work Coordinator who manages and develops the youth provision both at the centre and through outreach work in the town. We now have a staff team of 1 full time youth worker and 2 part time youth support workers, which has enabled us to continue to offer the following youth work sessions, whilst also developing the work with Saltash.net and links within the community. The following projects are funded by STC and the match funding we have secured from other grants.

- Open access youth work = 3 sessions per week;
Junior club for 11-13 year olds every Thursday evening 7-9pm.
Senior club for 13-18 year olds every Monday evening 7-9pm.
‘Friday Night Project’ 12-18 year olds every Friday 7-9pm.
- ‘Just be you’ - LGBT+ group offered weekly where young people are able to meet and share experiences. Every Monday 3.15-5pm.
- ‘Looking good, feeling good’ – Targeted girls group to provide a safe space for girls to try new activities and increase their confidence. Every Thursday 3.15-5pm.
- Tic Tac after school drop-in every Monday and Thursday until 5pm.
- Provide a youth worker for the Tic Tac service at Saltash.net two lunchtimes per week.
- Provide a weekly drop in triage service at Saltash.net.
- Volunteering opportunities to young people and involve them in the day-to-day running of the project. We have a thriving youth committee who meet monthly. The young people also get involved in events within the town such a May Fayre, and Mission Youth, plus regular fundraising event at The Core.
- Support young people most in need with 1:1 support and guidance and referrals to external agencies and support. In addition we have a Kooth Counsellor and an advice worker from Young People Cornwall who is based at The Core every Monday and Thursday 9-5pm.

As a result of receiving the funding again this year we have been able to continue to offer all our existing services and offer over 20 hours of direct youth work sessions/1:1 work each week.

Match funding

Awards for All Lottery Funding - £9782

Caradon Area Fund - £2500

Coop Community Fund - £1450 (more installments to come)

Howton Solar Farm - £2500

Total = £16,232

In house funding

- Weekly subscriptions for youth club – Approx. £50 per week
- Revenue from room hire at the centre – Approx. £20,000 per year. Whilst this money is essentially raised to pay for the general running costs and other staffing costs, it does show that we are bringing in revenue to help keep the centre open for both the community and the young people.
- Fundraising and donations – Approx. £3000. Last Financial year we hosted many regular fundraising events, in particular our monthly ‘Friday family fundraiser’ which have proved a great success.

Outcomes and outputs achieved (for the period Sept – March 20th when the centre closed due to Covid 19)

Total current number of members at The Core = 175

Number of open access sessions delivered 2019 = 67

Number of single issue programmes run = 53

Number of young people engaged (over 3 hours of engagement) = 28

Number of young people receiving individual support = 188

Through the work at Tic Tac and triage at the school we see approx. 10 young people per week offering 1:1 support and guidance.

Number receiving group support/measurable distance travelled = 62

Number of young people helped back in to employment, training or work = 2 (the majority of our work is with under 16's)

Number of young people referred to youth workers from other agencies = Majority are through the work at the school in the Triage and Tic Tac services = approx. 52. Other referrals are from Cornwall College, Targeted Youth Workers, Young people Cornwall and Social Care = 7

Number of youth volunteer hours worked = to include youth committee meetings, fundraising events and young helpers on junior youth nights = Approx. 220. Our members put in a great deal of hours of volunteering and are a real credit to the project.

Youth Work

The youth work has grown in the last 18 months due to us having the opportunity to recruit 2 youth support workers, with the match funding which we attracted as part of the STC money. This has meant that we have been able to expand our youth programme allowing us to add a further 2 sessions to our weekly timetable. By offering a larger range of activities over more days we have attracted more young people who now attend other sessions and some who have become active volunteers.

We believe it is even more important in today's society that we can offer young people not only a safe space to meet and socialise but also a range of support and activities to keep them healthy and happy and ensure that we make our programme diverse and interesting. Our programme now offers; Cooking courses, Girls group, a range of sporting activities, LGBT+ support group, Friday night activities, art sessions, 1:1 advice and guidance, counselling, Sexual health advice, Housing and Benefits advice and training and volunteering opportunities.

A vast majority of the young people who attend our sessions have experienced difficulties at school, have chaotic and sometimes unsafe home lives, are young carers, suffer with mental health problems, such as anxiety, low mood or self harm, are transgender or questioning their sexuality, have experienced bullying, are looked after children, suffer with autism/asperger syndrome or have a disability (learning or physical) or are just finding the transition from childhood to adulthood difficult and need some support.

We work with a great deal of young people who have been through traumatic events in their lives and are experiencing a complexity of problems, by providing them with a safe space to come and access to professionally trained youth workers they have begun to increase in confidence and develop as individuals

Our successful partnership working with a range of outside agencies and local organisations has meant that we are able to offer more opportunities and activities for the young people we work with. We continue to work closely with Saltash Community School, Early Help Team and Social Care, Police, Saltash Health Centre, Safer Saltash, Xenzone, Young People Cornwall and Saltash Town Youth Council,

We hope it is evident from this report that the funding which we receive from Saltash Town Council is enabling us to continue to provide and develop a professional and innovative service to the young people of Saltash and the surrounding villages. Due to the Coronavirus outbreak we had to close The Core in mid March as we felt we would be better placed to keep our funds protected so that we can fully support young people with the recovery process once we are back up and running. We have furloughed all our staff and await instruction from the Government to when we will be able to re-open. We are extremely concerned about the effect this pandemic will have had on young people and their mental health and have been thinking of many ways in which we can be part of their recovery process once we re-open. For this reason we are hopeful that the money for youth work will again become available again to enable us to continue to support the young people of Saltash as we find our way back to normal.

