

Report to Saltash Town Council from Saltash Team for Youth

Representatives from the Core, Junkyard and Livewire met to give each other updates and to discuss plans for the future the updates follow: Since the three projects met central government has declared another lockdown and whilst the Junkyard has had to close again the work with vulnerable young people continues.

The Core

After what has been a challenging year we were able to re-open our doors at The Core on October 12th to young people. Throughout the lockdown we have kept in touch with our members and offered online youth sessions with quizzes and games just so we could keep in touch. We also ran The Hive food project during the summer holidays helping to feed those families worst hit by the pandemic, which was a huge success and had a great take up.

Since returning to work we have been busy planning how we can safely and effectively continue to support young people whilst still dealing with this pandemic. We wanted to be able to use the fantastic space we have outside at The Core and have received some funding to start to make it a usable and exciting outside space. By creating a garden and space to meet outside we can safely work with young people without the need for them to wear masks. We are currently making a firepit area where young people can meet and toast marshmallows and enjoy being outside and we also have the Community Payback team from the Probation service coming in to provide free labour to help us create pathways, seating areas and growing areas for the young people to grow their own vegetables. We feel this will be invaluable to young people's mental health and wellbeing and provide them with a quiet and stimulating space for them to use.

Our youth sessions have been safely opened again by setting up a booking system online and following the guidance from The National Youth Agency around group bubbles etc. We have allowed 15 per group and it has been fantastic to have the young people return to the building. We have been running 3 sessions per week with our Junior and Senior youth clubs and our LGBTQ+ group after school session. We have also re-opened our climbing club, which has been a great success and is now open twice a week due to demand.

Charlotte is undertaking her diploma in Trauma Informed Schools with a view to that enhancing her skills when providing 1:1 support for young people. As we are not allowed to go into school at the moment to provide our regular drop-in's so we are using this time to up skill staff and prepare us for what may inevitably be a higher need for support as a result of the pandemic.

JY Skatepark Youth meeting notes for 26/10/2020 : -

- JY has been looking at outreach throughout the covid changes, going mainly down to Saltmill, using our 1hrs exercise to begin with to see who was out and about and giving the young people updates and informing them of the Covid19 Rules and regs.
- JY had match funding through business Rate grant, which we have relooked at JY doing maintenance and putting things in place for coming back after Marches lockdown
- JY also gave out updates and useful information on our sites such as Facebook and Instagram and activities to keep young peoples minds active.
- JY was able to re-open in Late September and had a limit of 25 young people which was working really well, everyone was really happy to be back and had lots of mixed feelings about Covid19, they were uneasy about all the changes been made in school, but JY have reassured them and given information on how they can deal with mixed feelings regarding Covid changes etc...
- JY has been looking at funding bids to Sporting England and Awards for all, which are ready to send off but these funding bids are on hold as of November 5th 2020, we will look to send them off as soon as we can.
- JY will be working with Chris Barber from GW south in regards to there neet funding they received, They are looking for our Young people to support with there project, so its planned in to have meetings with Our young people at JY to discuss Saltmill Skatepark and how it can be regenerated and how it can meet health and safety standards etc... We will look to having this lead and driven by the young people guiding them throughout, Excited about this moving forward.....
- JY have had to close again giving the new NYA guidelines for November the 5th lockdown, however we will communicate through Social media and look to see how we can perhaps do some 1-1 sessions at Saltmill and we would like to speak to Local authorities to see if we could potentially open up JY for some family house holds doing sessions together ??
- JY will continue to work closely with Livewire and The Core through this next months lockdown and we will also contact the Schools to see if there is anywhere we can support, however this may not be a possibility because most schools are locked down to outside support at the moment.

Livewire

Over the summer months Livewire provided 3 online sessions per week which included online music lessons, quizzes, lip syncs and other fun stuff for young people to join in with as well as offering youth work and wellbeing support and some online counselling sessions.

We also had a telephone support service which comprised of mobile contact for young people struggling to call 10 till 12 each day and a telephone text 24hour service for anyone not feeling able to pick up the phone and talk.

One of Livewire's youth workers also undertook some additional training to support children returning to school after lockdown as an extension to the trauma informed schools training and met with children prior to them returning to school in September.

Livewire ran some outreach work during July, August and into September mainly around the waterside where young people were gathering and jumping in the river. Although we heard reports of some anti-social behaviour going on we didn't witness any ourselves and all the young people approached by Livewire staff were very respectful and friendly. The outreach has now stopped partly due to the change in weather and partly because of staff being so busy with other support.

Daytimes are really busy now with counselling and youth work support, school work and social care referrals. We are also offering after school support twice a week until 5.30pm

Our Evening sessions now include 2 evenings of band rehearsal/recording sessions for one band pre booked per session and we have a young women's music session once a week with an all round female musician.

We are also running a recording session on Saturday mornings.

Our online provision is continuing although these sessions have become quieter since we started moving out of lockdown. Young people tend to look and see who is working and send messages rather than talk openly in the online space. Although there are also those that are too anxious even for that meaning staff need to be vigilant as the young person may just click like on something and hope to be noticed that way.

The telephone support is also ongoing and continued throughout half term whilst Livewire was closed giving the staff a well deserved break.

Livewire also has 4 Marjon students (studying for a degree in youth work) currently on placement which is brilliant for us and them, they will be working mostly online but there is the opportunity for some face to face in person work too.