

The Core Youth Project
Interim report to Saltash Town Council
Oct – Dec 2020

Since receiving our first payment in October of last year it has been a challenge to run our usual youth programme. The pandemic has affected so much this year and has yet again prevented us from delivering our face-to-face work and our support work in the school. However during the autumn we were able to open and managed to provide 3 youth sessions per week with reduced sessions times, a booking system (the guidelines stated a maximum of 15), temperature checks and strict hygiene measures and the young people were clearly delighted to be back. We ran several sessions outside to reduce the risk and delivered sessions on fire making and bush craft. We then had to close due to the second lockdown but continued our sessions online and the young people enjoyed playing quizzes and games on Zoom!

We have risen to the many challenges and learnt to adapt our work and respond to the need. We have been working with Saltash Foodbank by running a community food table each week at The Core, offering families free food. This has been extremely well received and a way in which we can keep in touch with many of our families and also provide a service for the community.

We have also been working hard to develop our community garden in our outside space with the vision that we can run more bushcraft sessions, teach young people to grow plants and vegetables and provide a space for them to come and unwind and get closer to nature to help improve their mental health. We currently have the probation services' community payback team working on the garden so that we will have a fantastic and welcoming space ready for the young people and the community when restrictions are lifted.

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. This has enabled the team to continue to offer the following youth work sessions, whilst also developing our work 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 7-8pm.
Senior club for 13-18 year olds every Monday evening 7-8pm.
‘Just be you’ - LGBT+ group offered weekly where young people are able to meet and share experiences. Every Monday 3.15-4.15pm.
- When required we have moved our youth sessions to Zoom and continued to offer support to all our members
- Support young people most in need with 1:1 support and guidance and referrals

Match funding

Cornwall Community Foundation, Emergency Fund = £4793

Cornwall Community Foundation, Multi Year Funding = £10,000 per year for 3 years

I Will Fund = £5000

Total = 19,793

Outcomes and outputs achieved

Due to the autumn term being extremely different to what we normally be providing we cannot report in the way we usually do as we have not been able to offer the range of services on offer in a 'normal term'. We have not been able to offer our 1:1 sessions in Saltash School and have had to cap our groups at 15 to follow the guidance.

Youth Sessions delivered (Oct-Dec) in person = 23

Via Zoom = 4

1:1 Support offered via telephone = 4 young people

We are a small team and both of our part time youth support workers have been furloughed for periods during the last year, therefore our capacity is extremely limited by only having 1 full time member of staff who is a qualified youth worker and therefore able to offer 1:1 support and sexual health advice. However we have kept in constant contact with our members to ensure their well being and offering a chance to meet once a week online if we were not able to be in the centre.

We have also started a new "Craft Club" which we were able to run 3 times before Christmas and proved to be a safe space for a small group of young people to come and have some time away from busy households and enjoy making crafts and having some 'time out'. We hope to restart this group as soon as restrictions are lifted.

We look forward to when we are able to restart our full youth programme and providing young people with some much needed fun, support and social time!