

Livewire youth project annual report February 2020 to February 2021

What a year this has been! At Livewire one year ago things were going along as usual really busy with so much happening but perhaps most importantly lots of fun. That was until March 16th when we closed our doors following the evening session and were not sure when they would re-open.

We immediately moved our support online and set up online sessions to cover our Monday Wednesday and Thursday open access sessions and our Tuesday evening well being support sessions we also moved our counselling and youth work support sessions to either telephone, zoom or similar so that we could continue to support local young people.

We continued to offer support services throughout the first lockdown from March 2020 online then in July 2020 we returned to Livewire for some daytime provision and rearranged the building to make the rooms safe to offer support. Our one to one counselling room became a store cupboard due to its size as we moved music making equipment out of other rooms we also got some clear screens and undertook rigorous covid-19 risk assessments of the building so that we could use spaces safely, we even redesigned the venue as we would have no use for the stage for some time. We drew up spaces on the floor where the audience once stood for vocals, drums, keyboard, guitar X 2 and bass so that we could safely have band rehearsals in there.

Throughout July and August we held one to one support sessions at Livewire and in the evenings we started having young people in to rehearse with their peers, which is so good for their general well being. In August we also started to run recording sessions although very differently to ensure they are safe.

September when schools returned we started to support students again running daytime sessions which became very busy in the run up to Christmas and we also started having after school support sessions three days a week. When the second lockdown in November was announced it didn't affect the work we were doing at all because of the vulnerability of the young people who were accessing our support sessions.

We started to run single gender support sessions on Tuesday evenings in person in December which proved to be very successful. Then In January this year we had another lockdown which meant most of our services including these support sessions went online.

The school support continued throughout with the most vulnerable young people apart from that a new walk and talk service has been started whereby counsellors and youth workers have travelled to young people's homes and as the service suggests walk and talk with them outside. These services have continued in person everything else has been back online.

In January we started to run a Friday evening support session on zoom for young people, this is also proving to be very successful as the young people really do feel the need for the support.

This really has been quite a year for everyone and Livewire's members and staff are no different, we have managed to continue to offer services and support for local young people and have needed to be quite inventive at times on how to achieve it. Whilst we are coming to the end of this pandemic we fear there will be a lot of hard work for us and many others in moving forward.

End of Report.