



# Shepton Youth Club

February 2020

REPORT

## **YMCA BRUNEL GROUP SHEPTON YOUTH CLUB**

### **Report for Shepton Mallet Parish Council**

**Department:** Youth and Community

**Dated:** November 20 to February 21

**Lead officer:** Mark Willcox with input from staff



YMCA enables people to develop their full potential in mind, body and Spirit. Inspired by, and faithful to, our Christian Values, we create supportive, inclusive and energising communities, where young people can truly belong, contribute and thrive.

### **Our youth work at YMCA Brunel Group**

***YMCA Brunel Group delivers universal Youth Work for young people 10-19 (25 years additional needs). Operating in 8 youth clubs, project work across Mendip & South Somerset; Frome, Coleford, Glastonbury, Shepton Mallet, Street and Yeovil. Worked with 1200+ young people over the past year.***

***YMCA Brunel Group service organization providing a service and activities for young people and their communities.***



## **Shepton Mallet Youth Club**

### **Report October to February 2020**

*Sarah Coles (Team leader) New Team Leader in place.*

*Sarah worked with us previously as team leader at Shepton Mallet youth club and it is good to have her back working in Shepton. She is passionate about young people, enthusiastic and has many ideas to develop the youth club.*

*Shepton Youth Club Wednesday Evenings (term-time) 7.00pm–9.00pm*

### **Overview:**

#### **Detached youth work in Shepton Mallet**

A team of two youth workers have been engaging and targeting vulnerable young people in streets, parks and the Town Centre around Shepton Mallet.

We have continued to provide virtual youth clubs and wellbeing phone call checks over this period.

Due to Government guidelines we only were able to have two physical youth club sessions before the Paul Street Community Centre needed to close due to Government restrictions. These physical youth club sessions were attended by a long standing, core group of young people. They were all keen to participate in activities and embraced staff changes without hesitation. The staff team worked well to provide fun activities that initiated deeper discussion and analysis on the current COVID-19 situation and other problems relating to school and home life.

We have worked with 27 individual young people over this period. This is due to the impact of covid.

#### **Young People's involvement:**

Participation and making things happen through discussions on future planning.

#### **Some of the activities delivered throughout the quarter:**

The programme looked at fun based activities as a gentle way of getting young people to enact again physically; being aware of self and talking openly 'in person'.

#### **Case Studies:**

### Young Person 'A';

This individual has continued to take part in youth club activities for the last four years. They use the youth space to interact with other young people in a positive way and also connect with youth workers for support and downloading. It is possible to see that the youth club environment gives stability and reassurance. The strong role models provided offer 'holding' and have motivated this young person to request to act as a young leader.

### Young Person 'B'

Another established participant, who has gained from the ongoing support of youth workers, through difficult and tragic times at home. The club has given the opportunity to 'let off steam' in a safe environment and seek support, empathy and understanding.

### **Highs:**

The establishment of new staff team dynamic which is continuing to offer support, guidance and fun activities to increase the sense of wellbeing, through taking part and making a difference.

### **Lows:**

It is slightly disappointing that the young men are now without a male role model; we are looking to address this in the future, either through recruitment or on a volunteer basis.

### **Priorities for next quarter:**

Currently, provision of any support in these tricky times would be beneficial. This is under review and will have to remain flexible to work within new and ever changing government COVID guidance.

We are continuing to carry out detached youth work in Shepton Mallet and currently waiting for advice from Government and National Youth Agency to when it is safe to physical return to

**In addition to the Shepton Mallet Youth Club we have applied for Potential Violence Crime Reduction Unit funding for a project.** The Project would be a mix of detached work and social action community projects.

**Included below if an outline of the project for the Town council's information.**

This additional project for Shepton Mallet is dependent on a successful application to our funding application from the VRU. We are waiting to hear. This project will run in addition to the youth club and would be separately funded.

The project proposal: 10 months of Detached youth work including two community projects for Shepton Mallet area. The youth workers will empower the young people to take lead and active roles in these project.

Detached youth work in Shepton Mallet

A team of two youth workers will engage and target vulnerable young people in streets, parks and the Town Centre around Shepton Mallet.

This will be for one session a week for 10 months.

The detached team will give young people Covid advice, signposting any vulnerable young people they come across to the relevant agencies. The team will also link in with the police, Family Intervention Service and C.S.E (Chloe Deverell)

Through the detached youth work, the youth workers will also deliver two community project with young people.

The team will link in with Shepton Mallet youth club (part funded by Shepton Mallet Town Council) and encourage young people to participate in additional activities.

The team will also promote other opportunities for young people in the area e.g., Boxing club, Young Somerset, uniformed groups, etc.

Staffing: Each nine week community project will require an additional youth worker, so three staff in total for the project. Three workers will be required only for the two projects and the rest of the time down to two workers for the detached work. One of the youth workers will be a team leader. The team will receive support from the Director of youth & Community and YMCA Brunel central services as required.

The first project will be working with young people to produce a leaflet and map for young people and the local community to use to help 'be safe' and 'feel safe' (see below)

The second project will be determined through consultation with young people through the detached work. Through working with the young people the type of community project will be decided, its aims and goals and how it will be delivered. Our youth workers are skilled to help young people through this empowering process.

The Detached team of two youth workers will identify areas where young people meet and congregate. Over a period of weeks, our detached youth workers will build and nurture positive Relationships, encourage young people to develop a voice and to engage and lead on the planning of more purposeful and meaningful activities. As mentioned, we will also link in with our Shepton Mallet youth club (pre-Covid we had been working with 85+ individual local young people over the year). We will also link in the wider community & stakeholders, Shepton Mallet Town Council, police, schools, groups, agencies and organisations.

The two projects will challenge negative stereotyping of young people in Shepton Mallet Both projects will have clear outcomes designed with young people.

## **The Project** outline for the potential project

The detached youth work will continue for 10 months and within this period there will be two community projects lasting approx. 9 weeks per project.

### **Project one**

This multi-agency project, will aim to effectively engage vulnerable young people in the local community and those already in contact with the criminal justice service. The project will take a youth centred approach and run in distinct stages, to produce a leaflet and map for young people and the local community to use to help 'be safe' and 'feel safe', whilst exercising under COVID-19 restrictions and afterwards within Shepton Mallet (Avon and Somerset Police Crime Plan, 2020). It will ultimately enable people to engage with the urban landscape and neighbouring countryside, in a way that will promote health and wellbeing and foster the development of healthy coping mechanisms. It will in part, provide advice and guidance to help the youth of Shepton Mallet recover from the stresses of the pandemic, by promoting the appreciation of the natural outside environment, as a resource to remedy anxiety and stress. The main focus of the project will be on youth empowerment, by providing a listening culture approach, fostering and strengthening ties within the local population, to aid in promoting both personal and community resilience in a time when many people, especially young adults, are suffering with poor mental health. The finished document, that will be creative and visually exciting, tapping into to the skills of the young people and local artists, will link with a QR code and way-finding signs, to show clear routes and areas around the town to both exercise and enjoy with ease. The leaflet will include positive affirmations and health information to signpost those in need on to other organisations and support services. By doing so, it is hoped that positive life choices will be made and subsequently, there will be a reduction in the need for substance misuse. The leaflet will link in with popular government health initiatives such as 'Get Active to Get Healthy' and '0-5km' and '10,000 steps a day'.

### **Stages of Project One**

Stage1.

Detached Youth Outreach Work; Identify and build bonds with young people through walking and talking. Engagement through a listening culture approach.

Stage2.

Group Formation; brainstorming, design, discussion, linking with external community groups and valuing contribution. Building on creative skills and self-expression through art such as graffiti, spoken word and music.

Stage3.

Empowerment; making things happen. Final design and production of map and leaflet.

Stage 4.

Leaflet distribution and installation of way-marking signs. Publicity, marketing and celebration.

Stage 5.

Evaluation, sustainability and future plans.

### **Stages of Project Two**

Stage1.

Detached Youth Outreach Work; Identify and build bonds with young people through walking and talking. Engagement through a listening culture approach.

Stage2.

Identify the community project, Group Formation; brainstorming, discussion, linking with external community groups and valuing contribution. Building on creative skills and self-expression through art such as graffiti, spoken word and music.

Stage3.

Empowerment; making things happen. Developing the community project with young people.

Stage 4.

Finalising the community project and celebrating the final result.

Stage 5.

Evaluation, sustainability and future plans

We have submitted a project application to the Violence Reduction Unit

**We hope that we will be successful on the VRU bid, but there are no guarantees that we will.**

**AGAIN, WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK SHEPTON MALLET TOWN COUNCIL FOR THEIR GENEROUS SUPPORT AND COMMITMENT IN SUPPORTING LOCAL YOUNG PEOPLE AND YMCA BRUNEL GROUP SHEPTON YOUTH CLUB.**

**YMCA**

**YMCA**

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LEARN NEW SKILLS

GET INVOLVED IN YOUR COMMUNITY

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