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**Mid Year One Reaching Communities Report**

**Our Reaching Communities Journey...**

**October 2021 – April 2022**

***To be accompanied by our Annual Journal (work in progress)***

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### **1. When our Reaching Communities Journey Began**

North Farnham has some incredible organisations, groups, communities and people living and working in and around the area. The Hale Community Centre, their management, trustees and staff have been unwavering in their support of creating a provision for young people in Upper Hale and predominantly those living on the Sandy Hill Estate.

Hale Community Centre were swift to react to the reduction of youth provision in the area, which is one of multiple deprivation. The impact of the Covid pandemic resulted in the reduction of statutory services to the whole community, but the Community Centre reacted by providing essential support to those most in need during these demanding times. During this period young people were sadly left without the valuable youth provision that had been previously provided and it was evident that services were to further reduce. Hale Community Centre responded by listening to the community and putting into place measures to compensate for the withdrawal of statutory services, resulting in drawing up a plan to support young people in the community.

From their initial vision Hale Community Centre have achieved amazing things. They were successful in their Reaching Communities bid and recruited a Lead Youth Worker to help support them in making things happen.

## **2. Development of Youth Provision**

Our Lead Youth Worker, Tracy Yates was appointed in late August on a freelance basis in order to start making connections with young people and the community. This initial project focussed on 4 main themes:

1. Detached Outreach work with young people
2. Make contact with former Girlz Club beneficiaries
3. Relaunch Code Club
4. Development of youth centre/youth provision

During this period and into the first 6 months of Reaching Communities funding the overall objectives were;

- To make connections
- To meet prominent people within the community/network
- Start to create a voluntary youth workforce
- Meet young people through detached work
- To develop evidence base for new Girlz Club aimed at Year 8+, including previous beneficiaries
- Get to know the area
- Promote and build evidence base for new youth centre and interim youth club at Scout Hut on Hale Recreation Ground
- Start youth clubs for young people

After successful detached/outreach work on the Sandy Hill Estate we launched an interim youth group at the Scout Hut, providing a safe space for young people to come together with an array of activities to get involved in and providing food. Girlz Club beneficiaries were contacted but only 1 responded wanting to get involved in a session for young women aged between 13 and 17 in the initial contact phases. We ran a taster session for Code Club on the 28<sup>th</sup> October and relaunched the Club one Saturday per month from 8<sup>th</sup> January 2022, which is funded outside of the Reaching Communities allocation. Plans for the Youth Centre were starting to develop with several of the young people now visiting the space and helping to create our 'vision book'.

During the initial phases of operation it was agreed, by young people, staff, volunteers and Hale Community Centre Management that the Scout Hut was not working out as a venue, largely due to its location (a 10 minute walk from the Sandy Hill Estate, not pleasant in the rain and dark of October/November!). Hale Community Centre kindly gave us space in their centre to move the interim club there, while we waited for completion of the Youth Centre building.



This club is well attended with the majority attending living on the Sandy Hill Estate.

We have developed risk assessments, staff and volunteer contact forms, and several incarnations of a form for capturing young people's data and parent/carer permissions. We have also created a

comprehensive staff and volunteer handbook and enhanced our policies and procedures in relation to youth work. We have created methods to capture feedback including our vision book, evaluation forms, baseline assessments and a voting/suggestions box.

We have developed our youth provision with the fundamental principles of Protective Behaviours\* in mind. This revolves around the right we all have to feel safe all the time and that we can all talk with someone, about anything, even if it's awful or small. This has formed the basis of our rights and responsibilities, which we have at the Centre as opposed to a list of rules. The young people who initially attended youth club discussed and chose the following rights and responsibilities at youth club, and each new member is required to acknowledge it as membership of that particular club or project.

#### Our Rights...

- To feel safe all the time
- To express ourselves in a safe way
- To talk with someone about anything, even if it's awful or small
- Evaluate what we do at youth club to help make it better
- To play
- To have fun
- To take a time-out for ourselves/ find a safe space if we are feeling overwhelmed

#### Our Responsibilities:

- To make sure local residents feel safe
- To make sure we respect the building, it's grounds, its contents and everyone in it
- Ensure that our behaviour helps everyone, including ourselves, feel safe
- To make sure we can get home safely
- Be kind and help others when we can
- Participate as much, or as little, as we want



#### Statistics:

Data One: Total number of beneficiaries - Mid Year One

Total number attended:	33			
Male	18	Female	15	
			Total % living on Sandy Hill Estate	75%

## Data Two: Monthly breakdown

	Total attendance	Male	Female	Total individual beneficiaries	% Sandy Hill residents
Month One (Nov 2021)	19	6	5	11	82
Month Two (Dec 2021)	32	8	16	24	82
Month Three (Jan 2022)	40	9	7	16	100
Month Four (Feb 2022) *Closed one week for half term break	36	8	6	14	86
Month Five (March 2022)	90	17	12	29	76
Month Six (April 2022)	Closed due to Easter Holidays	Re-opening Weds 20th April			
Totals:	217	17	16	33	75

*ASB statistics:*

We are grateful to the local police for providing the data on anti social behaviour in the area. Unfortunately these have been unable to be split by age however the summary **22/9/2020 - 22/9-2021** is as follows:

- Total calls regarding ASB (Anti Social Behaviour) - 119
- Rowdy and Inconsiderate Behaviour - 50 - (39 of the 50 callers identified youths as being involved)
- Nuisance neighbours - 21
- Vehicle nuisance/inappropriate use - 11

We will monitor again for the same period next year for inclusion in our Year Two report.

During a recent meeting of the Sandy Hill Task and Finish Group (Feb 2022) it was noted that Anti Social Behaviour amongst young people was markedly down in the past 3 months in comparison to a year ago. Whilst caution is advised around the interpretation of this data we are hopeful that our work is going some way to impacting this and we will continue to use our youth provision to educate young people and support them to become positive members of their community.

During the first six months we have developed some excellent relationships with young people, with the majority of those attending evaluating sessions as 'good' or 'excellent'. Engagement with the target group of Sandy Hill is working exceptionally well - with April 2022 figures demonstrating 75% of those attending live on the estate.

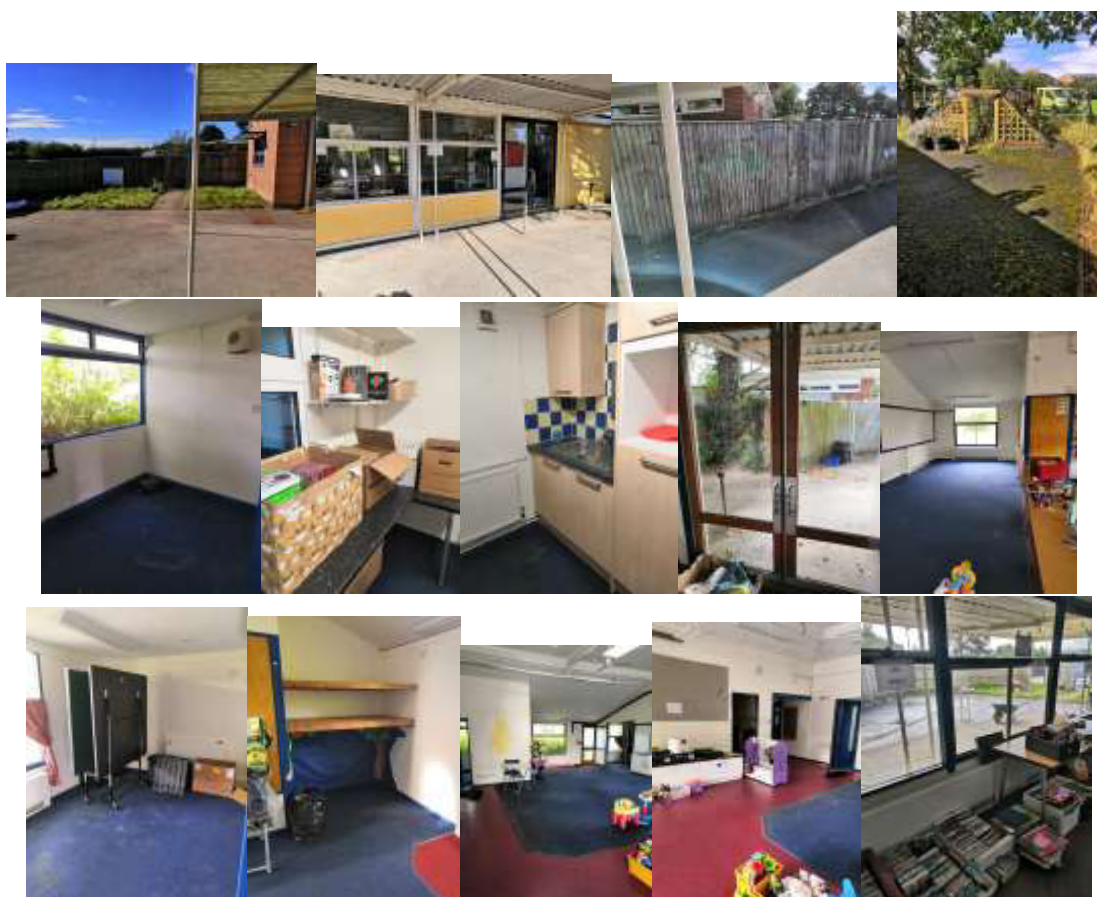
We have aimed to run varied, engaging activities for young people and over the last 6 months sessions have included:

- Sports
- Developing our Vision Book
- Site visits to the Youth building
- Meeting with Surrey County Council design team
- Drugs education
- Relationships
- Healthy Friendships
- Rights and Responsibilities
- Careers and aspirations
- Cooking/baking
- Eating together
- Sex education
- Discussions
- Consequences
- Arts
- Crafts
- Journalling
- Scrapbooks
- Boxing

We have also been able to support young people and their families through giving food parcels (thanks to the Hale Community Fridge and Cupboard) and continue to monitor families where there are concerns of food poverty, working alongside the relevant agencies and organisations where appropriate. We feel that we have made great headway in providing a valued youth provision and we are really looking forward to developing more projects throughout the rest of Year One and beyond.

## ***The development of our Youth Centre:***

### ***Our before portfolio...***



Despite the delays work started on the new Youth Centre in January 2022. Work really started to get going in November 2021 when the team we are now working with at Surrey County Council began to get involved and they have provided incredible financial support as well as providing fresh ideas and inspiration.

We are looking forward to developing an incredible space for young people. A space they take pride in, helped create, have decided what goes in it and what we will do here. We are really looking forward to opening to young people on 20th April with our official Launch Event taking place on 6th May.

Wanting our Centre to be youth led we continually consult with young people about what they want to do at the Youth Centre. Those with a demand of 6 or more will be ideas that we take into the second part of the year and into year two. We do this through discussions, voting, our vision book and our



suggestions box. Current interest levels (as of April 2022) for activities/events/projects/areas of interest at the new centre include:

- Sports - 6
- Arty stuff - 12
- Crafts - 7
- Making stuff - 8
- Chatting - 8
- Guest speakers - 2
- Gardening - 4
- Learning to DJ/MC/Write lyrics - 3
- Learn about jobs - 4
- Job Club for 16-25s - 3
- Coffee shop/cafe - 6
- Cooking/learning to cook - 8
- Self-defence - 9
- Boxing - 9
- Girls only group - 7
- Boys only group - 8
- Games consoles - 14
- Music - 4
- Grow our own fruit and veg - 3
- Mental health - 6
- Keeping safe/safety planning - 3
- Coping with feeling angry - 3
- Barbecues in the Summer - 8

Their wish list includes:

- Playstation 5
- Flat screen tv
- Projector (internet connectivity, high quality, to use with Playstation and for presentations/movie nights etc)
- Pool table
- Punch bag

(\*these figures are as of April 2022)

### **3. How we've involved young people and those from the wider community and the difference we are making**

#### *Working in partnership - and with the community*

Hale Community Centre, their staff, trustees and volunteers were instrumental in introducing us to the community and supporting us through donating space to run our interim youth club sessions. They continue to be integral to our success through their guidance, leadership, management and support. They ensure that the Youth Team and Youth Centre are accountable and that they continue to offer direct support. The Lead Youth Worker provides a monthly report to the Centre Manager to keep the Board of Trustees up to date with data, challenges, achievements and future plans.

We met with and are being supported by lots of individuals and organisations, many of whom we continue to develop relationships with, these include:

- Surrey County Council
- Scouts Association
- Councillor Catherine Powell
- Farnham Connects
- Volunteer West Surrey
- Rushmoor Voluntary Services
- University of the Creative Arts, Farnham
- The Maltings
- Farnham Heath End School
- Farnham Youth Workforce Practitioners Network
- Farnham Arts Society
- Police
- Corporate organisations



We have also attended (and supported) community events and meetings to raise the profile of youth provision in the area, celebrate our Reaching Communities grant and meeting with community members, young people, funders and stakeholders.

Our volunteer workforce are also predominantly local people who have also been able to garner support from the wider community in terms of donations of resources and we are gathering feedback from our volunteers so that their voices are heard in terms of how we operate and the support we give them.

We continue to develop relationships with Surrey County Council, Farnham Town Council, Waverley Borough Council, the police and other stakeholders so that we garner more attention for support for youth provision in the area and are a voice for young people.

From April 20th we will be operating the following from the Youth Centre:

Mondays - Girlz Club (funded separately)

Wednesday - Universal session for 11-19 year olds (through Reaching Communities)

Friday - Youth Cafe for 11-14s (through Reaching Communities) followed by 'Boys Night In' for 14-19s (funded separately)

### **The difference we are making**

*How has what we have done helped?*

From the initial detached work through to our current youth club, we have been making a difference to the lives of young people. This might only be in small ways in some cases, a friendly piece of advice, a listening ear, encouragement or nurture. We are also providing hot (mostly!) nutritious meals for young people, where we eat around a table together. This is often something young people never get to experience at home and adds to the sense of being a 'family' and supporting each other. We are providing young people with a safe environment where they can express themselves, explore issues, identity and feelings and feel listened to and valued.

Young people feel they can trust the youth team and have someone they can talk with about any topic without fear of judgement. Our activities are engaging and have taught skills such as cooking, baking, creating art and exploring topical issues. In just a short space of time we have seen young people's confidence, self-esteem, confidence and behaviour change.

We have also been instrumental in restarting network meetings for the youth workforce across the borough, creating a safe space for the sharing of information and to learn about what other projects and activities are available for young people across the area. We have also been informed by young people that we have made a marked difference in the improvement of their wellbeing, and the results of our recent evaluation are reported below.

On 16th March 2022 we asked young people who regularly attend our Wednesday night youth club for 11-19 year olds to help us review what we are doing well and where we could make improvements. 15 young people aged between 11 and 18 completed the survey (although there were 23 young people in the session for some it was only their first or second experience of attending).

Number of males: 8

Number of females: 7

Ages:

10 - 4

12 - 2

13 - 1

14 - 4

16 - 2

17 - 1

18 - 1

What do you like about coming to youth club? (please tick all that apply)

The activities	73%
Doing art/crafts	47%
Free food	73%
The other young people that come here	53%
The centre	60%
The staff/volunteers	93%
The chance to talk about things that affect me	60%
The information/advice I am given	53%
The chance to try new things	87%
Please let us know any other reasons you come here...  "Just chilling" "Because we do baking" "I just want to have fun" "To have fun and enjoy my life" "Talking"	

Please tick of you think any of these things have got better (improved) for you since coming to youth club:

My confidence	80%
My self-esteem (how I feel about myself)	47%
My skills	47%
My mental health	60%
My understanding of other people	27%
My friendships	53%

<p>Please use this space to let us know anything else that has got better for you since coming to youth club...</p> <p>“Myself”</p>	
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What activities would you like to do at the new Youth Centre?

- PS5 (x2 responses)
- Pool table
- Basketball
- A tower competition
- More baking
- Art
- Drawing
- Skipping
- Eating contests
- Table tennis
- Everything

What could we do to make your youth club better?

- Nothing (x2 responses)
- It's great as it is
- Open for longer
- It's good as it is
- More food
- Colouring sheets/books

What do you like best about coming to youth club?

- The food (x3 responses)
- Chilling with my mates
- Coming down and seeing everyone with a smile on their faces
- Playing with the Lego
- The art and cooking
- I get to have fun
- Everything
- Free food, friends and fun times
- It's fun
- Wearing what I want, meeting new people and having a great time

This feedback has provided us with a sense of pride in what we have achieved so far as well as providing critical information to help guide us through the next 6 months and beyond.

*How do we know this?*

Young people are at the heart of everything we are doing and their input is critical in developing the Youth Centre and future provision. Every week they are asked to evaluate the sessions and are invited to have input into the activities offered for the following week and what food they would like. They are also helping to create a vision book for the future Youth Centre and are developing ideas for the type of activities, equipment and resources they would like there, providing us with an evidence base. Young people regularly attend each week and are increasingly engaging in group activities. Our March 2022 evaluation (detailed above) is part of a 6 monthly review undertaken by young people who attend our provision. We also send out Volunteer Feedback forms on a regular basis so that we ensure we are also hearing their voices and ways we can make improvements.

*One young person's story...*

During their time with us one of our young people initially presented as outwardly confident but with low self-esteem and having recently suffered grief. Since Covid and the first lockdown their anxiety levels had increased and they disengaged from their college course. During conversations over the first 2 months they stayed to help clear up after sessions and opened up to the youth team. Over time they talked about their hopes for the future, their toxic relationship, their anxieties. We involved them in as many activities as possible. Just 3 months later they have ended the unhealthy relationship and have started an apprenticeship in a field they are interested in. We can't take credit for this, it is down to the young person's growth, tenacity, resilience and hopes for a successful future. We just hope that our words of encouragement and the ability to talk openly with trusted adults have helped them on their journey.

*One young person's comment...*

*"What I like (about the youth team) is that you don't treat us like children. You talk with an 11 year old the same you do an 18 year old. You show us respect" - 12 year old male*

*One volunteers feedback:*

"I'm enjoying getting to know the young people. I feel like I'm making good connections and starting to get to know the individuals better. I enjoy youth club as it is something completely different to my normal day job that is office based and quite corporate. So far, I think it's making a good impact on my wellbeing. It gets me out of the house on a weekly basis and I get to have conversations with people face to face which is nice - I don't get that in my day job."

*Changes we have made to the original plan:*

In order to develop relationships with young people and provide an evidence base for the new Youth Centre, Hale Community Centre recruited a Lead Youth Worker to start detached work in late August.

This led to the start of our interim youth club at the Scout Hut and then moving to Hale Community Centre. The delays to the opening of the Youth Centre have been frustrating but we have adapted and been able to offer good quality youth provision from the Community Centre to ensure that young people are supported.

As outlined below we have also identified a potential trainee/apprentice youth worker - this escalation of the planned introduction of the trainee role was a result of interviewing someone with a rich history that matches our ethos and the value they can add to our youth offer. We have struggled to recruit a suitably qualified youth worker and so have had to rely on our voluntary workforce and delay the opening of our 11-14 and 14-19 year old youth club sessions. However we are pleased that we are able to launch the 11-14 sessions from our new Youth Centre from 22nd April 2022, with the support of volunteers and our session for 14-19 year olds will start in September 2022.

### **What we have learned**

We have learned so much - about the young people themselves, their lives, their struggles, their challenges and their hopes for the future. We have also enhanced our understanding of the wider community and how organisations work together to provide support, as well as identifying gaps in provision.

#### *Our challenges*

- Staffing and volunteer recruitment
  - We have found recruitment of both paid staff and volunteers very challenging. This has a huge impact on the type and level of youth support we are able to provide. With just a few staff/volunteers it often leads to fire-fighting rather than meaningful youth support. Our recruitment process for a L2 qualified Youth Worker has been particularly frustrating. Despite advertising on Indeed and through our community networks the quality of applicants has been disappointingly low and 3 out of 4 interviewees either did not turn up for their (zoom) interview or cancelled with little notice. We have however identified a candidate who we have initially taken on as a volunteer, with a view to them taking on the trainee position and we are currently applying for a bursary to pay for their Level 2 qualification. This person has an enormous amount of potential and her background and incredibly inspirational story lends itself well to working with young people facing adversity and challenges in life. She has 2 years voluntary experience, working in Alternative Education and with young people living in areas of multiple deprivation. We are hoping to amend our Reaching Communities agreement to bring their role into June 2022. However we do still need a strong Assistant Team Lead with relevant experience working with young people and have therefore reissued the advert and are advertising through partner organisations. Volunteer recruitment had also been a challenge, however a surge of publicity over Christmas and into the New Year yielded a new crop of interest and we are starting to develop a database of interested parties who cannot currently attend on a Wednesday evening. We now have 6 volunteers supporting us on Wednesday evenings and are currently advertising for volunteers to

support our Friday Youth Club for 11-14 year olds and 'Boys Night In' for 14-19 year olds, starting on 22nd April 2022.

- Funding for resources and equipment
  - We are creating a wonderful space for young people that needs to reflect our ethos - high quality, interesting, engaging, sustainable, welcoming and safe. It is critical that the quality of our resources and activities reaches the high standard we thrive to achieve - but this costs! We now need to continue to submit funding bids to ensure that everything we provide for young people is the best we can get - young people who are at a disadvantage deserve this more than anyone.
- Adapting to Covid 19 regulations
  - The impact of covid has clearly impacted our provision and we have followed National Youth Agency guidance to ensure we are all as safe as we can be.
- Delays to youth centre work and renovations
  - We knew through meeting young people in the streets during our detached youth work that the demand was there for a youth club – but we didn't realise when we embarked on this project we would face such struggles to get the old nursery building safely renovated for us. We were initially told we would have the building in Summer 2021, then November, then January 2022, then March, then April.... However despite all of the delays we have been rewarded with a great team at Surrey County Council who helped us see beyond our initial hopes for the space. They helped to inspire us and enabled us to see that we really could create an incredible space, supported and led by the young people themselves.
- Behavioural challenges
  - One of the challenges of setting up any new provision is establishing what constitutes appropriate behaviour. We have experienced 3 incidents of damage to the Community Centre, one of these a direct result of not having enough staff/volunteers to monitor all areas of the centre when we had over 14 young people attending. We have taken all such incidents as learning points however and young people are now also increasingly peer-monitoring each other and choosing themselves what is unacceptable



#### 4. What's gone well?

Perhaps the most meaningful outcome is the incredible value of the relationships we are building. In the main they are with young people who live on the Sandy Hill Estate. They sometimes present as loud, rude, shy, confrontational, dismissive, challenging at times. They often lack self esteem, personal confidence, lack of role models, display sexualised language and are struggling to achieve. We have been privileged to be able to see the real person underneath. We are working with young people who are dealing with blended families, living in poverty, estranged fathers, overcrowded housing, young carers, struggling at school, questioning their place in the world, anxious, depressed, suffering the impacts of Covid and isolation, mental health, substance misuse (often within their own families/carers/extended network) - they've got an awful lot going on for them at such a young age, our youngest regular members being 10 and our eldest 18.

In a relatively short space of time (just under 6 months) we have created an environment where young people feel safe, can talk with an adult they are building trust with and enjoy attending. Young people largely evaluate our youth club as 'good' or 'excellent'. They receive free food and the opportunity to help with cooking under the supervision of one of our youth team. They are able to get involved in games, activities and discussions. We have experienced our fair share of challenges but we have used these as a way of strengthening our relationships with young people, showing that whilst behaviour has consequences they are still treated with fairness, honesty, respect and they know that they are valued. Our aim is to enable them to feel safe all of the time and we will continue to reinforce the rights and the responsibilities agreement that they were an integral part of creating.

The development of these relationships are from the whole team. Our volunteers have learnt exceptionally quickly, often with minimal supervision or support due to the short set up and debrief time, the fact that a small group of young people are increasingly turning up 40 minutes before the session and staying until we almost lock the doors! This means we are often short on time to talk and to do any form of training. However as we expand the team, both paid and volunteers, we will be able to introduce a formal induction process with regular reviews, non-managerial supervision, internal, external and off-site training sessions. The creation of the Handbook will also help to provide guidance to the whole team.

We have recently (April 2022) been approved to become a condom distribution site for Surrey Sexual Health. This has been a direct outcome of engagement with young people at our Wednesday night club and discussions relating to sexual health. This is an excellent development for us as it supports our commitment to enable young people to be safe and reduce the risks of exploitation and coercive control.

We have also recently been successful in applying for funding to create a graffiti project at the new Centre - enabling young people to learn art skills together and which will culminate in the creation of a graffiti piece on some fencing that faces the centre. This is a fabulous opportunity for young people to both express themselves through the creative process as well as increasing the sense of ownership of 'their space'.

As a consequence of our increased provision of services for young people we have also been invited to apply for funding for our 'Seed to Plate' concept. The overall aim of the 'Seed to Plate' project is to create an outdoor space at the Centre where young people can learn to grow their own produce from seed, get involved in outdoor activities, help with landscaping and learn about the natural environment. They will have the opportunity to learn how to cook what they have harvested, with the longer term intention of supplying produce and herbs to the Youth Cafe. Young people will learn to garden, maintain gardens, create their own bird food and meet other young people. Many sessions will take place during our youth club sessions and additional projects.

We hope that we can encourage volunteers from all walks of life to help with the gardening and cooking elements of the project - we will be looking to offer opportunities to Hale Community Gardens, SHIP, WISH, Space to Grow and Men in Sheds volunteers in particular. This will help us to create a cross-generational project where everyone in the community is learning about each other in a kind and safe environment. The Youth Centre has an accessible kitchen that we are aiming to use to run a Youth-led Cafe, as a kitchen for youth club sessions and a training resource. The Youth Centre and kitchen will be available to those involved in the project.



In addition our Lead Youth Worker has been developing connections across the wider community in order to develop ideas and understand the area on a more meaningful level. This has included helping at Hale Community Centre Community Days, meeting Nikki Parkhill, Strategic Commissioning Manager at Surrey County Council and attending Farnham Connects meetings amongst many others. This has enabled us to not only inform the community of the progress we are making with youth provision but also to develop an understanding of the services and support available.

Unexpected outcomes include:

- **Code Club**  
Thanks to the appointment of our Lead Youth Worker and the identification of one of our youth club volunteers who codes for a living, we have been able to relaunch our Code Club. This enables 9-13 year olds with an interest in coding to meet once a month to develop their skills and their confidence.
- **Corporate support**  
Due to our Lead Youth Workers previous connections with the Community Matters Partnership Project we have been able to engage with BMW who will be running Corporate Community Days to help support the transformation of our outside space, with potential for helping to decorate the inside of the Centre later in the year
- **Kitchen design and costs**  
Part of our plan for young people was to create a kitchen at the Youth Centre where young people could learn to cook and bake, with the potential for attaining qualifications in Food Safety and Hygiene and other relevant certificates. We were conscious that this would mean applying for additional funding which could prove challenging. However as part of the renovations pledged by Surrey County Council they have funded an exceptional kitchen space and whilst we were responsible for fundraising for appliances we were also successful in this.

We are now in the fantastic position of having an amazing kitchen facility that will be of benefit to so many of our projects as well as the wider community in the future.

- Grants awarded  
In order to provide an excellent service to young people with the highest quality resources we have had to look for additional funding. We have so far been successful in receiving funding from the Surrey Council Members Allocation Fund (just under £5000) and South Street Trust for £1500 for our graffiti project
- The Kindness Project at Heath End School  
Our Lead Youth Worker has started to build excellent connections with our local secondary school, Farnham Heath End. Following on from a meeting with the school's Whole Child Lead to promote our provision we were invited to run a programme for girls in Year 10 who were struggling to engage in education. This has resulted in the development of a 12-week programme 'The Kindness Project' that has been running at the school since the end of January. It has also led to developing a holistic approach regarding the welfare and wellbeing of young people, working together to ensure the safety of young people at the school who also attend our clubs
- The donations from the wider Farnham Community  
The wider Farnham community have been amazing in their support of the development of provision for young people. We have been donated a coffee machine, arts and crafts materials and most recently a sofa for our new Centre.
- Project New Steps  
As a result of our initial engagement with the police and detached youth work we are part of a group that are seeking to create a set of steps for young people on the Sandy Hill Estate to provide them with an alternative 'hang out' area, moving them away from community steps that was a frequent cause of concern for local residents
- GASP project  
Continuing on from our engagement and networking with other organisations and agencies we are now working with the 'GASP' project, who, from September, will be running workshops with young people relating to car/motorbike/quad bike maintenance which also enables them to gain AQA qualifications
- Holiday club  
We are currently in negotiation with Active Surrey to offer a 4-week holiday programme for young people aged 11-16 in receipt of Free School Meals to get involved with meaningful activities in the Summer Holidays
- IDT- Systems  
Thanks to Councillor Catherine Powell we have been introduced to a local business owner who is supplying us with tables, chairs, a music system and wall art for the new Centre. They have also offered work experience and apprenticeship opportunities for young people who attend our provision
- Boys Night In  
Due to the development of the Youth Centre we have received funding from Thriving Communities to run a male-only club on Friday night's for 14-19 year olds. This is a direct result of consultation with young people attending our provision and will enable us to support young

men, particularly in issues such as mental health, emotional wellbeing, sexual health, consent and toxic masculinity

## 5. Our plans for the rest of Year 1

- What are we taking in from our year so far? What are we changing?

We have learned an awful lot in a relatively short space of time. From starting to talk with young people through detached youth work in September 2021 to delivering a consistent weekly youth club we have experienced a number of challenges that have helped to guide how we are moving into the rest of Year One and beyond.

We are applying for funding for new projects and to buy high quality resources and materials for our young people to use and to help support the development of new skills and interests. We are continuing to support wider community initiatives whilst being mindful of the capacity to support at the detriment of focussing on opening the new Youth Centre and developing its future. We will be seeking funding to provide £25 worth of food at each of our youth groups as we have identified that this is not only hugely valued by young people but it is essential - it helps to improve behaviour, build connections, enables us to teach life skills to young people. Perhaps most importantly it also enables us to provide young people with healthy, nutritious, hot food, which is so needed in the current climate as energy and food prices rise, which has a massive impact on the families of young people we work with.

The focus for the next 6 months (April - September 2022) is:

- Start to deliver youth club on a Wednesday evening at Hale Youth Centre, 7-9pm
- Start to deliver youth club (cafe style) for 11-14's Friday 3.30-5.30pm
- Start 'Boys Night In' Club on Friday evenings at Hale Community Centre (depending on dates/availability)
- Apply for funding to cover food costs at all 3 sessions and 4 from September 2022
- Continue to develop the vision for the youth centre and plan engaging sessions
- Continue to apply for funding for resources, materials and projects
- Launch Event (6th May)
- Recruit Level 2 (or equivalent) qualified youth worker
- Continue to review our staff/volunteer handbook and policies/procedures manual
- Continue to expand and develop our volunteer team
- Start to develop a more formal induction and training process for staff/volunteers
- BMW community action day for outside space - May 4th and 5th

- Fund raise for additional hours for Lead Youth Worker to enhance opportunities for the development of the project
- Develop Holiday Club with Active Surrey (pending funding)
- Run the graffiti project
- Supporting other organisations and promoting opportunities that benefit our clients

## **6. Appendix**

1. What are Protective Behaviours?
  - To be included in end of Year One Report
2. Our Vision/Mood book
  - To be included in end of Year One Report
3. Financial Report
  - To be included in end of Year One Report
4. Press and Publicity
  - To be included in end of Year One Report
5. Gratitudes

## 5. Gratitudes

We would like to express our heartfelt thanks to all the organisations and individuals that have supported our journey so far. Particular thanks to...

- Reaching Communities (the National Lottery)
- All of the young people we have met
- All of our volunteers and staff
- Hale Community Centre team
- Hale Community Centre Board of Trustees
- Everyone we have met in the Sandy Hill/Upper Hale community
- Councillor Catherine Powell
- Surrey County Council
- Farnham Town Council
- Waverley Borough Council
- Scouts Association
- Youth Workforce Practitioners Network members
- Nikki Parkhill
- Alan Hilliar
- Surrey Police - in particular the PCSO team
- Community Matters Partnership Project (CMPP)
- Code Club
- Red Hat
- Farnham Heath End school
- Farnham Public Arts Trust
- Farnham Connects
- Volunteer West Surrey
- Rushmoor Voluntary Services
- Farnham Voice
- IDT- Systems
- South Street Trust
- Community Foundation Surrey
- Thriving Communities
- Active Surrey

- Tracy Scares (Youth Worker on the Sandy Hill Estate for the last 20 years)
- 40 Degreez

# What's on at The Shed!

## (HALE YOUTH CENTRE)

WEDNESDAY 7PM - 9PM

Youth club for 11-19 year olds

Hang out in a safe, friendly space!

Free food, music, art, table-tennis and lots more!



FRIDAY 3.30-5.30PM

Youth club for 11-14 year olds

Free food!

Music!

Activities!

Arts and crafts!

Outdoor stuff!

FRIDAY 6PM - 8PM

'BOYS NIGHT IN'

For males aged 14-19

Hang out and talk about boy stuff!



All our youth clubs are FREE and located at the new Hale Youth Centre, next door to Hale Community Centre, 130 Upper Hale Road, Upper Hale.

For more info email: [youthlead@halecommunitycentre.org.uk](mailto:youthlead@halecommunitycentre.org.uk)