

Month 3

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| <p>The story of our project so far:</p> | <p>The first 3 months have been centered on 4 main themes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Detached Outreach work with young people 2. Make contact with former Girlz Club beneficiaries 3. Relaunch Code Club 4. Development of youth centre/provision <p>The overall objectives are;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 <p>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 (more information in 'what we have learned'). We ran a taster session for Code Club on the 28th October and are relaunching the Club one Saturday per month from 8th January 2022. Plans for the Youth Centre continue to be developed with several of the young people now visiting the space and helping to develop our 'vision book'.</p> |
| <p>How we have involved people from the community in what we do:</p> | <p>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.</p> <p>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 the Hale Community Centre Community Day, meeting Nikki Parkhill, Strategic Commissioning Manager at Surrey County Council and attending Farnham Connects meeting. 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.</p> <p>We have also been instrumental in restarting network meetings for the youth workforce across the borough, creating a safe space for sharing of information and to learn about what other projects and activities are available for young people across the area (more in the difference we are making below).</p> <p>We have also started to build connections with Farnham Heath End school so that we can start to work together to support young people.</p> <p>Our volunteer workforce are also predominantly local people from the community who have also been able to garner support from the wider community in terms of donations of resources.</p> |

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| <p>The difference we are making:</p> | <p>Attendance data: Code Club: 4 young people plus 1 young volunteer helper. (2 males 2 female). Wednesday night Youth Club: 27/10/21: No session (half term) 3/11/21: 2 (both female) 10/11/21: 12 (3 male, 9 female) 17/11/21: 12 (4 male, 8 female)</p> <p>Total number of individual beneficiaries to date: 25 Total number of beneficiaries living in the Sandy Hill Estate: 18</p> <p>Young people report that they mostly think the youth club sessions were excellent or good, with only 4 reports of 'okay' over the last 3 sessions. We are also supporting a young person (aged 17 and currently NEET) who experiences anxiety and low self esteem and have promoted them to the role of 'Young Leader' to help develop their confidence and a sense of achievement. Young people are starting to open up more about the issues they face and are keen to get involved in small group discussions. We are starting to develop trusting relationships where young people can express themselves in a safe way.</p> <p>We are also making a difference through the development of the Youth Workforce Network, providing a safe space for professionals working directly with young people in the borough to share ideas, good practice, and have the opportunity to showcase their projects. This is in its infancy but it is expected that this will be developed to help influence and inform key decision makers, advocate for young people and also to share information to safeguard vulnerable or at-risk young people by working in a proactive, protective and holistic way.</p> <p>We have started to develop a relationship with the 'Whole Child' Lead at Farnham Heath End School and this will mean we have greater reach and can work together to support the topical needs of young people in North Farnham.</p> |
| <p>What we've learned:</p> | <p>Whilst we were grateful to run our interim youth club at the Scout Hut, we learned through talking with young people and low attendance figures that the location was too far away for young people from the Sandy Hill to access, particularly in poor weather and for those who do not have the benefit of a lift from parents/carers.</p> <p>Our evaluations are indicating that we are doing well at providing a youth club that young people want to do and are enjoying their time at. One of the challenges we have is that our Led Youth Worker is currently funding all of the resources and this is no longer a viable option (and was never sustainable in the long term). We need to be able high-quality resources and an interesting array of activities in order to stimulate young people. We also need to build together a list of resources and equipment and submit funding bids to relevant grant-givers for when the new youth centre opens in April. We are continuing to build our 'wish list' and researching funding providers to facilitate this. In order to attract more males, we also need to be able to offer opportunities for gaming. Whilst we would like a high-quality projector for the new youth centre this is not an option at the moment due to the high costs involved. In the interim we could benefit from 2 tv's a PS5 and an Xbox (Tracy has one she can donate but it's not the latest model although will suffice in the interim). It is crucial that young people who do not have the benefit of affluent parents to buy them these items for the home, have the opportunity to access them at youth club, not only for engagement but in order for them to feel valued.</p> <p>Our vision book has indicated that there are high levels of interest in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sports • Arts • Making stuff |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chatting • Learning to cook/cooking • Talking about relationships • Talking about sex and sexuality • Self defence • Boxing • Girls only club • Boys only club • Games consoles and games • Mental health • Barbecues in the summer <p>We have started our Baseline assessments with young people who are stating regularly and these will be reported on in future reports.</p> <p>We have experienced some challenging behaviour on 2 occasions and this has demonstrated that we need to remind young people of their rights and responsibilities at youth club and the need for consistent reinforcement whilst the group settles into the community centre as an interim venue.</p> |
| <p>How we are changing what we do:</p> | <p>In response to feedback from young people and low attendance figures we have been able to move our Weds night youth club to Hale Community Centre. This has clearly had an impact with higher attendance figures and the opportunity to cook and with comfortable spaces to hang out and chat.</p> <p>More emphasis on responsibilities/expectations of behaviour.</p> <p>Need to develop funding bids to pay for resources and equipment both for centre and interim sessions.</p> <p>We have developed Young People contact forms so that we can continue an open dialogue with them outside of sessions and inform them of any changes.</p> <p>We have produced a staff/volunteer feedback form to be issued on a termly basis so that we can also capture their journey of travel and learn from their input.</p> |
| <p>Action plan for the next 3 months:</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to deliver Wednesday night youth club from Hale Community Centre • To issue the art competition to UCA, 6th form, Farnborough Tech and Farnham Maltings • To relaunch Code Club from 8th January on a monthly basis • To write a programme of support for Year 10 students at Farnham Heath End School • To issue baseline assessments to all young people attending • To ensure young people return parent permission slips • To ensure young people complete contact sheets • To continue to work in partnership with key people and organisations within the community • To continue to develop the vision for the Youth Centre • To look towards starting Girls Club and Boys Club, dependent on funding bid outcome • To apply for funding for resources and equipment • To decide how we will start to deliver the additional 2 clubs in line with our Reaching Communities commitments • To run the Community Action Day with BMW/Community Matters Partnership Project (the outside space of the Youth Centre) in January 2022 • To recruit a L2 Youth Worker |