

Impact Report for GirlzClub. August 2023.

Data –

We currently have sixteen Year 7 girls on our GirlzClub register. Out of these sixteen girls, twelve - fourteen of them attend regularly every week. Ten of them live on the Sandy Hill estate or roads that are just adjacent to the estate. The remaining six are from Aldershot, Farnham & at the very bottom of the Upper Hale Road. Alongside our Year 7 girls, we now also have four Young Leaders (Year 8, 10 and 11), three of which are from the Sandy Hill estate and regulars to the youth centre. Except for school holidays, we have continued to run our sessions regularly each Monday, from 3pm till 5pm. The girls always arrive to the sessions, early and full of excitement.

Report –

I am pleased to report that we have had a very positive end to our year at GirlzClub. The girls have been an absolute pleasure to work with and it has been a real privilege to watch them grow and develop over the course of the year. Participation and engagement have been excellent, and the close bond that the girls share has continued throughout the year. They actively encourage and support each other and ensure everyone feels valued and included.

Since my last report, we have continued with the girl's favourite activities of weekly baking and art. They have continued to play a big role in choosing what things we bake and what art activities we try. This term they have particularly enjoyed creating their own tie-dye t-shirts, making their own candles and participating in an art workshop. We were lucky enough to have someone come in and run a 'watercolour' art session and all the girls produced their own amazing piece of work. We have also made the most of the good weather by spending time outside, gardening and playing sport.

At the beginning of July, the girls helped me welcome a group of year 6 girls (from Hale Academy) and supported me in running a taster session. They did an absolutely amazing job, ensuring that everyone felt welcome and included. All of the 14 girls that attended the session gave really positive feedback and have all signed up to start with us in September.

The girls also enjoyed participating in Hale Carnival in July. They took responsibility for choosing the theme of our entry (Through the Decades) and they designed and organised all of the props and their costumes. They really enjoyed the experience, especially the procession part, and were especially pleased when we won first prize for our category.

We finished off the year with a celebration party. The girls all enjoyed playing games, eating food and taking part in various teambuilding activities. It was a great last session and each of the girls received their own unique card, that highlighted all the positive things that they have achieved this year.

During our last session the girls also all completed evaluation forms, and I am very happy to say that 100% of them said that they had enjoyed attending GirlzClub. Some of the other feedback I asked for on the evaluation form included (I have included some of their responses underneath each question),

1. Why do you enjoy coming to GC?

Answers - I enjoy hanging out with my friends, I love the activities you offer, It's good fun and, I don't get to do baking at home but I can do it at GC.

2. How does coming to GC make you feel?

Answers - safe, happy, relaxed and calmer.

3. Do you feel you have learnt new skills at GC?

All the girls answered yes to this question and listed the skills as, baking, art and self-help/wellbeing/coping techniques.

4. Has coming to GC helped you feel better about yourself?

All the girls answered yes to this. When I asked some of them how it had helped them to feel better about themselves, they replied that they felt more confident, they now know that it's okay to not feel okay and who to ask for help and things that they can do to help themselves when they are feeling sad.

5. Do you feel GC offers a safe place where you can chat about issues, either individually or as a group?

All the girls answered yes to this.

6. Do you attend any other after school clubs/groups?

Only two of the girls answered that they attended other groups. For the rest, GC is the only group, outside of school, that they attend.

7. What are the two main things you feel GC have helped you with?

Answers - becoming more confident, learning to cook, friendship building, learning to talk about my feelings and teamwork.

8. Is there anything we can do to improve GC?

Answers - a dance competition and more sport. All the other girls commented that it didn't need improving and wrote some really lovely and positive comments in this section.

I have used these evaluation forms to help me with my planning for the new year, that will be starting in September. These forms have also helped me to reflect on the impact that GirlzClub has had on the girls this past year. From reading all of their comments, I feel that GirlzClub has had an extremely positive and beneficial impact on each of the girls that has attended. It has helped to build confidence, improved their wellbeing and mental health, given them opportunities to try things that they may not be able to try at home and given them somewhere safe to attend where they can relax with their friends and share any concerns or worries they may have.

Overall, it has been a really successful year and I truly believe GirlzClub has had an extremely positive impact on all the girls that have attended. The two volunteers, that work with me every week, have repeatably commented on how lovely it has been to watch this particular group grow in confidence and blossom into a strong group that really values, kindness, respect and independence.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your help and continued support in ensuring that GirlzClub is a success and a positive experience for the young girls in our local community. We are very much looking forward to welcoming our new group of girls in September.

Jo Goodhew. GirlzClub leader