

Community and YouthWorker Report 23/24

Youthie:

Youthie is a youth club, which provides a safe space for young people (aged 11-18) to come and access a range of activities, such as computer games, arts and crafts, sports, etc. Alternatively, young people can just use the space to socialise with friends and listen to music.

A hot meal is provided at the session, which young people often get involved with the preparation and cooking of, providing practical, every day, skills.

Youthie is supported by a number of Youth Workers, who are on hand to offer support and a listening ear, and ensure the young people are appropriately safeguarded where necessary.

Youthie is a popular session with between **40-60 young people** from the local area (primarily Pinehurst) regularly attending.

Inclusive Youth Activity Session:

The Inclusive Activity Session is a free group for children and young people with disabilities and/or additional needs, aged 8-18. The sessions run weekly, term-time only.

The sessions provide the children and young people the opportunity to access physical activities, with the support of coaches from Soccer Excellence.

Inclusive Activity Session has been running since the 26th of January and there has been a regular cohort of **8-10 children attending**. The children currently attending have mostly been primary school aged, so we will be looking to start a second session, after the summer holidays, on a different day and time, which will be aimed at an older cohort of children.

Parents/carers are attending the sessions with their children and have consistently provided positive feedback about their experiences.

Cooking Programme:

The Cooking Programme is an intervention, in partnership with local Police, to provide a small group of young people access to a working kitchen to prepare and cook a variety of different meals, providing them with valuable transferable skills.

This session is particularly positive for those young people on part-time timetables, as it gives them the chance to access a different form of learning, outside their educational provision.

The sessions are facilitated by Youth Workers and local Police Officers, to encourage positive relationships with the local Police and 1:1 support.

The programme runs every Friday (term-time only) and we have had a consistent group of young people attending from Swindon Academy, who have provided positive feedback about the skills they have learnt and the 1:1 time they have been able to spend with the professionals involved. The young people have often taken left-overs to share with the families or even recreated the dishes themselves at home.

Appendix 1

The programme is being opened up to a new cohort of young people from Nova Hreod, who will be starting after half-term; having spoken to these young people directly, they are very excited to get involved and start cooking!

LGBTQ+ Support Group:

The LGBTQ+ Support Group is available for free for LGBTQ+ young people, aged 11-15 years old. The group offers a safe, confidential and supportive space for young people to explore their identity and meet like-minded young people.

Groups are capped at **8-10 young people** to ensure that all voices are heard, and the groups don't become too overwhelming for the young people attending.

We are currently running the group on the first Wednesday of every month but are open to more sessions if this is wanted by the young people. We continue to promote this group to local young people and schools to ensure they are aware the service is available for those who may need it.

Beach Hut:

Working in partnership with SHINE, the Beach Hut is opened during school holidays for local children and young people. The Beach Hut provides a range of activities, such as board games, crafts, sports equipment, etc. for the children to access for free.

Beach Hut sessions are supervised by SHINE and Parish Youth Workers, who can provide support as needed. Working at the Beach Hut provides professionals with the opportunity to get anti-social behaviour in the area.

The Beach Hut is a popular session with the young people, especially in the warmer weather, and it is positive for them to have a safe space they can access outside.

Friday football:

Friday football is a free football session held at Swindon academy school every Friday from 16:15-17:15. It's an opportunity for young people to interact with others whilst playing football, there is a no full structure to these sessions it's just a turn up and play session. We attract males and females to Friday football on average we attract **70 young people** with the most we have had to a session is **112 young people**.