

End of Year Report for Youth Work

We are now running youth clubs across four different buildings in the Parish, with at least one group running every day of the week.

The Moredon Sporting Hub Youth Club is going from strength to strength, with an average of around 15 young people attending each session. The young people's ages range from 10-15, so we are seeing a good mixture of ages attending. Most of the attendees are from Nova Hreod; however, we do have young people attending from other schools, and occasionally some who are home-educated.

We have had several outside organisations visit the MSH Youth Club sessions, such as Uturn, Owen's World and the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust. The Wiltshire Wildlife Trust Blue Influencers will now be attending every two weeks to complete projects with the young people, such as making wild seed bombs, building bird house and planters, etc.

The Parkside Hub Youthie numbers did take a dip during the autumn and winter months, likely due to a lack of lighting in the park and the poor weather. To improve this for next year, we will be buying flood lights to use in the outside area of the PSH, and possibly to light the path towards the PSH. The flood lights will be paid for as part of the Lottery funding to improve the PSH space, as well as turn the back room into a sensory space.

The Lottery funding will also be used to equip the outside area with different sporting equipment, such as goal posts, a volleyball/badminton net and basketball net to encourage more outside play during the warmer months.

In addition to the PSH Youthie running every Monday and Tuesday, we have started a Wellbeing Programme every Thursday, from 1-3, during the term time. This is being run in partnership with Voluntary Action Swindon (VAS), as well as Seven Fields and Swindon Academy (Alton Close) Primary Schools. During these sessions, we are working with up to six Year 6 pupils (three from each school), to support them to find ways to build better resilience and improve their wellbeing. Once the programme is completed, pupils are being encouraged to come along to the Monday PSH Youthie, which is specifically aimed at Year 5-7 children, to continue accessing support, outside of school, and to give them the chance to build on the friendships they have made during the sessions.

At the end of last year, we opened the new Moredon Community Centre (MCC) Youthie, although the numbers are currently quite low, we do have some children regularly attending. The plan, now the evenings are getting lighter, will be for the Youth Workers to do some detached youth work in the area to help promote the sessions and get the numbers up. As MCC is in a residential area, the hope is that once the local children are aware of the Youthie they will attend continuously throughout the year.

The Pinehurst Youthie has now been separated into two age groups (Years 6-9 and 9-13), so the younger group numbers have been lower; however, this has given us the opportunity to get other organisations, such as the Blue Influencers, in to do some work with the younger children. The older session is still very popular and consistently has around 25-30 local children attending.

The Cooking Project is still running at Pinetrees every Friday, in partnership with SHINE and the Wiltshire Police Early Intervention Team. We have just completed sessions with our first cohort of the year, with pupils from Swindon Academy Beech Ave and Alton Close. They successfully cooked a range of delicious dishes, such as Cajun wraps, stir-fry, spaghetti bolognese and curry. This Project continues to be popular and is a great way to build positive relationships with Police, as well as improve behaviours in the local community.

We are running two SEN Youth Groups, Wednesday at Pinetrees and Friday at the MSH, and both are proving to be popular. We have a regular cohort of around ten children attending both sessions, and we regularly receive positive feedback from the parents/carers. Once the sensory space in the PSH has been completed, we are planning to open an additional group there as well.

The Friday Football at the MSH continues to be popular and attracts up to 25-30 young people. One of the young people from our SEN Youth Group has recently started attending and has found it to be a safe and inclusive environment, and something he now looks forward to attending every week.

We have taken young people from the Parish on several free trips throughout the year. There have been trips to Wembley Stadium, the arcade, Laser Quest and Hollywood Bowl, as well as a summery day out for the SEN Youth Group to Lydiard Park. ATB Skate have also been funded to run some sessions during the school holidays at the PSH; these sessions have been very popular, with around 20-25 young people attending, in rain or shine!





