



Weston-Super-Mare YMCA and Town Council Partnership

Report for Community Services prepared by May Barnett and Alli Waller.

1. Purpose of report

This report covers services and work delivered and supported from the beginning of January 2020 to the end of February 2020 in the Weston-super-Mare area. This includes the development and progress of the programme and services for young people and the community at YMCA W-s-M, 2 Bristol Road Lower and Weston Youth Centre, Coleridge Road.

2. Work with young people – Youth & Community café

a) Open access:

The Youth & Community cafe provides a youth focused, free, well-appointed space for young people after school and on Saturdays with additional opening during school holidays. Through this service we aim to ensure that every young person should:

- Feel Safe and Welcome
- Have someone they can talk to and access to support
- Have the opportunity to make friends, socialise and be active
- Feel more connected with their community
- Have the chance to achieve and challenge themselves to reach their full potential
- Have Fun

The YMCA Youth and Community café operates 6 open sessions per week (5 after school & on Saturday) entry for young people is free and all equipment is available.

We held our well-being day on the 25th of January, around 30 young people attended the day. The day was a massive success, all the young people who attended got involved and were able to receive information and guidance from the professionals who came along to offer their services. There was advice available on a wide range of topics to support their wellbeing, sexual health, life style choices, environment, holistic health and more. The young people really benefited from the goody bags we provided supplying them with therapeutic activities to do at home, such as wellness colouring books, note pads, stress balls, bath bombs, candles, lip balms, chocolates so they can relax and focus on themselves.

We are in the process of changing the fitness suite into another useable meeting room. We believe this will maximise the value the space offers and enable us to offer additional activities for Young people and the community.

Saturday social is seeing the numbers of new members rise steadily. Approximately 15 Young people aged between 13-18 years come and use the space to meet up with friends and socialise in a safe space regularly. Many that attend come from some of the most deprived areas of Weston, so Youth workers have taken the opportunity to use this session to engage with young people and spark discussions on topics that are affecting them most. Mental & sexual health, drugs and Alcohol affect many of the young people that attend They come from other youth provisions that YMCA run



throughout N Somerset knowing the staff encourage them to speak openly regarding these topics whilst seeking information and guidance.

b) Targeted work:

We recognise that for some individuals or groups what we regularly offer may not be easily accessible to them. So we look at targeted work to support people to access our facilities and services who might not otherwise be able to. This work is predominantly carried out in partnership and we currently work with:

- **Young Carers** – *Junior & Senior sessions 2nd Wednesday of each month*
- **Home Education Network** - *youth project every Friday*
- **Young people with disabilities** - *Weston College brings over an average of 15 young people on a Tuesday in the day time to encourage them to use the social space and feel more confident about attending open sessions.*
- **Ups & Downs South West Youth Project** – *Tuesday evenings fortnightly*
- **Adult young carers**- *Once a month on a Thursday evening*
- **Care Leavers**- *Every Monday afternoon*
- **Groups tackling isolation for young people** – *We works in partnership with Weston College, with young people not in education, employment or training – Wednesday mornings weekly*

3. Work with young people – satellites & outreach

Worle Youth Club- After the Christmas break, our program largely included visits from the theatre orchard art group who are working with Worle youth group to create a community video project. We have also been focusing on young people led activities and improving group cohesion. We are also planning with the youth group members what to develop the upcoming programme.

CastleBatch Youth Club- Before Christmas we were having around 6 young people attending every session, this was after changing the age range from 13 to 14 years old. After Christmas our numbers dropped. We are in the process of trying to promote the youth club. We're going to post it on our YMCA Weston Facebook and get posters made, so we can put them in centres/ shops nearby. One of the young people said they loved coming to club as it keeps them off the streets and in a safe, warm place. Some of the challenges we have had is that many of the young people that used to use the park to meet in have now been moved on by police. By advertising the sessions at some of the areas they now frequent may encourage a higher attendance. Also the dark night and bad weather have affected attendance. Some young people that attend have told us that their parents do not allow them to walk to from the sessions so rely on lifts.

Home Ed Youth Club- Home Ed has been steady after Christmas with an average of 9 young people each session. We continue to be supported by Art in Action who provide different arts and crafts every session. The young people love being creative and getting involved in all activities.



4. Youth Council

The Youth council are settling into their new roles. Attendance has been low at the last few meetings due to the young people's workload at school in preparation for exams. The main aim for the next few months is to focus on recruitment of new members and getting the E-Newsletter ready for publication. Our lead youth worker attended the Climate change meeting in February as the youth council have been invited to get involved. Members of the youth council will be attending the next one so they can offer their ideas on how to support the Town council in reducing their carbon footprint. We will be producing a press release in the next period to raise awareness to support recruitment of new members and highlight the small grants scheme to encourage greater take-up.

5. Work with community

Safe Link- Safe link have been using our Youth and Community Café every week for a safe space for young woman who have experienced abuse to get support and engage in activities. These sessions are so beneficial they have enquired about hiring the space for another session for men who are also experiencing the same thing.

Let's do running group- Let's do are starting up their running group again at the beginning of March. This will be for adults who suffer with anxiety, depression and other mental health issues. This will offer them an opportunity to improve their fitness levels as well as socialising.

February half term

We worked alongside the South Face Youth Forum to deliver outdoor activities for young people who live in the Bournville, Coronation and Oldmixon estates during the half term holidays. Providing them with refreshments, den building, forest school and other creative and outdoor activities. Young people worked with youth workers to create dens which provided shelter when the rain started.

Weston youth centre hosted Transend skate park for the week, providing the young people from the area with a new opportunity to try a new sport. This was a great success as 360 young people booked into the workshops learning how to perfect skills on their scooters, skateboards and BMX bikes. We are looking forward to hearing feedback from some of the local young people.

Resident's engagement- We are now running a group for the residents of the YMCA to come and socialise with one another and help them to gain confidence and learn new skills. This is about socialising and building positive relationships first, but incorporates learning in relation to practical life skills.

Training-The majority of our staff have now completed gambling training, to understand the risks of gambling for woman and the signs to look out for in someone who is gambling.



Alli Waller & May Barnett also completed assist suicide intervention training so we are able to provide emergency first aid to persons at risk of suicidal behaviour.

Five of the youth & communities team will also be attending a Child Sexual Exploitation and Criminal Exploitation in Children- Workshop hosted by operation

Topaz. By attending this workshop, it will give youth workers the tools to help identify young people who are most at risk of CSE.

6, Monitoring and Feedback

	January 2020	February 2020
KPI 1 - Total Attendance	402	372
KPI 2 – Total Engagement	236	182
KPI 3 – Volunteering Sessions	10	7
KPI New – Targeted Sessions	18	20
KPI 4 – Community Sessions	24	28

Young Peoples Feedback –

We have now completed two rounds of feedback data from young people,

June 2019 - we were able to collect responses from 40 young people.

97% Agreed/Strongly Agreed – that they feel safe and welcomed in our sessions.

87% Agreed/Strongly Agreed – that there is a member of staff they could talk to if they had a problem or were worried about something.

72% Agreed/Strongly Agreed – that they had tried new activities as part of our programme.



67% Agreed/Strongly Agreed – that they had made new friends by attending our sessions.

Jan 2020 – We were able to collect responses from 67 young people

94% Agreed/Strongly Agreed – That they feel safe and welcomed in our session.

94% Agreed/Strongly Agreed – That there is a member of staff they could talk to if they had a problem or were worried about something.

73% Agreed/Strongly Agreed – That they had tried new activities as part of our programme.

79% Agreed/Strongly Agreed – That they had made new friends by attending our sessions.

7, Links to Town Council Strategy

The work being undertaken always strives to meet the presented needs of the community whilst building the quality of provision for young people and developing the scope of the work that the Town Council supports with Young People. We are always keen to look at addressing the needs of young people across the area and are happy to look at establishing any new work or work in new areas that there is an identifiable need for.

Grounds Service Management Report – written by Fay Powell Grounds Manager**Cemetery**

We have successfully appointed our Amenities Officer. We are pleased to welcome Tricia Mackrell to the Grounds Team.

Our Operational Grounds Team in the Cemetery have completed their Topple Testing, inspecting approximately 10,000 memorials, identifying 100 in need of attention.

- 25 have been 'steaked and banded'
- 50 minor repairs
- The remaining have been issued with a notice for the plot owner to take action within 6 months, this is monitored by the Grounds Team.

Over the month of January numerous burials, deed transfers and services in the Chapel have taken place. The purchasing of Memorial Garden plots is still a popular choice as well as ex- common graves.

We are reviewing the carbon footprint of the Cemetery and ways to reduce this as we move forward.

Allotments

Following the last Allotment meeting the Grounds Team have been carrying out some small tasks at Kewstoke Allotment site. A fence panel still needs fixing, as soon as the weather calms and the strong winds subside this will be completed.

The Grounds Manager will give a verbal update at the meeting on the Dog Bin Service.

Recommendation

That the report be noted

Grounds Manager February 2020

Toilet Update Report – written by Fay Powell Grounds Manager

It was agreed at the previous Community Services Meeting held on Monday 13th January 2020 that:

Minute number 295.2.1 - Further discussion of potential toilet closures be referred to the Toilet Working Party to report back with a recommendation at the next Community Services Meeting.

The Working Party convened on Thursday 27th February and discussions took place.

Community Toilet Scheme – (Appendix 1)

The Community Toilet scheme is a successful initiative currently being carried out in Bristol as well as other locations across the country. It works by local businesses offering the use of their toilet facilities to the public for free. This offers more facilities to the public covering a wider area.

The Town Council would approach businesses and should they wish to be part of the scheme, would provide them with a poster to display in their window. This would highlight to the public that a toilet facility is available for them to use. The Town Council would also produce an electronic and printable map for tourists and residents to use, helping them locate nearby facilities.

Whilst some schemes offer a financial contribution to businesses who take part, it was felt during discussions at the Working Party that initial contact should be made to see what businesses would be willing to take part for free. Although a financial contribution may be a good incentive, with many businesses opening and closing frequently in the town this may not be cost effective to sustain.

Opening Times of Toilets –

Grove Park poses the biggest issues when it comes to vandalism and Anti-Social Behaviour. Whilst the Working Party understood the need for toilets to be provided, this needed to be a balanced approach taking into consideration the current issues. It was agreed throughout the summer months and when events are taking place the toilets should be accessible. In the quieter winter months restricted opening times or closures may need to take place.

Clarence Park Toilets are still closed due to an Arson attack. This was an insurance claim and an order has now been placed for the repair works.

All other sites are currently not posing any persistent issues.

The following recommendations were agreed:

1. Grove Park Toilets are open from Monday 6th April and closed from Monday 2nd November with opening and closing times of 9am – 5pm
2. All other toilet sites remain open continuously, following the current agreed times of:
 - Winter opening hours (November – April) 9am – 5pm
 - Summer opening hours (April – October) 9am – 8pm.
3. The Community Toilet Scheme is launched with initially no financial incentive to businesses.
4. Officers investigate the possibility of -
 - Motion detection air fresheners for public toilets.
 - Signs pointing people in the direction of the nearest toilets should ours be closed.
 - Extractor fans in cubicles
 - Turning off under floor heating

Members are Requested to –

1. Consider the above recommendations and agree a course of action moving forwards.

Grounds Manager February 2019



Weston Community Toilet Scheme

Use our facilities for free

Facilities available here:

