

Ashford Youth Club-Year 4 half year report

'I can't believe I was so quiet when I first came to youth club and because of it I am confident to speak in front of councillors and police'(NC). @ I'd be at home not wanting to come out rather than having fun with my friends' (AW).

This report covers April to September 2024 and is the 12th report on the work undertaken by Ashford Youth Club. It is sent to all local councillors, SCC staff involved in the lease and the local community as well as social media.

Commentary

This quarter has seen the club continue to build on its multiple youth work nights through the development of delivery partnerships. These have included Spelthorne Borough Council, Surrey County Council, Active Surrey, Staines rotary, Stanwell Events, Barnardos. Adolescent Services and Family Support Programme. We have also delivered holiday provision as part of our free school meals provision.

We have also secured funding from Shepperton Studios to offer a year round borough wide creative arts provision on a Wednesday.

Concern over the mental health of our community looms large and we will be setting up a community response to support young people.

1. Youth work

- 1.1 The Youth club run **5** evening sessions a week for young people in the community.
 - Monday nights for a young persons forum and physical activity evening (years 7 to 13)
 - Tuesday nights for 9 to 13 year olds (year 5 to 8).
 - Wednesday nights as a Creative Arts evening in partnership with Spelthorne Council.
 - Thursday Nights for 13 to 18 year olds (Year 9 to 13) including the Duke of Edinburgh Award.
 - Friday night alongside Spelthorne Council to deliver Basketball for the Surrey Youth Games.
- 1.2 In this period we run **61** separate sessions over **5** evenings.
- 1.3 Totalling **173** hours of youth work
- 1.4 **268** different young people aged 10 to 18 were reached in this quarter
- 1.5 **1509** attendances were recorded over this period.
- 1.6 A young person steering group meets fortnightly on a Monday.
- 1.7 **16** volunteers have supported youth work delivery in addition to **15** peer leaders

2. Community

- 2.1 We continue to run weekly support sessions for Ukrainian refugees supported by Spelthorne borough Council staff.
- 2.2 **Supporting Children's Services** through providing space to Surrey Adolescent Services, Surrey Children's Services, Barnados and Action for Carers. **No requests were refused.**
- 2.3 All funding from day hire has gone to subsidising young peoples activities

3. Our future

We are disappointed that Surrey County Council has asked to terminate the lease a year early. The reason is confusing with clarity requested. This has been raised by councillors at SCC full council. SCC has promised to continue to allow us 5 days evening provision at no cost, has offered funding to support our work and committed to a supportive relationship going forward. This does not compensate for the loss of the building as a community resource, adaptable to local needs.

Thank you to local borough and County councillors, Spelthorne Borough Council, Active Surrey, Shepperton Studios, Rotary, Surrey County Council, McDonalds and most importantly our community, our volunteers and most importantly our young people.