

## **Watton Youth Groups report**

### **Ensure young people's voices are heard and acted upon**

Youth services have been using an online questionnaire for the past year. Looking at the most recent round of completed forms there has been a slight shift in who young people will turn to in times of need (more would turn to Youth Work staff) and what they would like to see change at the group sessions. The latest round showed the young people offered more opinions and ideas, it is possible that as they are more familiar with the form, this made it easier to complete and be honest and at times brave. Each delivery session has the opportunity for the young people to plan the next session with ideas for activities verbally. The Team hold a reflective evaluation session at the end of each group ensuring that all information gained and achievements made are recorded and acted upon.

40% of Young People report they would turn to Youth Group staff if they needed to talk to someone.

14% of Young people were not able to offer any ideas for future groups in comparison to 54% previously. Young people have shared they do feel heard as their ideas are planned where possible to do in future session.

We ask young people to complete new registrations each September, these grow over the school year as new people join the service.

17 young people have completed the form for the junior group.

9 young people have completed the form for the senior group.

### **PLAN**

To continue to engage with Young People both verbally and with the online form.

### **Improve and develop young people's emotional wellbeing and life skills**

Questions about the Young people's emotional wellbeing are included in our current questionnaire and are be monitored as above. We have made changes to the wording following feedback from young people who did not understand the term 'mental health'. Our new form includes the young person's name to enable us to follow up if needed whether this be to refer to other agencies or to support to access the help they need.

*At the time of completing the feedback forms only one person identified as having poor mental health but did share that attending youth group supported this.*

Staff have accessed specific training to support their work with young people in this area. Having information on where to signpost has also been paramount. We were able to see on the last feedback completion that young people are more confident filling this in and shared more ideas and were more open with how they were feeling. We will monitor to see if adding a name to the form impacts these findings, although this currently has not made any difference. Young people shared they were happy to fill in the form and felt it was something that happens at youth group occasionally.

All groups are evaluated at the end of the sessions where this information can be recorded and followed up if necessary.

### **Create opportunities for further youth sector collaboration and workforce development**

All staff are up to date with core training and are encouraged to access other training where a need is identified in supervision or if a child attends with a need.

The Watton Senior Youth group have a high number of young people with SEN, we have sourced various free training for the team which they have or are completing. This training will help them provide youth provision which is accessible and appropriate for their individual need. Offering bespoke training to staff when it is highlighted as a need offers us the opportunity to truly be inclusive and celebrate difference.

The funding offered by Watton Town Council enabled this valuable group to continue and develop whilst alternative funding was sourced. This also offered the opportunity to reflect and look at our current provision. Moving forward we are piloting a universal youth service offer which includes young carers who will have additional support to enable the young people to attend. Please see the young carers report for more details on this.

We are about to launch a new detached outreach project for the young people of Watton focussing on 13-15 year olds, we plan to work closely with other services to enable this project to be successful and we plan to offer the universal youth group as part of a pathway to access services and engage in positive activities.