

Update Report Oct - Dec 2023

Key points

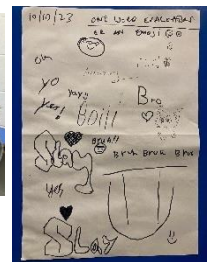
- Recruitment of replacement Youth Worker (6 hours)
- Tuesday club continues to be popular
- Development of new Thursday Club for teenagers
- Continued improvement of Youth and Community Centre
- Discussions for transfer from Community Family Care to direct employment by BoA Town Council

Staffing

Following the resignation of Emma, a longstanding member of the BoA Youth team, a replacement has been recruited and references and DBS checks are under way. The core team of David, Amanda and Dan have maintained and developed the service.

Tuesday Club

The Centre has continued to be open on Tuesdays providing a safe activity space for 8 – 12 year olds. This has been extended by half an hour to run for two hours from 5-7pm. Numbers continue to be around 20 per session. Donations of a £1 are now suggested as an alternative to a fixed fee so children from low income families are not discouraged.



We offer regular activities including video gaming, table football, gymnastics, football and other ball games alongside specific activities and children have begun to ask for equipment and materials to follow their own interests. Consultation with members has suggested the creation of a 'games arcade' with multiple video games being available. We have also experimented with low cost equipment like cardboard boxes which have proved popular. Cooking has been developed as a regular activity and includes sharing freshly made savoury meals and cakes.

Thursday Club

Following the reduction in numbers of older children attending the later session on a Tuesday and consultation with teenagers we have now started a separate club that runs 6-8pm on Thursdays. This provides a very different environment to the Tuesday session. Numbers have remained around 5-10 and we are keen to see it grow organically as this was suggested by the membership. The offer is similar to the Tuesday session with sport, gaming, art and making along with drinks, snacks and cooking.



Youth and Community Centre improvements

Plans for significant improvements in the Centre are now being discussed. These include the replacement of floor coverings, painting walls and doors and improved storage. Children have been consulted and they have identified soft furniture and decoration of the lounge area as possible developments. The fire alarm system has been upgraded and there have been improvements in the management of the heating system, though this does still require refurbishment and repairs.

Partnership working

BoA Youth have maintained partnerships with Mighty Girls and Discover Christchurch! . Sainsbury's continues to provide regular offers of food including fruit and vegetables on Tuesdays. This means we can offer children the chance to try different food in addition to snacks and drinks.

There are plans for a specific BoA area meeting of people working with young people with co-ordination of information and a regular forum to discuss planning and a calendar of events.

Planning future activities

BoA Youth continues to seek the views of children and young people to ensure we are responding to their needs and interests. This includes co-ordinating an online presence and use of social media.

31st January 2024

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