



## Summary

BoA Youth is now directly managed by the Town Council. This has improved communication, and we are beginning to work more closely with other council services and staff. We now have a full staff team and we look forward to developing even closer ties with the wider circle of town council workers. The Tuesday Club for younger children is running well. Engaging older children continues to be a challenge but Thursday is now firmly established as a time for teenagers to get together at the Centre. Our partnership with Christ Church to run an after school drop in on Thursdays has led to expanding what we offer locally.

## Transition from Community Family Care

The TUPE process was completed in April and was reasonably smooth. The four part time staff have come together to form a team providing space for children and teenagers to share with support and encouragement from trusted adults.

We have maintained the same branding and the service has remained unchanged.

## Centre development and maintenance

The Centre is a great resource and provides a rich social and play environment for the BoA Youth service. It has been a challenge to create a clean and welcoming space due to the age and the state of the building. Things have improved by organising a deep clean day and incremental improvements in spot cleaning, removing old stickers and general tidying and organisation.

Plans are now being made for volunteers to paint the inside walls and the outside and external metalwork and doors. We also plan to improve the woodland area behind the Centre to make it safer. This is being co-ordinated by Chris Hogg and Dan McGauley.



Community and Wellbeing Committee 16 July 2024

Agenda item 14 – BoA Youth Update

Written by – BoA Youth Co-ordinator

### **8-12 Tuesday Club 5-7pm**

The Tuesday Club continues to be popular with around 25 children attending each time. The extension of the time from 1.5 to 2 hours has proved popular. The mix of sport, gaming and art/making offers some structure while many children enjoy the free play and the snacks and food that is made available through donation of surplus groceries from Sainsbury's.

### **Thursday Teen Club 6-8.30pm**

The numbers attending on a Thursday continue to be variable but when they do attend young people are clear that they value the open and relaxed approach we take. Thursday evening is now clearly fixed as a time when the Centre is available as a space for teenagers. Plans to continue to run the sessions through the summer will hopefully mean they make use of it and can suggest how they want to develop the service.

### **Christ Church Thursday after school Drop-in**

A partnership with Becky Strike at Christ Church has led to the development of an after-school drop-in and this has grown in popularity. Around thirty pupils from St Laurence and Christ Church Primary School regularly drop in and 10 – 15 stay to play table tennis, games or just chat. They have also got involved in nature and heritage projects at the church. The fund raising to adapt the front of the church into a secular community space with kitchen, office and storage area has nearly reached its target and this will result in a much larger space to operate the drop-in from. There is the potential to offer after school activities including homework club, snacks and art/making or gaming.

Networking

### **Swindon and Wiltshire Youth Work Network**

BoA Youth is part of the SWYWN managed by Wiltshire Community Foundation in Devizes. Most meetings are held online, and the network offers a regular opportunity to share information and to learn together.



Community and Wellbeing Committee 16 July 2024

Agenda item 14 – BoA Youth Update

Written by – BoA Youth Co-ordinator

## **Wiltshire County Council Area Board**

BoA Youth is part of the local network co-ordinated by Caroline Le Quesne. This has now met twice and has led to the link with the Family Hub.

### **Family Hub**

BoA Youth is linking up with the Wiltshire County Council Family Hub initiative that will see community navigators in BoA Library signposting families to community support for parenting and other local learning and social opportunities. Recruitment for staff is underway and the service should be operational by September at the latest. This will provide a regular opportunity to identify families and children who can benefit from BoA Youth services.

### **U3A**

BoA Youth is in discussion with the membership of U3A to enable intergenerational contact with older people in Bradford on Avon. This could include regular visits by older people to the clubs and drop-in either just to socialise or bring their interests or learning opportunities. The aim is for children and young people to begin to recognise trusted adults in the community and benefit from their knowledge and experience. There is also the potential for older people to gain from the knowledge and experience of younger members of the community in areas like mobile phones, the internet or hardware and software issues.

### **Mighty Girls**

BoA Youth meets regularly with Mighty Girls to share information and discuss working together on projects.

### **Events**

#### **Health and Wellbeing Day at St Laurence**

BoA Youth had a stall at the Health and Wellbeing event at St Laurence School in February. This offered a chance to promote the clubs and to engage with pupils.



Community and Wellbeing Committee 16 July 2024

Agenda item 14 – BoA Youth Update

Written by – BoA Youth Co-ordinator

### **Join-in Day 8<sup>th</sup> June**

BoA Youth had a gazebo with activities at the community Join-In day co-ordinated by the town council. It led to re-connecting with some young people and raising awareness of what we offer with parents locally.