



Bradford on Avon Outreach Youth Work Report – Summer 2025

We are part way through delivering 14 hours of detached, street-based youth work in Bradford on Avon. The sessions have focused on observing how young people aged 11 to 18 move around and make use of the spaces and places in the town, as well as striking up conversations about places and spaces in town with groups of young people. This report shares what we've seen so far and offers ideas and suggestions for the local Youth Network to consider when planning future activities.

Staff holidays mean that the x4 remaining hours will be delivered in early September, where we will focus on engaging and asking for ideas for winter / indoor activities.

Introduction: Benefits of Outreach Youth Work

Outreach youth work provides a visible presence in community spaces, building trust with young people. It offers early intervention opportunities to address risks and promote positive behaviour, connects with isolated youth, and provides informal support and guidance. It also reassures the community by reducing perceptions of threat or anti-social behaviour.

Aims of the Outreach Sessions

- Engage with young people in public spaces.
- Observe patterns of behaviour and identify risks.
- Build relationships and offer informal support.
- Gather insights for future youth provision and community safety planning.

Summary Overview

Dates & Times of Outreach Sessions:

- Planning Meeting: Wednesday 9th July	Attended by George Tomlinson BOATC, Amanda Wiffen BOAYouth, Councillor Bessant, Marsha and Nicki Mighty Girls)
- Session 1: Monday 21st July	6:30–8:30pm
- Session 2: Thursday 24th July	4-6.10pm
- Session 3: Wednesday 30th July	7:00–9:00pm
- Session 4: Friday 1st August	5:30–7:30pm
- Session 5: Monday 4th August	6:00–8:00pm

Locations Covered:

- Train Station Car Park & Local shops (Fish & Chips, Grocery Basket, Kebab Van)
- Barton Farm & River



- Victory & Culver Fields
- Skatepark & Poulton Play Park
- Sladesbrook Park

Key Observations

Positive Behaviour

- High levels of peer socialising and group play (football, basketball, skating, paddle boarding with families).
- Creative expression (singing, music, skateboarding).
- Respectful interactions with outreach workers and local residents.
- Use of public spaces for healthy recreation.

Concerns & Risks

- Presence of older youth (16–19) in younger spaces (playparks), sometimes perceived as intimidating.
- Minor altercations and vaping/smoking observed.
- Potential access to alcohol among minors
- Littering and lack of bin use in some areas.

Health & Safety

- No major incidents reported.
- Some areas (e.g., train station car park) felt threatening due to older young people (18-23) groups in vehicles.
- Outreach workers intervened to remind youth about litter disposal
- Water safety messages aimed at young people (rather than children)

Policing & Public Safety

- No police presence observed during sessions.
- Local shopkeepers and food vendors reported no major issues, but noted occasional noise or minor disturbances.
- Landlord of the Three Horseshoes reported young girls trying to get into the pub to use toilets – this is a real concern and he staffs up to manage this.

Social Isolation

- Some young people observed alone or gaming on phones.
- Outreach helped identify individuals who may benefit from targeted engagement.



Community Assets & Opportunities

- Skatepark, play parks, green spaces and sports courts are well-used and valued.
- Local businesses are supportive and open to collaboration.
- Opportunities exist to expand youth-led activities in these spaces.

Recommendations

To Local Council

- Invest in youth-friendly infrastructure (lighting, bins, seating).
- Support evening outreach and peer-led initiatives.
- Further promotion of youth clubs or pop-up events in high-traffic areas.
- Keep public toilets open in station car park a little later in the summer months to allow public access.

To Other Youth Groups

- Coordinate with outreach and other youth groups and workers to share insights and avoid duplication. Recommend joining the quarterly youth network meetings organized by Caroline LeQuesnye (Wilts Council).
- Develop inclusive programmes for both younger and older teens.

To Residents

- Encourage positive engagement with youth.
- Report concerns constructively to outreach teams or local services.

To Police

- Maintain a low-key presence in youth spaces to avoid escalation.
- Collaborate with outreach workers for community reassurance patrols.

Session Summaries

Please note that ages of young people used in the summaries are estimates

Session 1 – Monday 21st July (6:30–8:00pm)

- **Route:** Train Station → Barton Farm → Victory Field → Skatepark → Poulton Play Park.
- **Engagement:** High visibility of young people across multiple sites.
- **Activities:** Basketball, biking, scootering, singing, and skateboarding.
- **Age Range:** Mostly 12–15 years.
- **Positive Notes:** Friendly atmosphere, active use of public spaces.
- **Concerns:** None significant.



Session 2 – Thursday 24th July (4:00–5:30pm)

- **Route:** Train Station → Barton Farm → Victory Fields → Skatepark → Poulton → Grocery Basket → Barton → Train Station.
- **Engagement:** Moderate turnout, especially at skatepark and Poulton.
- **Activities:** Football, skating, socialising.
- **Age Range:** 11–19 years.
- **Positive Notes:** Mixed-age interaction, respectful behaviour.
- **Concerns:** Older teens present in younger areas; minor littering.

Session 3 – Wednesday 30th July (7:00–9:00pm)

- **Route:** Sladesbrook Park. Train Station → Barton Farm → Victory Fields → Skatepark → Grocery Basket → Train Station.
- **Engagement:** High activity at Barton Farm and Skatepark.
- **Activities:** Music, vaping, socialising, football.
- **Age Range:** 14–19 years.
- **Positive Notes:** Conversations with parents and vendors confirmed general safety. Group of older teens 18/19 (3 girls) in Sladesbrook Park chatting and using the swings.
- **Concerns:** Slight altercation observed; some intimidating presence at train station car park.

Session 4 – Friday 1st August (5:30–7:30pm)

- **Route:** Coop Car Park → Barton Farm → Skatepark and back.
- **Engagement:** Older teens (16–18) in groups, relaxed atmosphere.
- **Activities:** Sitting by river, skating, scootering younger kids with families in play parks.
- **Age Range:** 11–18 years.
- **The Three Horseshoes:** Conversation with Callum and Widge. Callum is mainly concerned with underage girls coming in to use the toilets. Licensing wise he is very careful and always checks for age ID and staffs this area in the summer time. Even still youngsters have been found drinking vodka from bottles in there. He suggests using public toilets later in the evenings.
- **Positive Notes:** Calm, social environment. Good interactions with young people at the skate park who helped tidy up the litter.
- **Concerns:** Young men in black tracksuits and masks on motorised scooters riding through Barton Park on the way to the canal – looked a bit suspicious.



Session 5 – Monday 4th August (6:00–8:00pm)

- **Route:** Barton Farm → Poulton → Skatepark → Barton → Grocery Basket → St Laurence Car Park.
- **Engagement:** Steady flow of young people across locations.
- **Activities:**
 - **6:00pm:** Solo boy (approx. 15) walking through Barton Farm.
 - **6:30pm:** Two lads (~11) in Poulton children's play park area; three younger scooter boys with dad at skatepark.
 - **6:55pm:** Barton Farm – two boys and two girls (~17) at the picnic tables; two boys (~15) with scooters.
 - **7.10pm Grocery Basket:** Four girls (~14) buying sweets and soft drinks; one boy nearby.
 - **7.20pm Station and Car Park:** Two 14-year-olds chatting.
- **Age Range:** 11–17 years.
- **Positive Notes:** Family presence at skatepark; friendly interactions.
- **Concerns:** None significant; good spread of young people at different ages across outdoor spaces.