Community and Wellbeing committee meeting 27 October 2026
Agenda item 8 – BoA Youth Update
Written by Amanda Wiffen and George Tomlinson

BOA Youth Update

Staffing
Our new Deputy Youth Coordinator – Bev Churcher, and Youth Team Member – Olha Koptieva – are now in post.

We also have a small team of committed volunteers - including sixth formers working towards their DofE gold award - who regularly support the sessions.

Tuesday Juniors
The Tuesday junior session runs from 3.30pm to 5pm and is aimed at 8+ year olds (years 3 to 7). These sessions currently see an average of 14 children with a 50/50 boy/girl split.

A variety of activities are on offer at these sessions including gaming, crafts, sports and outdoor play.

Free snacks and drinks are available.

Tuesday and Thursday Teen Club
The Tuesday and Thursday teen sessions run from 5.30pm to 8pm for young people aged 11+ (school years 7 to 11). These sessions currently have an average of 14 young people with an 85/15 boy/girl split.

Activities are largely led by the young people attending and usually include pool, sports and table football.

Free snacks, drinks and a hot meal are provided.

Thursday Pre-Teens
This is a new session aimed at children aged 10 to 13 (years 6 to 8).

This session had been put on hold due to staff shortages earlier in the year, but we are now open at this time and looking at ways of attracting young people for this quieter session.

Our younger volunteers are helping to generate and try out ideas for the session including a girls' only sports session.

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Summer Holiday Club
The summer holiday activity programme took place during August.

We delivered 20 sessions for children aged 7 and over, offering a range of activities including tennis, circus skills, dance, pottery, drama, outdoor fun and multi sports. Session prices ranged from £5 to £15.

An Area Board grant enabled us to offer up to 50% of spaces as fully funded to children from families experiencing financial hardship. The grant also enabled us to keep the general ticket prices low.

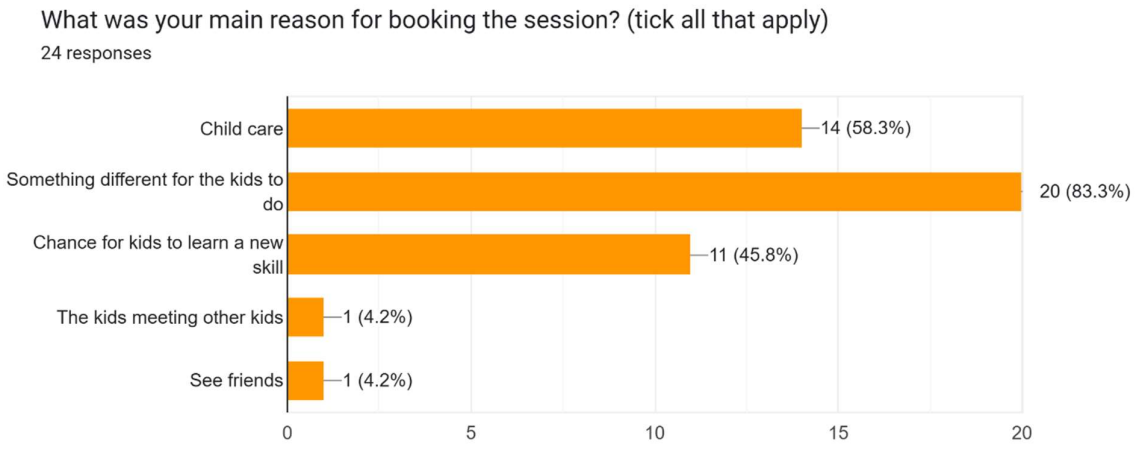
Summary of participation:

- 389 places available across the sessions
- 262 places booked – of which 22 were free spaces
- 140 children attended - many children attended multiple sessions
- Over 100 families booked on.

A feedback form was sent out to all those that attended. We received 24 responses.

We asked what people thought of the session times and duration - sessions started at 9am or 9.30 and ran for different durations depending on the activity.
Some people felt the times were just right, others felt that longer sessions would be useful for those working.

It was suggested that a slightly later start might be better for older children!

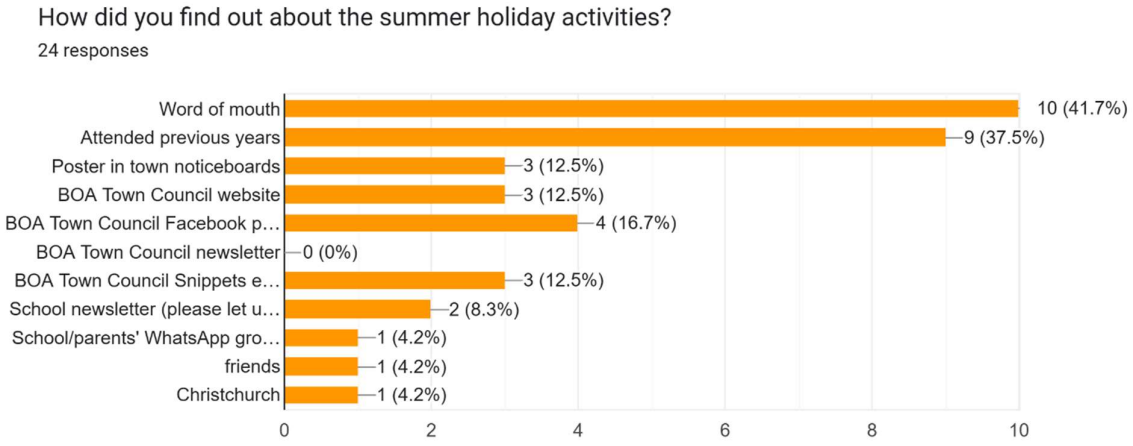


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23 out of 24 people thought the sessions were good value for money.

When asked to rate their experiences of the different activities they attended from 1 to 5 (1 being poor, 5 being excellent) all responses were either 3, 4 or 5:

3 = 4
4 = 10
5 = 33



Suggestions for future activity sessions:
Something a bit different in relation to crafts, e.g. mosaics
Pottery painting
Skatepark sessions
Cookery.

General suggestions:
Make the sessions easier to find and book
Longer sessions
Earlier dates
More pottery sessions.