



Northumberland

County Council

Northumberland Youth Service report on support to voluntary youth projects

Introduction

Northumberland Youth Service continues to work with a large range of partners, to support and help develop them strategically, financially, in terms of direct delivery and through a range of other measures designed to enable these projects to feel supported, connected and valued. We have supported projects from Berwick in the North to Gilsland in the West and a host of projects in between. What follows is a range of case studies to demonstrate this:

Berwick

We supported Berwick Youth Project to provide targeted activities in conjunction with local Middle Schools over the summer 2019 period. Other young people have participated in outdoor activities and as a response to certain mental health issues that relate to these young people specialist practitioners have been brought in to support.

We also meet with the manager of the project on occasion to discuss project development , sharing resources and training etc.

Wooler

We have managed to support Wooler over the last few years with small grants that they have been very grateful for. This Year's Grant of £2000 was for Staff Costs. It has enabled them to maintain their staffing levels of a Youth Leader, 3 Youth workers and a Young People's Counsellor. This has also enabled them to pilot one session a week for 11-13 year olds and demand has been high.

Previous support enabled the project to replace outdated Grant Aid last year for replacement IT equipment. The 3 laptops, 2 iPads, a printer and pool table have proved a great success. The project recognises that these items have been crucial in attracting the Young People to the Drop In. The IT equipment is used primarily for out of School work particularly as some young people do not have access at home. The Pool Table is used by the Staff to engage with the young people informally to discuss many of the issues that they have.

Alnwick

Community@NE66

We have provided financial support to bridge a gap until Children in Need funding was

successfully secured for the project. This development also let the project manager concentrate on large scale funding with which they have been hugely successful. To augment this we continue to provide line management to the project manager as the project goes through a three year transition to be a fully independent project.

Gallery Youth Project

We regularly meet with Gallery and have supported the delivery of advice and information and one to one support through the youth work that they deliver. One key aspect has been supporting the two youth projects to work more effectively together.

We have also contributed financially to the development of the new bike track in Alnwick by part funding detached youth work teams who work to safeguard those young people and offer support services to those who use what is recognised as one of the best facilities in the North East.

Amble

Amble Youth Project runs from the centre of Amble. Within the last year partnership work has varied due to their changing management structure. We have supported them completing funding applications, staffing on an ad hoc basis and peer support to their temporary manager last year. We have also offered and completed various training programmes with their staff.

North Tyne Youth

We have spent a lot of time helping the development of North Tyne Youth. We have worked with those responsible for starting the project to look at development steps. This has included bringing Kirkwhelpington, Otterburn and Bellingham together to form what is now known as North Tyne Youth. We have also supported financially to ensure that staffing is present and of appropriate quality and we have backed this up by providing training looking at safeguarding and dealing with aggressive situations. I am due to meet with new trustees shortly to look at longer term strategies.

The result is three very well attended sessions in three communities and a much more coordinated approach which is proving successful in terms of sustainability and funding.

Corbridge

We have supported the project with funding which has helped the development of three separate sessions. These are a girls group, a senior session (13-19) and a junior session (7-12). In addition a number of staff from this project have attended safeguarding training which has been provided for free by Northumberland Youth Service to ensure that young people are correctly supported and the response of the project is correct.

Finally we offered to support by sponsoring places on a new level 3 Youth Work training course which Corbridge is running to staff across their area. The money was subsequently not needed as funds were obtained to sponsor the entire programme. However we can continue to use the funding to help the development of the programme.

Hexham

We have worked with Hexham Youth Initiative to support the development of a girls group supporting young people with a wide range of issues. As well as this we have provided specialist training to them surrounding safeguarding and other youth work issues.

We continue to heavily support the Gateway group in Hexham which offers a bespoke programme to young people with additional needs in the area and which remains increasingly popular.

We have also been in touch with the newly established Tanga project which works with people with additional needs. We have linked them to Tynedale Youth Forum where they receive additional support and we advertise their programmes on our social media streams.

Cramlington

We are currently working with NE Youth to look at the development of a coordinated Youth Strategy across Cramlington involving a range of partners. In addition we have also met with another voluntary sector project to offer advice and support regarding how to modify their service which has proved successful.

Pegswood

We have continued to support Pegswood youth club and help it develop to a popular and productive session. Even when money was not secured for the community venue that hosts it we have maintained the session and are working with the Parish Council on its transition moving forward.

Prudhoe

Prudhoe has for a long time lacked voluntary sector youth provision which has often meant that opportunities for funding were continually being missed in the area. We have been working with Prudhoe Partnership and other prominent bodies on the development of Prudhoe Youth Project (along the lines of similar projects in Hexham and Corbridge) The project is currently employing staff to undertake a full consultation. We have offered the centre as a venue for consultation with young people and are coordinating our provision so our youth work programmes do not clash. Recently we have offered them our venue to ensure that they can keep providing a health session when their other venue fell through.

Gilsland

We offer support with operational matters and small financial grants to help with things such as DBS checks.

Haltwhistle

Young and Sweet (particularly with its new facility) is very popular with young people. We continue to place youth service staff into sessions to help develop capacity and offer small financial grants which have helped develop aspects such as new sessions.

Allendale

As with Haltwhistle we place a member of staff into one of the sessions to support and develop the work and offer a small grant to help it develop. In this instance it has been used for fundraising capacity which again has been successful in securing longer term operational funding.

Tynedale Youth Forum

Tynedale Youth Forum brings together youth projects across Tynedale to work together on two or three key projects. These include an awards evening, a large summer residential in Kielder and employability days. We have supported these events in a number of ways including staffing and grants to ensure that these continue to be a success.

Ashington

Northumberland YMCA

Northumberland YMCA works out of a base in Ashington and focuses most of its delivery within this area. Within the past year our support has varied with our change in staffing levels. They operate three evenings a week open access youth provision where we support with one member of staff on two evenings. We have also run a NCC Youth Service LGBT youth club within their premises. School holiday programs, events and ad hoc activities are run in partnership with each organisation.

Hirst Active Youth

We work very closely alongside Hirst Active Youth. This is our main partner organisation within Ashington. Last year we supported the project financially with a grant to help towards room costs and as an office base for some of our youth service staff. Active Northumberland manages two staff from Hirst Active Youth and we provide further support with funding, peer supervision, line management and the day to day running of the service. In addition we have also run training for their staff and are helping them become a fully independent constituted organisation. This has included helping write policies and procedures, interviewing new staff and helping them set up a management structure.

Blyth

Silx

We provide the secondment of a 32 hour per week post to the project. We also facilitate their staff being employed through the NCC Council's payroll system. Silx also purchase a percentage time of a qualified youth worker to support the project, which will fluctuate

according to need. The support includes supervision and appraisals and supporting youth workers with safeguarding and youth work related issues. Crucially this involvement has contributed massively to a number of funding bids which contribute to the development of the project. All of this helps create new initiatives and new opportunities for young people. We also have a partnership arrangement for 3 youth support workers for 10 hours per week to be based within Silx Teen Bar. This equates to 3 evenings a week.

Training

We have worked with a range of these listed partners to offer a range of training sessions for staff at voluntary projects. These include safeguarding, first aid, dealing with aggressive situations and work around relationship building and effective youth work. In addition we share external training opportunities and annual training programmes from the Safeguarding Partnership which a number of projects have taken advantage of.

Funding Opportunities

We continually send on a number of funding opportunities through as we receive them and activity opportunities are shared to our partners which they might take advantage of. We have linked people from various projects together to discuss larger funding schemes such as Children in Need and Reaching Communities to ensure that projects have an increased level of success. We are happy to proofread funding bids and offer advice when requested in the bid to make them more successful.

Social Media

Northumberland Youth Service runs three well maintained and respected social media channels on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. We regularly use these to promote the work of other projects as well as that of our own service.