

DYS Space* Progress Update.

August 1st marked the halfway point of our initial core youth service with DCC. In addition to our core contract services (open access youth work, targeted support, alternative education, community youth work support & Duke of Edinburgh for young people with protected characteristics) we have developed strong partnerships which help us deliver more diverse opportunities for Devon's young people. These include:

Atlantic Youth Creative Hubs - a 3-year Interreg funded project across 4 countries and 17 partners providing young people with crucial skills and knowledge using modern technologies and apply them to help resolve societal problems. We are supporting a group to realise their idea of using Virtual Reality to help educationists and businesses recognise and understand neuro-diversity and certain mental health conditions, with the hope that communities and working environments will be more inclusive and relevant for people who experience these issues.

Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children & YP (UASC) - We have secured the DCC contract, with Young Devon to connect young asylum seekers to their communities, this could be through volunteer mentors, access to activities and support networks and also by planning events to raise awareness of their needs.

Different Conversations - Again, in partnership with Young Devon, we are piloting innovative way of engaging young people in care and supporting them with their personal budgets and how they can access support, which has seen great success.

Friday nights football - We are working in partnership with Exeter College to provide a safe space on Friday nights in Exwick for young people to come together, we have a very diverse group using this session, including a number of UASC mixing with local people, thus bridging communities and building cohesion.

We also run **specific youth club sessions** for young people who share protected characteristics, such as LGBTQ and young people with disabilities. This gives us a chance to tailor our education curriculum to their needs and provide bespoke staffing structure and support network.

We are working closely with Community Safety, the Police and other partners on the front line, providing diversionary programmes for young people engaged in **gang activities in South Devon**.

Our great partnership with **Daisi (and Youth Music)**, enables us to provide employment for 2 young peer educators, whose job it is to lead music workshops in our professional grade recording studio and rehearsal rooms in Exmouth. We also

have a 4-year contract to provide shadowing opportunities to community music leaders, sharing our expertise in delivering activities for hard to reach young people.

Young people have attended or worked at different **events across Devon** such as North Devon Sunrise Diversity Festival, Exeter Respect and Pride, Exmouth Pride and many more. All of these things have helped us develop a more local connection to our communities and subsequent funding bodies - we have now been supported by Tesco, One Stop, The Newton Abbot Rotarians, Exeter Chiefs to name a few. Each of our local youth centres are developing smaller, local links, that complement our organisational partnerships.

As at 1st August, we had approx 16k attendances during 3672 hours of direct delivery with young people (not including our Independent School, Chances)

99 volunteers have given over 2026 hours to support young people

We know that 31% of our members have protected characteristics

91% of young people trust a youth worker in their local centre

97% of young people can be themselves and feel safe in our space

94% of young people said that we listen to their opinions and ideas *and* act on them

"Youth club has helped me escape the problems I have been going through such as relationship and family problems. I honestly wouldn't be in a good place if it wasn't for my friends and the whole youth center. It has made me feel like I'm part of my own amazing family. If I didn't have youth club to turn to I think I would be sat in my room think of a good way to opt out or even I wouldn't have a home as a result of me running away." K A, 16

"I just wanted to say what a big part you have played in being there to support this young man through a torrid and emotional period in his life. I am sure that the support you have provided both him and his mum has been instrumental to the turn around in his circumstances and possibly his life chances." District Nurse

In our open access, young people spoke to us about their mental health 1089 times this year, making it the topic most raised by our members, followed by sexual health and relationship then issues relating to peers and family. Adverse mental health was also mentioned in 67% of our referrals for targeted support.

Kev Henman CEO - August 2018