

Cambourne Youth Partnership Report (February 2015)

Summary:

Cambourne Youth Partnership has been through a significant period of transition since April 2014, following the loss of several trustees in the previous 18 months and the departure of the previous Youth Development Worker from Cambourne in April 2013. A report on CYP's involvement in Children's and Young People's Work in Cambourne 2013-2014 was provided to the Parish Council in February 2014.

A new Board of Trustees was formed and in place for the beginning of the financial year 2014-15, comprising Nigel Taylor (Chair); Neil Perry (Vice-Chair); Jey Patel (Treasurer); Richard Brown (Secretary); Neil Thompson; Rev Matthew Trick; Len Thornton; Roger Hume. (We are all greatly saddened by the recent death of Roger Hume, recognising the enormous commitment he showed to the development of the Cambourne Youth Partnership as a trustee over many years.)

Cambourne Youth Partnership maintained a range of core activities in the period April to August 2014 with the help of the Youth Support Worker from Romsey Mill, along with Romsey Mill's Youth Coordinator and a range of other volunteers, including CYP trustees.

CYP are grateful for the financial support of the Cambourne Parish Council in providing an annual grant of £20,000 for the financial year 2014-15, supplementing the income of approx £11,000 received from the Section 106 revenue grant for youth work in Cambourne.

As a result of this financial commitment, a revised and expanded programme of activities was launched in September 2014, following the employment by CYP of a new team of youth and children's workers.

Jackson Nazombe: Youth Development Worker based at Romsey Mill (RM) - 3 days per week
Jonathan Buwert: Youth Worker based at Cambourne Church (CC) - 1 day per week
Jane Brooks: Children's and Family Worker based at Cambourne Church (CC) - 1 day per week

CYP are also grateful to Romsey Mill and Cambourne Church who offer support for these youth workers as they carry out a proportion of their work in Cambourne.

The following is a summary of the programme of activities which CYP has put in place from September 2014.

Young Carers Group (Tuesday evenings 6-8pm)

This group is run by Centre 33, a Cambridge-based charity, and continues to meet weekly in the Cambourne Soul Building to provide support for young people who carry out caring tasks on a regular basis, offering support or assistance to another family member who is disabled, physically or mentally, or has a substance misuse problem.

Young people attend the sessions on a fortnightly basis, with one group for primary age children alternating with a second group for secondary age children.

Lads Football Project (Tuesday evenings 8.45 - 10.15pm)

This popular activity continues to attract 30-40 young people, most of whom participate in soccer on the Muga, but some of whom attend for the opportunity for social contact, facilitating one-to-one discussions with youth workers and volunteers. Some of this group are NEET or in and out of trouble with the police. We are grateful to the Parish Council who grants us the use of the MUGA at no charge. The sessions are currently run by volunteers (including a CYP trustee) with some oversight from the CYP Youth Development Worker (RM).

School Support

The CYP Youth Development Worker (RM) currently supports 5 young people at Comberton Village College on a one-to-one basis who are very challenging for the school, as well as conducting some group work and generally supporting Cambourne young people attending Comberton VC; he currently attends twice a week on Wednesdays and Fridays, liaising with staff in the 'Green Room', Comberton VC's Inclusion Unit.

For information, in addition, the CYP Youth Worker (CC) supports challenging students at Cambourne Village College on a one-to-one basis, using time allocated from his church role. In due course, both CYP youth workers are likely to be concentrating their support in Cambourne VC as this college grows and the number of Cambourne pupils attending Comberton VC diminishes.

Junior Youth Club (Wednesday 4-6pm)

This club for younger secondary school pupils (Years 7&8) was launched in October 2014. The numbers attending are currently quite small, but those who attend are enjoying it and appreciate the contact with the two CYP youth workers and volunteers who attend. Growth is anticipated as news of the club spreads, especially through the school contacts. Opportunities for the youth workers to build relationships at this age will be of benefit as these young people graduate to the older group in due course.

Senior Youth Club (Wednesday 7-9pm)

The senior club for pupils from Year 9 upwards (14+) is also run by the two CYP youth workers and some volunteers. This is an extension of the club which has been running for a number of years and is very busy, with an average of 27 young people each evening, and at least 40 in contact with the group. Many of these young people have complex needs and come from difficult backgrounds. Relationships with the youth workers and volunteers are developing well, enabling support to be offered, and sometimes requiring liaison with others beyond the club. In some cases it has been necessary to activate Child Protection case files following established safeguarding procedures.

As well as the opportunity for social activities, an artist from the Wysing Centre has been involved in an arts project in the spring term 2015 and a DJ from Romsey Mill ran a session in February.

Music Studio (major development: Wednesday evenings and at other times))

Since September 2014, the music studio (located behind the main Soul Building) has been upgraded, and volunteers and young people have fed into discussions about how the facility can best be used. Most of the equipment in the studio was purchased several years ago and, as with many areas of technology, it is important to maintain and upgrade hardware and software to keep the set-up functioning as a professional studio. Considerable time has been given to this maintenance and the purchase of new equipment:

Acoustic damping and sound proofing material has been donated to us from an excess at Cambourne Village College. This has been fitted around the walls of the studio, greatly improving the quality of recording.

Two Mac Mini computers have been given to us by Richard Brown (Arts Development Manager at Comberton Village College). These were left over from a previous arts project and they have been set up in the studio, along with two laptops which were part of our original equipment, to form an audio workstation which can be used for recording, editing and production work.

The main software used for recording has been upgraded from Cubase 5 to Cubase 8 Pro (the latest version). Five versions of this software have been bought (in two different forms) to allow it to be used on multiple machines; this will allow group work sessions to happen much more easily and young people to be editing their work simultaneously.

Waves Gold, a suite of audio plug-ins, has been purchased for the main recording computer. This will allow us to perform professional editing, mixing and mastering.

Equipment has been purchased to extend the Internet connection from the main building to the studio using the mains power, and to split this signal to give Internet access to all the computers in the studio. A dehumidifier has been set up to ensure that the electronic equipment is looked after and kept in good condition.

The purchase of USB data sticks has helped to form a better system to store young people's work and allow it to be accessed from different computers.

We have improved other aspects of the layout and set-up of the studio, such as increasing the number of monitor headphones, adding an extra computer monitor to the main computer, buying an assortment of audio cables to allow increased flexibility in recording and acquiring a filing cabinet for better storage of smaller items.

The new alarm system installed at the youth centre has been extended to the studio to increase security and monitor access.

Several young people and volunteers have been involved in supporting this work of improving the equipment in the studio.

There are currently three adult volunteers interested in supporting the work at the studio, and we aim to have DBS checks and volunteer contracts in place by Easter 2015.

Jonathan Buwert, CYP Youth Worker (CC), has started weekly sessions with a small group of young people who attend the Wednesday evening youth club, and is supporting them to write and record their own music.

Aspire Group (Wednesday evening)

The Aspire group is for children with Asperger Syndrome or other high functioning Autistic Spectrum Conditions and who are in mainstream school. The group is run in the Sports Pavilion in Cambourne by Romsey Mill's Aspire Programme Youth Development worker, supported by volunteers. Romsey Mill prioritises places for young people from Cambourne.

Young Mums group (Wednesday morning)

CYP has contributed to this work at the Children's Centre by using some of the hours available from CYP's Children's and Family Worker (working with a new Family Worker at the Children's Centre). This group meets on a Wednesday morning and works with 8-11 young mothers, a number of whom are in their teens. As well as receiving practical support, these young mothers are encouraged to take ownership of the activities of the group and are also offered opportunities to discuss and investigate potential training and/or work possibilities.

Children's Clubs (new launch - Thursday: Allstars 3.45 – 4.45; Crazy Crew: 5.00 – 6.15)

CYP has reorganised its provision for the infant/primary age range in Cambourne and are now in contact with 16 families through these clubs.

We are currently running 2 children's clubs on a Thursday afternoon during term time. The clubs are run by CYP's Children's and Family Worker (CC), supported by a paid sessional worker 3 hours a week and one parent who volunteers as a leader. We are currently exploring the possibility of taking on another volunteer supplied by the CHS group (formerly Cambridge Housing Society) who is seeking work experience in order to find employment working with children.

Allstars is for 4-7 year olds (school years Reception through Year 2). It runs from 3.45 – 4.45pm. Reception children have been coming since January (in our experience the children are too tired to do an afterschool activity in their first term). We now have 8 regulars, 9 on roll.

Crazy Crew is for 8-11 year olds (school years 3-6). It runs from 5.00 – 6.15pm. We now have 9 regulars, 11 on roll.

The format is broadly the same. Children arrive and take part in games, a craft activity, and are offered a healthy snack and drink (all included in the subs of £1 per week). Part way through the session there is a time of more active group games (which will be outside as the weather improves), followed by Tuck shop. Leaders play games with the children, as well as facilitate the other activities.

Craft materials are bought termly and we plan to provide other new resources for these clubs. Table top games and toys, and games equipment for playing outside are needed. (Second hand good quality complete toys would be gratefully received – especially construction toys such as Knex and Lego).

The children learn social skills, and we intentionally try to build self-esteem through the activities and the interactions each week. There is a need to develop their ability to cope with losing, and things not always going their way, as well as children learning that they cannot always be in charge. We also have a lot of fun and laughter. The children are a pleasure (most of the time!!!)

Boxing (Thursday 4-6pm)

12 young people (mostly aged 14-16) attend boxing sessions at Hardwick Boxing Club, coordinated by the CYP Youth Development Worker (RM). This activity encourages exercise, boosts self-esteem and engages with young people who might not otherwise attend mainstream activities

Chillax (Friday 4.00-6.30pm)

This open youth group meets at Cambourne Church and is run by the Cambourne Church youth worker and other members of a church team, also supported by the CYP Youth Development Worker (RM). About 50% of the young people attending also attend the CYP Wednesday clubs, enabling positive relationships to be developed with youth workers through more frequent contact.

Detached Youth Work

Both youth workers have spent time in detached youth work, meeting young people in various locations around Cambourne, mainly in the first half of the autumn term. It is anticipated that this will resume in the summer, in the light of time available once commitments to other activities have been fulfilled.

In total we expect to have contact with around 200 young people by the end of the year 2015, whether through clubs on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, specific activities such as football, boxing and music studio sessions, or one-to-one/group work in local schools.

Family Fun Days (new development)

On Thursday 19th February we are holding our first Family Fun Day, coordinated by the CYP Children's and Family Worker (CC). Currently we have 13 primary age children and 7 adults booked on to the day (including some new children not regular members of the clubs). We have places for up to 24 participants and anticipate that all places will be taken. (24 is the limit set by the Everyone Active Multi-sports session). We can probably accommodate a few more by asking some of the parents not to take part in the multi-sports session. A flier attached to this report for your information. This event was also advertised in the Crier.

Depending on the success of the day and on staff/volunteer availability, CYP will look at organising a similar activity during the Easter holidays, summer half term and the summer holidays.

Our thanks are extended to Everyone Active for accommodating our Family Fun Day. They move their holiday club out of the main hall for the hour and a half that we are holding our session.

For the Easter and Summer Fun days we will explore working with The Wildlife Trust as well as Everyone Active to provide activities. We will also utilise the new Water Park in Upper Cambourne when it is open.

Half-term Family Fun Day

Thursday 19th February

Come and join in the fun - we will make pizzas for lunch, go to Everyone Active for Multi-sports, and then return to Cambourne Soul for a craft and games session.

When?	Thursday 19th February
Time?	11.45 - 4.15pm
Cost?	£3 per child
Who?	Families - parents and children of primary age (a few preschool children can be accommodated - please talk to Jane Brooks at the time of booking.) Please note - it is expected that parents/carers will attend with their children.
Programme:	11.45am Make your own Pizzas 1.00pm Multi-sports at Everyone Active (cost included, please bring your Everyone Active card) 2.45pm Crafts/games, squash and tuck shop 4.15pm End

For more details and to book on to this activity, please email Jane on officecyp@gmail.com

