

Update on Cambourne Youth Partnership September 2021:

This update follows on from the annual report April 2020 – March 2021 supplied to Cambourne Town Council in April, prior to the May annual general meeting. The annual report is also attached for information.

Summer Term 2021:

Boxing Project

We successfully applied for a grant of £2000 from the Clubs in Crisis Fund, which is supported by Made By Sport and managed by the Cambridgeshire Community Foundation. This will cover the cost of the regular weekly boxing group which restarted in June, as well as the costs associated with one-to-one boxing sessions which one of our volunteers is offering. Young people had been very keen to restart this activity as soon as Covid restrictions allowed.

Blue Bag Project

We made a lot of progress on the Blue Bag Project to provide sanitary products to young people. We acquired all the stock required and had some logo design work done to provide a professional look to the project. We 'went live' with offering the Blue Bags to young people from late June and Emma Whitbread did some brilliant work liaising with the schools (primary and secondary) to offer them the opportunity to make use of the Blue Bags, and also with the Upper Cambourne Co-op and Morrisons, who are both supporting us as donation points for ongoing donations of supplies.

Other groups and activities

In June we restarted two open-access youth clubs: one for Years 7-9 and one for Years 9-11. Thanks to the good weather, we were able to hold these largely based outside, meaning that numbers were not too restricted.

We continued to run the activities organised during Covid restrictions, including the Tuesday lunchtime group for those aged around 16-19, Wednesday Year 6 transitions group, Wednesday online youth club for those in Year 12+ and the Friday football group, as well as several targeted groups and one-to-ones. The one-to-one sessions included some where we offered quite intensive support to young people (for example, enabling a young person in Year 11 who recently moved to Cambourne to sit his GCSE assessments with us as there wasn't another suitable option for him, and working along with the social work team to provide ongoing support to a young person who recently went into care). We also continued to provide a couple of detached sessions out and about in Cambourne each week.

Summer Holidays and Programme from September

We had a great time over the summer holiday period with a lot of activities and engagement with young people across different groups (please see the Crier article which gave more details and photos). We ran a programme of weekly lunchtime group and skills workshops for those aged 16-19 (with the session on CV writing being a particular highlight) and an afternoon each week of inflatable fun on the sports fields. It was great to see a lot of new young people engaging with the sessions, alongside those who have been involved previously.

In addition to the activities in Cambourne, we ran several trips across the summer for young people we have been supporting, including karting, climbing, trampolining, bowling, safari park and aqua park. We also took our football group to Peterborough to take part in a tournament.

We continued our one-to-one work with several young people to provide targeted support, particularly around navigating education and work-related decisions, or relationship and mental health issues.

In September we started our new programme for the autumn term. We are running 4 open access youth clubs each week, split by age group and spread across Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, alongside a similar range of targeted work as we have run previously (boxing group, football group, one-to-ones in the community and in school, detached work, etc). Jonathan Buwert will be spending more time this term on music to re-establish some regular music sessions alongside other groups.

Staffing Update

Cambourne Youth Partnership are pleased to be able to work in partnership with the charity Romsey Mill, through whom our youth workers are employed.

Jonathan Buwert continues in his role as Lead Development Youth Worker, coordinating activities in Cambourne and liaising with partner groups, outside agencies and local schools. Jonathan is also taking on a new role to lead and coordinate the youth work training for Romsey Mill, which brings benefit to Cambourne as more of our volunteers gain a recognised youth work qualification.

A year ago, Emma Slater went on maternity leave and gave birth to Zachariah (Zach) in October. Over the summer, Emma has returned to her Youth Support Worker role and will continue to be involved with Cambourne for the equivalent of one day a week, focussed around Thursdays and Fridays, building on relationships developed over several years. She will also be involved in youth work in Linton.

Having completed a degree in youth and community work, Emma Whitbread started working part-time in Cambourne in November, initially to cover Emma Slater's

maternity leave. From 1st September, Emma began a full-time role as a Youth Development Worker, taking the lead on several projects and open access clubs.

It's been great to have Rosie Day, who is a youth work student currently finishing her Masters and JNC qualification, on placement with Romsey Mill over the summer and she has been very involved with the Cambourne programme. Rosie is planning to continue volunteering with us for two days a week.

Finally, we were very sad to learn of the death of Pete McAdam, who had been a volunteer with CYP over many years, significantly involved in the setting up of the music equipment and spending generous amounts of time supporting the production of music tracks. Most recently, he helped us to move the music studio equipment from the old container back into the main Soul Building. We are very grateful for the substantial contribution he made to enabling young people to benefit from the music facilities here.

New Cambourne Soul Building

We are encouraged to see the progress being made on the construction of the new youth building, with groundworks begun in July. We look forward to meeting with relevant members of the Town Council to discuss the progress of the building and CYP's role in the provision of youth work once the new building is fully commissioned.

Nigel Taylor
Chair of CYP Trustees
16th September 2021