

Report on Cambourne Youth Partnership's Activities for Cambourne Town Council Leisure & Amenities Committee April and May 2022

Monthly Headlines

April 2022

- Engaged with **172** young people in total
- **28** new young people attended for first time in April
- **12** volunteers supporting activities
- **3** young leaders supporting activities
- **37** sessions provided across the month

May 2022

- Engaged with **205** young people in total
- **42** new young people attended for first time in May
- **13** volunteers supporting activities
- **2** young leaders supporting activities
- **57** sessions provided across the month

Easter Holiday Programme

During the Easter holidays, we ran a programme of activities for young people. We set aside a day for music, with 3 slots for young people who had been attending our Thursday evening music group to use to develop the songs that they had been working on. We were able to do some recording of a couple of these songs and you can read more below about the outcome of this.

We also ran 3 film nights (spanning the age range across our open access groups), 2 baking sessions and a football tournament. In total, 67 young people engaged with the Easter programme.



Open Access Youth Clubs

We have continued to offer 4 open access youth clubs across the week, split into different age groups: Year 7, Year 8-9, Year 10-11 and Sixth Form. These clubs are open to all young people and are free to attend. Each group runs for 1 ½ hours and offers a range of activities such as pool, music, board games, baking, games consoles and space for young people to meet with friends and socialise. Young people are free to drop-in and leave when they want to, but most of them will stay for the whole session.

In total, 109 young people have accessed the open access groups across April and May.

"It's nice to be in an environment where I feel safe and calm" (Young person aged 11)

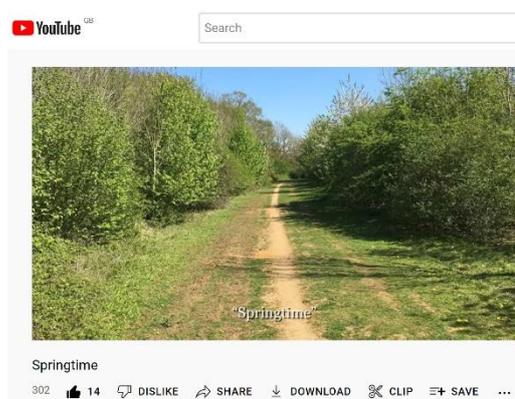
Compass Project

We have been working over the past few months with a team of researchers, from Anglia Ruskin University and Loughborough University. They are exploring whether involvement in a personal development programme, with a focus on morality, attitudes and emotions, has an effect on positive behavioural outcomes, such as wellbeing, quality of relationships with others, and antisocial behaviour and crime. We are delighted that they have chosen to run 2 research groups with young people in Cambourne and they are doing these alongside our open access youth clubs on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The programme started at the beginning of May and will run for 9 weeks, with 56 young people having shown initial interest in signing up.



Music Group

Our music sessions on a Thursday evening have continued to develop, with new young people joining the group and bringing their ideas for songs that they would like to record. During the Easter holidays, we were able to record the first song which is part of our album project and this was released on 13th May. 'Springtime' was written by the young people from the music group, with musical and lyrical support from Paul Howard (one of our volunteers), and brilliantly performed by Katelynn, who attends the group. The video is accessible on YouTube at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rnh_ja07Lgc for anyone who would like to listen to it.



We currently have 9 young people engaged in the music sessions and we are working on our next few pieces, including a song focussed on mental health. We hope to be able to release some more over the next few months.

Boxing

We have continued to run our boxing group in partnership with Icen Gym in Hardwick. The focus over the past couple of months has been on one of the girls, Grace, who started attending our open access youth club at the youth centre and then joined the boxing group. She's been training hard and took part in her first boxing show at the end of May with a brilliant performance.



Unfortunately, the boxing gym in Hardwick will be closing before the summer, so we are exploring with those who run the sessions there about how we might be able to continue this work in the new Soul building.

Football Group

Our Friday evening football session has continued to grow, with 52 young people having attended across April and May. A lot of our new attendees are in Year 7, having joined the football group after first attending the open access youth club, and so this has increased the spread of ages. On most weeks we now run 2 parallel football games, split into a younger and older group.

The football group enjoyed coming together for an afternoon over the Easter holidays when we were able to form 4 teams and have a tournament.



Wellbeing Café

Our youth wellbeing café, which starting in January as a partnership with Cambourne Church, has been continuing strongly with an increase in young people attending each month. Throughout April and May we have had 28 young people altogether who attended, spending time together relaxing, taking part in art activities, having discussions about various aspects of wellbeing and being supported by the team of leaders. We continue to be grateful to Monkfield Medical Practice who applied for the funding for this to be possible.

“Coming to the wellbeing café every Friday has helped to give me a consistent routine”

Young Person Aged 16

Friday Baking

One of our young leaders had previously been part of a girls’ group which used to run on a Friday evening. Since becoming a young leader and joining the Level 2 youth work training course, she has been keen to take a lead with the group, restarting it as a baking group for younger ones. This group began to meet before the Easter holidays and now runs weekly alongside the football session, with 12 young people having engaged in it during April and May.

Friday Evening Detached and Group

We have continued to do detached youth work on a Friday evening, where 2 or 3 members of the youth work team head out across Cambourne to engage with young people who are around, whether at the skate park, youth hang out, on the streets or in the parks. We will often meet with between 10-20 young people, getting to know them, building relationships with them and exploring their thoughts and ideas about their community.

Over the past few months, there is a group that we have been consistently meeting and getting to know. They were often hanging out late on a Friday evening and we know that some of the group have been the subject of recent concerns about anti-social behaviour. We asked them what they

would like to be doing on a Friday evening and they responded that they wanted to be able to meet in the youth centre and have their own youth club. The next week we invited them into the building and the group grew over the first three weeks from 21 young people to 44 young people attending. We're looking forward to continuing to develop the work with this group, particularly in the new building with more suitable space.

Schools Work

We continue to have a good relationship with Cambourne Village College, supporting several young people in the school through 1:1 mentoring, alternative education and targeted groups. In April we started two new wellbeing groups, run by one of our youth workers with support from a couple of the school's pastoral assistants. Throughout April and May we have been working with 13 students at the school.

1:1 Support

We also support young people through 1:1 work and targeted group sessions outside of the school context. Some of these young people attend schools outside of Cambourne, some are at sixth form, some are home schooled, and some have dropped out of school or college. We have several regular weekly sessions, providing support with education, mental health and lifeskills. We have also helped young people in times of crisis, including risk of homelessness, involvement in criminal activity and significant mental health challenges. Throughout April and May we have supported 5 young people in this way.



Local Networking

As well as delivering youth work directly with young people, our team regularly takes part in wider networking meetings, some focussed on young people and others more generally about community work in Cambourne. We are part of the South Cambs Youth & Families Problem Solving Group, which is a subgroup of the Community Safety Partnership, engaging with other agencies around anti-social behaviour in Cambourne, as well as the Cambourne Community Support Partnership meeting, which takes a broader view of what's going on in the community and how organisations can work together.

We were pleased to be able to take part in a meeting in May organised by the Police and Community Safety Partnership to consider anti-social behaviour in the community, and we were particularly able to facilitate the voices of young people being heard. Several good conversations have come out of this meeting, supporting the development of relationships between groups who may not previously have connected positively, and we are continuing to work to help young people share their views and have more dialogue with the wider community.

Cambourne 10K

We are grateful to the organisers of the Cambourne 10K for supporting Cambourne Youth Partnership by offering free spaces for some of our group to take part in the run at the start of April. One of our young leaders, Dylan, supported by Jonathan (one of the youth workers), was able to take part in his first 10K race and achieve a great 53-minute result. We also raised £140 to support CYP's work.



Volunteers

We rely on volunteers to enable the range of activities that take place throughout the week and we're incredibly grateful to each one for the time, talents and energy that they give for the benefit of young people. In April and May we have had 14 volunteers engaged, with an additional 3 young leaders who supported the groups and activities.

We offer training to our volunteers and young leaders through Romsey Mill's training programme, and over the past few months we've had 8 people from Cambourne taking part in an accredited qualification: Level 2 Award in Youth Work Principles. Three of those have been volunteers, three have been young leaders and two have been members of staff at Cambourne VC who have partnered with us. We are very proud of all of their achievements in completing the course, which finished at the end of May, and we await the awarding of the qualifications.

Thriving Minds Funding

We were delighted to receive news in May that Cambourne Youth Partnership was successful in a grant application to the UK Youth Fund: Thriving Minds, with a total of £45,000



being awarded across three years. The grant team have recognised the valuable work that we are already doing in the area of support young people with complex mental health issues and are supporting our desire to grow this work. We are in the process of planning the best way to use this money to ensure sustainable growth both in the direct delivery of support to young people and in the wider infrastructure across mental health support for young people locally.

Jubilee Hampers

Through our work with Romsey Mill, we were part of a very generous donation of Jubilee Picnic Hampers from several food venues in Cambridge, co-ordinated by the University Arms Hotel. We received 20 hampers, full of gourmet food as a picnic for 4 people, and were able to distribute these to some of the families with whom we work. The support was gratefully received by these families and the hampers were a great support as they celebrated the Jubilee weekend.

New Soul Building

A number of our groups and activities have grown to a point where the existing Soul building is no longer suitable in terms of its capacity and ability to provide for the varied sessions that we run with young people. We are grateful to the Town Council for allowing us to use the new Soul building for the Compass Project sessions in April and May, which require minimal equipment in the new hall. As we look ahead to our future activities, including those over the summer holidays and the programme in the new academic year, we are limited in our ability to plan for these without a clear timescale on the transition to fully using the new building and we look forward to greater collaboration with the Town Council about the kitting out of the building to ensure that it is suitable for youth work activities. We hope that an appropriate meeting can take place soon, in alignment with the meetings agreed in the recent Service Level Agreement, to ensure continued discussion and development of the service provided by CYP.

Jonathan Buwert

Lead Youth Development Worker for Cambourne

16th June 2022