

# Report on Cambourne Youth Partnership's Activities for Cambourne Town Council Leisure & Amenities Committee

June, July and August 2023

## Monthly Headlines

### June 2023

- Engaged with **190** young people in total
- **4** new young people attended for first time in June
- **10** volunteers supporting activities
- **1** young leader supporting activities
- **34** sessions provided across the month

### July 2023

- Engaged with **183** young people in total
- **2** new young people attended for first time in July
- **9** volunteers supporting activities
- **1** young leader supporting activities
- **19 sessions provided across the month**

### August 2023

- Engaged with **201** young people in total
- **31** new young people attended for first time in August
- **5** volunteers supporting activities
- **2** young leaders supporting activities
- **17 sessions provided across the month**

## Summer Holiday Programme

We ran a range of activities over the summer holidays, both in Cambourne and further afield. In mid-August we took 10 young people to Thorpe Park who challenged themselves to try new rides and overcome fears whilst having lots of fun.



Each Wednesday we held Art and Craft afternoons. Young people enjoyed making their own glass lanterns, creating a new mural to go above the new snack bar using Kawaii techniques and designing

their favourite snack characters. We also had Hannah from Popolo return with pottery painting which is always a big hit! Young people enjoyed decorating snack plates or Rocket money boxes.



Each Thursday we held activities involving a different inflatable for young people to join in with. We were grateful for good weather so we could be outside in the sunshine and meet lots of new young people, some new year 7s and others that have recently moved to Cambourne.



We also ran cooking sessions for those that receive free school meals to receive a free hot meal after each of our open access sessions as part of the HAF programme. Young people enjoyed eating Bolognese, jacket potatoes with various toppings, making their own pizza and curry was a big hit! All our open access sessions are free for all young people to attend.

## Boxing

Our Boxing group on a Thursday, supported by Icen Boxing Gym, continued to have consistent numbers over the summer and the young people showed a growth in confidence with their boxing and were also visibly more confident outside of the group as well. Part of the focus of this session is to support young people's mental health and wellbeing, and there has been space within the sessions for participants to open up and share about how they are doing.

## Friday Baking

Over the past few months our Baking Group has continued to be popular. Paige and Emma had a great end to the year with the Baking group, with them reflecting on how far they've come throughout year 7 and how much their confidence has grown. Their highlights of the year in the baking group were brownies, pizza, scones, strawberries and cream cupcakes!

## Open Access Youth Clubs

We have continued to run four weekly open access youth clubs, covering the different age groups. There are a range of activities always on offer. One highlight was seeing three of the young people used Hama Beads in one of our sessions to make LGBTQ+ key rings to sell at school to raise money for their LGBTQ+ youth group. Pasta and Toasties are always available in our sessions, plus opportunities to bake cakes and puddings.



## Music Group

We have a focussed group attending our music sessions, which allows for better engagement with them and help individuals to develop their music abilities. One of our volunteers has been able to set up a regular music opportunity in the studio as well during one of the open access sessions, which we hope will foster more interest in young people who might want to join with the smaller group sessions.

## Wellbeing Café and Support Group

The wellbeing cafe continued to be popular during June and July. During the exam period we focused more on talking about exam stress and revision tips and towards the end of term we looked back on their year and how they felt about moving up in September and new teachers. We also had with us a Dance Movement Psychotherapist student (Sophie Murgatroyd) in her final year of study at the University of Derby. As part of her time on placement, Sophie provided a programme of Dance Movement Psychotherapy (DMP) within the wellbeing support group.

## Football Group

Our football session on a Friday evening engages consistently with a good number of young people. There is a mix of age and abilities, from those who are looking for a serious game to some who want to have a casual kick-about.



## Friday Evening Group

This youth club has attracted a lot of young people facing a range of challenges. Due to a reduction in staffing capacity we ran this group fortnightly before the summer holidays.

## Detached Work

Our weekly detached sessions on a Thursday evening are a key opportunity to connect with young people who may not otherwise come along to the youth centre. It's important for us to have a presence in the community and for young people to know that youth workers are present and accessible should they want to come and have a chat with us.

## Schools Work

We continued to provide support for students within Cambourne Village College, particularly those who are struggling to engage with their education. In the summer term we used some of our funding from UK Youth Thriving Minds to fund a tutor to deliver weekly lessons with a year 11 boy who was

due to sit his GCSEs despite not attending school for over a year. He engaged well with the sessions and managed to sit a number of his exams, something that he would not have felt able to do without this support.

## Youth Celebration Night

Romsey Mill holds an annual Youth Celebration Night in Cambridge which celebrates young people and their achievements over the past year. This event was held in July; there were live performances and videos demonstrating aspects of the work. Cambourne young people were awarded certificates and volunteers were given gifts as a thank you for all that they do.



## News



We are delighted to have been named as South Cambs District Council's Charity of the year.

On the 1<sup>st</sup> June Youth Development Worker Emma Whitbread had her head shaved in Cambourne Soul to raise money for Romsey Mill!



We're grateful to Cambourne Town Council for the support they give to enable this work to happen.

Jon Sanders (Youth Development Team Coordinator for Romsey Mill) and Emma Whitbread (Youth Development Worker)

15<sup>th</sup> September 2023