





#### YMCA BRUNEL GROUP COLEFORD YOUTH CLUB

Report for Coleford Town Council Department: Youth and Community

**Dated**: January 2025 – March 2025

**Team Leader**: Chiara Docherty

**Director of Youth & Community**: Mark Willcox



YMCA enables people to develop their full potential in mind, body and Spirit. Inspired by, and faithful to, our Christian Values, we create supportive, inclusive and energising communities, where young people can truly belong, contribute and thrive.

## Our youth work at YMCA Brunel Group

YMCA Brunel Group delivers universal Youth Work for young people 10-19 (25 years additional needs). Operating in 8 youth clubs, project work across Mendip & South Somerset; Frome, Coleford, Glastonbury, Shepton Mallet, Street and Yeovil. We have worked with 1200+ young people over the past year.

YMCA Brunel Group is a charitable organisation providing a service and activities for young people and their communities.

Our aim is for all our young people to have ambitions for themselves, to be confident individuals, effective contributors, successful learners and responsible citizens; and to be nurtured, safe, active, healthy, achieving, included, respected and responsible in their communities. We want to encourage young people to connect creatively with their community and learn how to become better neighbours through that connection.



# **Coleford Youth Club Report by Chiara Docherty**

Report January 2025 - March 2025

#### **Overview**

Over this last term (Jan-March), the numbers of young people attending has continued to be consistent. The youth club sessions have been consistent, not only in attendees but also in engagement. Coleford youth club has approx. 25 young people per session. The average age range we have been supporting is 10-16 years.

Towards the end of term (the last 3 sessions) we have seen an increase in older members attending, some of which haven't previously been known to us including those who used to attend, but haven't done so in over a year.

Since the older members have returned/joined, this has changed the group dynamic within the club. Although our current members have been regularly attending, we have identified there being a change within the young people's confidence and engaging around the older members.

We have identified those now vaping around the older group. Advice & guidance has been given around this. Further guidance and support sessions to be delivered.

### Young People's Participation

- Oracy; developing language skills Young people have been taking part in different
  activities to support their spoken language skills and to help them articulate their
  ideas. This has been a new development, with youth workers recently being trained
  and something we wish to develop and embed within our curriculum and programme
  delivery.
- Young people were invited to take part in Frome Lions Annual swim event to fundraise for their youth club.
- Young people took part in an Equality and Diversity session, including a healthy debate on this topic.
- Chinese New Year themed session- lots of positive engagement throughout which the young people enjoyed.
- Your club your views- feedback forms completed by young people
- Young people have been evaluating activities during the youth club sessions via staff, completing your club your views, feedback box, digital feedback.
- Young people took part in Veganuary (themed night); This session/activity went well through healthy debate & sharing different views, which resulted in breaking down barriers and misconceptions.



- One of our members is currently taking part in the Duke of Edinburgh and volunteering in the youth club sessions, helping to set up the club, support the tuck shop, supporting the activities during the session and helping to pack down.
- Young People taking ownership of the club; Helping to set up, pack down and run the tuck shop.
- Dave Wiles- (external partner) visited the youth club to speak to young people & gather feedback for impact and monitoring, in which many young people engaged in. Overall, the youth & community service has received positive feedback in terms of our delivery & impact.
- Young people have been made aware of the online participation group and how they
  can get involved, with two young people choosing to sign up for the zoom sessions
  and discord sessions.
- Young people were given the opportunity to meet the community PCSO'S.

#### **Focus**

#### Issue based:

Equality & diversity, participation, oracy - developing language skills, Veganuary, drugs awareness - cannabis, vaping/smoking, discord- online participation group, healthy relationships, team building, anti-social behaviour, recycling, neurodiversity, Year 9 choices/transitions, Year 6 SATS support, mental health/emotional health

#### Themes:

Chinese New Year celebrations, mental health, goals & visions, Veganuary, Valentines, kindness, fundraising, anti-social behaviour, being a good neighbour, Easter, Mother's Day/role models

Crafts: DIY Chinese lanterns, DIY calendars, jewellery making, positive affirmation pictures, origami, floristry, Valentines' crafts, DIY photo frames, paint by number art, kindness kits, canvas art, threading crafts, ceramic fridge magnets, stain glass windows, Hama Beads, clay moulds, Easter crafts: cards & ceramic egg painting, plant potting.

Team Building Games & Challenges

## Dance

Food: fortune cookies, Chinese Stir Fry, pizza bagels, toasties, macaroni cheese.



## **Highs**

- Youth Workers attended Voice 21 training Oracy to support the development of young people's spoken language skills. This training has supported us to listen to young people, to develop their understanding, help them to engage with others through language, articulate ideas, listening to understand and using different voices for different purposes. Oracy enables young people to learn to talk and learn through talk. We are working to embed this across all clubs.
- Implemented activities around supporting oracy and spoken language with young people; we will be continuing to develop this with Voice 21 and within our programme.
- Dave Wiles (external visitor) attended the session on 30/01/25 to consult young people and gather their feedback regarding the youth club sessions and service to support our impact and monitoring. Young people gave lots of positive feedback.
- Developed a digital feedback form to be assessable (your club, your views survey) so young people can provide feedback anonymously.
- We delivered a Chinese New Year themed night which young people really enjoyed and engaged well throughout. Young people made origami crafts, lanterns, completed word searches and made pictures as well as cooking Chinese stir fry.
- We have delivered a variety of themed nights throughout this term in which young people have positively engaged in. (mental health, Veganuary, goals and visions, Valentines, kindness)
- Young people value their club and the youth work team, engage well with staff and one another
- PCSO Visit; Local beat team attended one of the sessions to spend time with young people which was really positive.

#### Lows

- Although it has been positive to see an increase of older members attending, we
  have identified changes in the group dynamic, which has mainly impacted the
  younger members. Although no major behaviour issues, young people have
  provided feedback that they are intimidated by the older ones.
- Increase in older members vaping
- End of term, a group of older members (4) left site to play man hunt. Young people are advised not to leave site but we are open access. This resulted in a neighbour assaulting one of the young people for trespassing. Police were notified. I have since spoken to the local beat policing team (who support our youth provision) and attended the latest session.
- Access to kitchen facilities; the kitchen would be fantastic for young people to use; however, this is no longer equipped to be used.



## **Case Study**

One of the Young people is currently taking part in the Duke of Edinburgh Award and has selected Coleford Youth Club as their volunteer placement for 3 months. They are currently week 6 into their placement and have been helping to set up the youth club sessions, supporting in the delivery of the programme/activities and the running of the tuck shop. Staff members have been supporting this young person within this role, helping to develop their skills, build their confidence and supporting them to take a lead. We have been developing our relationship with this young person, which has enabled us to identify areas where they are confident and identify areas that they may need support in. We have seen an overall increase in their confidence. This young person also helped out at Frome's kindness festival, helping to distribute 100 kindness kits throughout the community. They also took part in the Frome Lions Swim event, raising £135. Total funds raised was £520. This YP has come on leaps and bounds & we will continue to support their personal development over the next term.

## What are the aims of the club for the next 3 months, what's important?

- Embed Oracy- Language Skills
- Young people taking a lead- ownership of their club
- Embed Public world across the whole service
- Development of Discord/zoom- Online participation group
- Develop & create equality, Diversity and Inclusion board for Coleford youth club, with young people's input.
- Develop our impact and monitoring

### **Priorities for next 3 months**

- Supporting the group development
- Raise funds for equipment and resources.

## **Staffing:**

Chiara Docherty- Team leader
Jenny Dallimore- Youth worker
Lucy Sweet- Youth worker
Lucia Harley- Relief youth worker
Christian McNatt- Relief Youth worker

Supported by Mark Willcox – Director of Youth & Community



WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK COLEFORD PARISH COUNCIL FOR THEIR GENEROUS SUPPORT AND COMMITMENT IN SUPPORTING LOCAL YOUNG PEOPLE AND YMCA BRUNEL GROUP COLEFORD YOUTH CLUB.