# YMCA BRUNEL GROUP

BATH / BRISTOL / WILTSHIRE MENDIP / SOUTH SOMERSET



# Coleford Youth Club June 2025 REPORT



#### YMCA BRUNEL GROUP COLEFORD YOUTH CLUB

Report for Coleford Parish CouncilDepartment: Youth and CommunityDated:April 2025 – June 2025Team Leader: Chiara DochertyDirector 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 April 2025 – June 2025

#### Overview

It's been a quieter term compared to the previous term which is quite common for the youth club in the warmer weather. It has also been a much shorter term due to the school holidays in April and May and closures due to unforeseen circumstances.

There has been a fall out & breakdown in friendships amongst the group (predominantly between a large groups of girls) which has also impacted attendance this term. We are supporting to address the issues between them but with the group not attending it's been difficult to help the friendships develop or try to move forward with the issues between them.

We have seen an increase in older members attending again and have had some challenging behaviour from them at times, which has also impacted other young people attending and had an impact on the general youth club sessions. We are working with the young people to address the behaviour and to enforce the expectations and ground rules to ensure the youth club feels welcoming and safe for all young people

#### Young People's Participation

- Young people have been involved in providing feedback regarding the service & youth club sessions; they are due to complete the next feedback survey by the end of June.
- Young people have been involved in writing their own transformative stories, regarding their journey and progression.
- Young people have given feedback and quotes to support the development of the website for Coleford youth club.
- Young people have been involved in programme planning and equipment wish list, as well as feedback on what key themes and topics they would like us to cover during future terms.
- A group of young people have been working with staff to support their idea of doing a sponsored 10-mile walk to raise funds for the youth club sessions (activities and equipment).
- Young people have participated well within the youth club programme and activities on offer, as well as taking a lead in supporting other members involvement.



#### Focus

#### Topics/Themes:

Active participation, healthy relationships, friendships, equality and diversity, smoking awareness (including vaping), fundraising, programme planning, consultation, healthy lifestyle.

#### Crafts:

Wooden bookmarks, crochet crafts, canvas art, bird houses, wooden art crafting (variety), plaster of Paris crafts, DIY night lights/mini lamps, slime making, jewellery making, loom band key ring, photo holders.

Sports & Team Games (Park Sessions): Rounders, basketball, football, crafts

#### Highs

With the warmer weather, we engaged in some park sessions; this was requested by the young people and has been well attended and enabled us to engage with more young people within the community. These sessions are always popular amongst young people and allows them to take part in activities that are not possible within the perimeters of the youth centre.

We are due to receive a table tennis table for Coleford Youth Club and young people are really excited about this.

We have been working with a core group of young people, who have come up with the idea of doing a sponsored fancy dress 10-mile walk to raise funds for the youth club for equipment and resources and we will be developing this over the next term.

We have been talking to young people about their journeys, which has been a huge positive to help them recognise their progression from their perspective.

One of our young people has completed their Duke of Edinburgh Award which included being a volunteer at Coleford youth club.



#### Lows

Issues with kitchen cleanliness (particularly inside the cupboards, drawers & cooker). This prevents us from being able to use the kitchen for cooking.

General inadequate kitchen facilities to be able to cook. There are minimal utensils and the ones that are there are not fit for purpose.

We have had issues with other users' groups moving our equipment (previously damaged our speaker) and blocking access to our equipment prior to a session, less and less storage space or access to equipment is problematic.

#### **Case Study**

'When I first came to Coleford youth club I was 10. I was looking forward to going with my friends. I like the people at youth club and the fun activities they do. I am now in secondary school and still enjoy coming, I like playing football and trying new things. Youth club has given me something to do when I am bored. If youth club wasn't here anymore, I would be bored as there isn't a lot for us to do in the village. I am more confident in talking to people now than I used to be. I like coming here because there is different stuff every week, and I have the chance to learn new skills. one session I made a positivity journal to take home with me, and I really enjoyed creating it and making it my own. It really helped me to understand how I can record my feelings'.

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

Fundraising event with young people to raise funds for the youth centre.

YR 6 visit to Bishop Henderson

Transformative stories

Young people's feedback surveys- end of term

Quarterly programme planning

Consultation with young people



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

Promotion of the youth centre and recruitment.

Developing the youth club sessions and developing new relationships with young people

Source funds to support with the activities and programme

#### Staffing:

Coleford Youth Club Team: Chiara Docherty – Team Leader Lucy Sweet – Youth Worker Jenny Dallimore – Youth Worker

Jenny Dallimore will be absent throughout July, therefore we will be relying on relief staffing to support the youth club sessions and delivery.

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.