

Report to Andover Town Council

7th February 2023

Dear members

We are grateful for the grant of £500 that was given to us to support the costs of running our Detached Youth Sessions in Andover. Each night costs £125 to run – the grant from ATC helped us to keep the service running over the winter months.

The funding paid for two youth workers to be out in the town centre, Anton Trading Estate, King George Road, Roman and King Arthurs Way.

The youth workers wore the familiar purple uniform and have made some great relationships with young people out at night.



Tuesday nights were detached night and it was often a rainy soaked night, but this did not deter young people being out and sheltering in and around town.

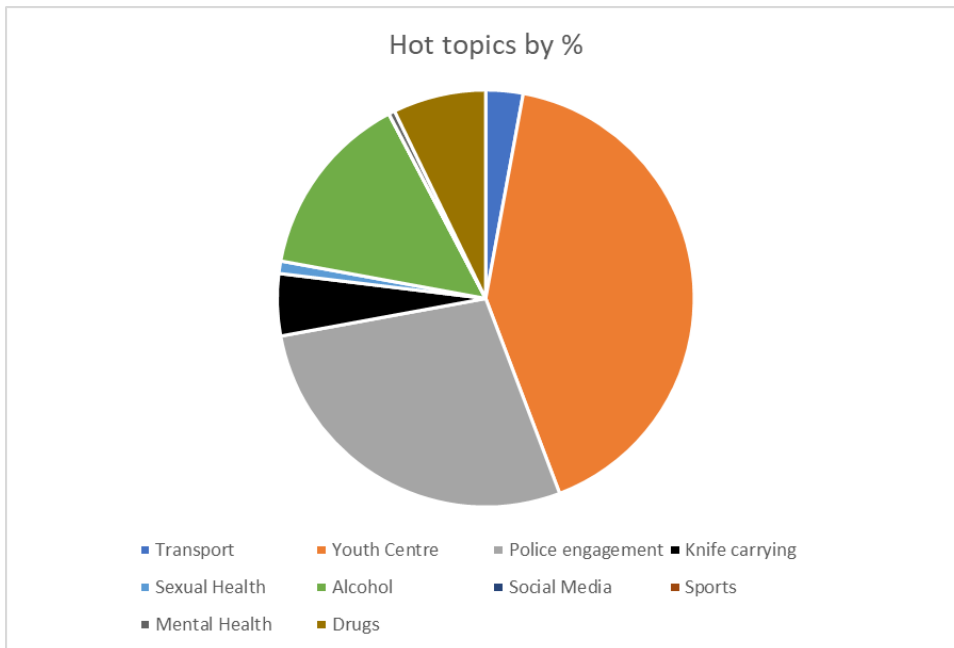
The team worked with the neighbourhood policing team with the ASB (Antisocial Behaviour) Operation Solar where they talked with young people who were displaying risky and anti-social behaviours including climbing on roofs and consuming alcohol. On more than one occasion the youth workers accompanied young people safely home as they (yp) were intoxicated and at risk.

We kept a record of the numbers of young people, the total is 643 – of which there were regulars and some who were new to the service, surprisingly a few who had come over from Ludgershall to spend time in Andover.

As it was the winter, we purchased flasks and hot chocolate so that we could offer a warm drink as way to create a relationship. This was a massive success and one-story sticks in our minds.

It was a freezing cold and wet evening the youth workers spotted a group of bedraggled young people who looked miserable and cold. Once the young people got sight of them knowing they had hot chocolate they came running over and the mood changed, this hot chocolate brought them a sense of being cared for brightened a chilly night up for both them and the workers.

Over the past 6 months the team gathered data about the topics that young people spoke with them about.



The outcomes for this service have been that we have been able to engage with young people where they are.

We have provided outreach healthy relationships information – this is limited in schools and many of the young people we came across had questions that they had no-one else to ask.

Young people have got to know who YBRP (Yellow Brick Road Projects) is and the other services we offer – this includes The Legacy Project a programme of mentoring support for young people at risk of exploitation.

We have cemented good relationships with PCSOs and TVBC (Test Valley Borough Council) Community Engagement team which has created stronger community cohesion.

We have referred young people to other services in the area including Koala, Catch 22, MIND and Breakout Youth.

Thank you once again for supporting the work we do with young people in the town, we would be interested in applying to the Andover Town Council in the next round of funding if this is appropriate.

Siobhan Down, CEO