

FOLKESTONE YOUTH PROJECT
SHED
URBAN WILDERNESS
YOUTH AND COMMUNITY COHESION SPACE
BRADSTONE AVENUE

REGISTERED CHARITY 1113379

ANNUAL REPORT APRIL 2022 -2023



**WRITTEN BY RUTH TYLER -
PROJECT MANAGER**

Executive Summary



The project has continued to develop ways to help young people and the local community. We have noticed the change in behaviour of young people brought about by lockdown has led to less engagement by upper age group 14 -18 years. One of our focuses is to address the effects of lockdown on the social and emotional wellbeing of young people.

A multi-year National Lottery grant has given financial stability. The need to attract new trustees has been recognised, especially a new treasurer. The Charity would like to improve the diversity of the trust to reflect Folkestone's community.

The youth team have made good progress on the development of the Urban Wilderness site and engaging the local community.

Introduction

The Charity established a youth project in Folkestone Harbour in 2006. (Full history can be read in our 2016 Annual Report.)

In 2014 we relocated onsite to modular units due to our old building being demolished for regeneration work.

In 2017 we had to leave that site and put the buildings into storage, leaving the project temporarily homeless.

In 2018 we took over Network Land to establish our new Urban Wilderness site at Bradstone Avenue. The modular units were brought out of storage and have been completely refurbished.

The project works in a holistic way to provide free activities/preventative education that support the social, emotional, and physical development of young people.

The project is now also committed to teaching young people about the environment and conservation. The outside space provides opportunity for wildlife garden and community gardening.

We have maintained our efforts to prevent items going into landfill.

Through working with the Police and Council Crime Reduction Team, the youth team are making an impact on the lives of vulnerable young people in the area.

The project has a no social media onsite policy and discourages the use of mobile phones during sessions. This is to reduce stress on young people and to give them opportunity to fully engage in activities.

Activities include – Cookery, Gardening, Board Games, Art/Craft, DIY/Up cycling furniture, Music Technology, Photography, Preventative education and much more.

In 2020, as a response to the pandemic, the Charity set up a new referral service, providing 1-2-1 support to the most vulnerable and at risk Young People.

Demographic profile of the youth population served.

The project sits within the East of Folkestone surrounded by the Wards of Folkestone Harbour, Folkestone Foord, Folkestone Harvey Central, Folkestone Foord and Folkestone East, which are recognised as areas of deprivation and need.

The area is in the top 5% Decile for Poverty and deprivation.

Although down for redevelopment, recognised problems in the direct area are –

- High drug use/dealing./ risk from County Line gangs.
- Anti – social behaviour.
- High rates of NEETS/ Young People in Inclusion.
- High levels of crime.
- Increased number of Knife crime.
- High numbers of people smoking Cannabis.
- High levels of unemployment
- High rates of contact with CAMHS
- High levels of Youth Offending.

The direct area has a high quantity of emerging ethnics groups, migrant population and unescorted asylum seekers. The project does not see this as a problem and celebrates the diversity of its members.

We work with 10-25 years

Young people in education mainly attend Folkestone Academy, Folkestone Grammar, Folkestone School for Girls and Brockhill School. At Primary age young people attend Christchurch and Primary Academy. Further education includes Universities such as UCA, university of Kent and K-College.

A high proportion of our members are frequently excluded from school.

A majority of our young people have challenging behaviour either due to conditions such as ADHD and lack social skills.

Much face challenges at home and are already involved with many support services. We have noticed an increase in young people with mental health issues.

We have begun to support older age ranges with mental health issues.

Safeguarding and Policies Summary

The Folkestone Youth Project:

- Recognizes its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of all young people involved with the project by protecting them from physical, emotional or sexual harm and from neglect or bullying of any kind.
- Will ensure that all external bodies using the facilities at the centre, providing activities for our members (whether at our centre or at their own premises) exercise a similar approach to their duty of care for the young people they work with.
- Will ensure that all adults who work with young people are aware of their role and responsibilities and that training opportunities are made available to them.
- Will practice safe recruitment in checking the suitability of staff and volunteers to work with children, including Disclosure and Barring Service checks as appropriate

1. Service Outcomes

Service Standards All youth work services should enable young people to demonstrate an increase in the social and emotional capabilities which will then support them in making positive transitions from childhood to adulthood. These capabilities include:

- The ability to communicate effectively
- Developing self-confidence and self-esteem
- Developing resilience and determination
- Learning to manage their feelings & relationships well
- developing creativity and problem solving skills
- Reduce risk to vulnerable young people.
- Improve Physical and Mental Health.

This service will also contribute to the following geographic and thematic priorities which have been identified through local needs assessment.

The service for will focus on raising the aspirations of young people aged 10-25 and supporting them in achieving their potential.

General Youth Work Principles

The service must:

- Be inclusive; offering an equality of access for young people regardless of gender, ethnicity, sexual identity and/or disability;
- Offer challenging, fun activities which allow for young people to engage in informal education, develop positive relationships and increase personal and social skills;
- Deliver a broad curriculum of activities including (but not exclusively) healthy choices, participation, challenging prejudice, creativity and information and guidance;

- Offer the opportunity for young people to gather and socialise in safe spaces during evenings and school holidays.
- Develop the participation of young people, involving them in the design, delivery and evaluation of services;
- Promote positive relationships between young people and the wider community.
- Contribute to a preventative agenda which recognises young people who are more vulnerable and offers pathways to additional support where required;
- Demonstrate a partnership approach ensuring that a range of organisations and community sectors.

Evidence of Impact

Although attendances are lower than before Covid, the 'social value' and need for a safe space has increased.

There has been a noted increase of the risk of exploitation, especially from County lines.

Since re opening for open access, initially 1 evening per week and now 2, the staff have been able to gather information about the effects of the Pandemic on young people and the community and are using this to find ways to reach disengaged young people.

The project provides a free, safe, space for young people which is vital in such a low-income area. Feedback from participants/parents is positive.

Recently we have begun to support young people up to 25 years who are referred from the Early Psychosis Unit. Young people come from as far as Ashford as no other suitable engagement can be found.

We have continued to work closely with Kent Refugee Action Network.

Youth Work and Preventative Education

New 1-2-1 support referral service has continued including young unescorted refugees, young people with Autism/complex needs and clients of the Early Psychosis Services.

Young people took part in activities that were catered to their interests.

Preventative education was delivered in the usual non-judgemental and relaxed way.

The youth team did numerous online training and seminars.

Local young people were re engaged although numbers are still lower. However, our younger age group have been supported transitioning from Primary to Secondary education.

Young people have held a Nature Inspired Art Show, held a Jubilee Celebration and recently a cream tea to celebrate the Coronation. We planted trees for the Royal occasions.

Open access provides numerous free activities which have mainly been outside. Young people have been encouraged to make positive contributions by helping to create outdoor planters etc.

The project has opened for extra hours during school holidays.

Community Work/Urban Wilderness

We established 2 community sessions for gardening/ DIY and support. This has been slow as expected due to the demographics of the area.

The staff, young people and volunteers continued to make progress in the outside. We have erected a greenhouse, made large planters for trees and recently re-instated our old sculpture with a nature theme.

We continue to work with Butterfly Conservation.

Additional Achievements

The manager has been involved in the Folkestone Sustainability Forum, taking part in Tedex speech training, and delivering a short talk at the FSF convention.

This work brought about partnerships with other businesses most notable a local construction company who now donates wood and industry related items for us to recycle.

The current staff have managed to cover the loss of one staff member to Maternity Leave.

Moving Forward

To continue to promote community engagement and progress in outside space.

Mural planned for workshop wall plus a community wall/mural planned for external wall.



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

FOLKESTONE YOUTH PROJECT

1113379

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period
from

01/05/2022

To

30/04/2023

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Rental	10,200	-	-	10,200	10,200
Grants	-	56,387	-	56,387	103,759
Donations	500	-	-	500	1,181
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	10,700	56,387	-	67,087	115,140
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	10,700	56,387	-	67,087	115,140
A3 Payments					
Activities	-	8,311	-	8,311	12,369
Security	1,532	-	-	1,532	1,248
Waste Removal	-	1,191	-	1,191	1,251
Business Rates	-	-	-	-	8,672
Insurance and Security	2,071	-	-	2,071	4,152
Travelling	-	-	-	-	-
Wages	-	44,295	-	44,295	45,062
Internet/Telephone/Fax	573	-	-	573	620
Stationary	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	4,176	53,797	-	57,973	73,374
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	4,176	53,797	-	57,973	73,374
Net of receipts/(payments)	6,524	2,590	-	9,114	41,766
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	21,192	65,048	-	86,240	44,474
Cash funds this year end	27,716	67,638	-	95,354	86,240

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Bank balance	27,716	67,638	-
	Total cash funds	27,716	67,638	-

(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))

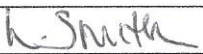
	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	LYNNE SMITH	16.1.24
2		



CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

Charity Name
FOLKESTONE YOUTH PROJECT

On accounts for the year
ended

30 April 2023

Charity no
(if any)

1113379

Set out on pages

Annual Report and Receipts and payments account pages 1-2

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 30/04/2023DD / MM / YYYY.

Responsibilities and
basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent
examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention (other than that disclosed below *) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

Mark Minus

Date:

06 / 01 / 2024

Name:

Mark Minus FCA, Beresfords

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):

ICAEW

Address:

1-2 Rhodium Point, Spindle Close,
Hawkinge, Folkestone, Kent
CT18 7TQ

Section B

Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.