

2023 Trustees Report for Westgate Youth Project

Westgate Youth Project provides a range of youth club activities to children and young people with hidden disabilities. The project will give an increased sense of belonging, improved knowledge and skills and improved resilience.

Westgate Youth Project delivered its services every Thursday evening. The sessions are split into two, one and a half hour groups. 6-7.30pm for young people aged 10 -14, and 7.45 – 9.15pm for young people aged 15 – 19.

Westgate Youth Project is a targeted provision for young people with hidden disabilities. A hidden disability is defined as any disability that is not immediately apparent.

Many of the young people that attend the project have Autistic Spectrum Condition, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder or Mental Health Problems. Some of the young people have co morbid diagnoses of ASC, ADHD, Oppositional Defiance Disorder, Mental Health Problems, and other sub type conditions such as Pathological Demand Avoidance.

One young person has a severe hearing impairment and a global development delay. Another has a diagnosis of ASC, Type 1 Diabetes, and a severe nut allergy. One young person has multiple diagnoses of Conduct Disorder, ODD, ASC and ADHD.

Many of the young people that attend the project are “looked after “either in residential children’s homes, short term, or permanent foster care. Some young people have experienced neglect and abuse and suffer PTSD from childhood trauma.

Some young people attend specialist schools out of the local area, so are isolated from their peer groups during their social leisure time.

Some young people attend local mainstream schools; however, struggle to become part of their school community due to their hidden disabilities and social communication needs.

The young people that we work with are at very different stages in their journeys. Some have experienced significant change with regards to a sense of belonging. For example, one young person who has a very difficult time at school and only leaves the house other than for school, has become a young leader, helping to set up at the beginning of the session, serving young people in the tuck shop and signing them in. Another young person, new to the area with no friends locally attended her first session as a very quiet, reserved young lady very quickly became a very popular, engaging member of the project. One young person came along after his carer contacted his concerns regarding his child’s lack of friends. It is very difficult for this young man to engage with his peer group due to his disabilities. Other young people tend to struggle with his behaviour. However, he joins in group activities, youth workers manage his behaviour, and I am confident that in time he will feel safe enough to be himself and start to make connections with other young people.

Amongst most of the young people that attend the project there is a great camaraderie, they tend to take part in activities together as opposed to operating separately.

At a young person's initial visit to Westgate Youth Project, they complete a Wellbeing self – assessment form. This is based on the Warwick Edinburgh Mental Well Being Scale indicating positive mental health and gives a primary indicator of a young person's mental health and wellbeing. This is completed annually and is used to measure the impact of work with a young person and distance travelled.

The feedback from parents and carers is particularly important to us as young people are sometimes unwilling or unable to communicate their own feedback to us, especially while they are still in the process of building trusting relationships with the youth work team. Parents and carers regularly send along the siblings of young people that already attend the project when they are old enough. Most new young people that attend, do so because a friend has recommended the project to them.

We collect feedback and suggestions from young people through dialogue, using user surveys and young people's evaluations. During staff briefings at the beginning and the end of each youth work session, observations regarding young people are discussed and recorded on youth work evaluation forms. Key data is taken from other internal information such as case studies, attendance figures and records regarding individuals such as 1:1 interventions and Early Help

In addition to this we work closely with most parents and carers of the young people attending

The young people that attend Westgate Youth Project are all unique in as much as they may have Asperger's, "moderate Autism and/or ADHD coupled with co morbid diagnoses of often severe anxiety, a global delay, other mental health problems or mild physical disabilities. Therefore, their individual learning styles and needs vary greatly.

Some young people thrive in mainstream schools and college, some attend specialist schools, some are home tutored, and some are not in education, employment or training, due to for example permanent exclusion and waiting for a new school place, the inability to attend school due to mental health problems or inconsistent schooling due to constantly being moved around foster placements and care homes.

Often young people will report that they are excluded from classes because their behaviour can be misinterpreted as rude and disruptive, or teachers do not have the time to answer a question in a way that they understand. Often young people appear to understand what is being said, but on checking back with them they do not.

Some young people are too self-conscious to take part in group sports activities. However, when offered a small group activity such as boxing, they have been more comfortable taking part and have found that they have excelled.

We recently had an African drumming workshop where young people learnt important life skills such as turn taking, listening to instructions, patience, and synchronicity. This group of young people are intrinsically motivated to move.

They were all able stay engaged, listen to instructions and as a group produce a piece of music. Out of 23 young people present for this activity, only one chose to sit out. On investigation this young person was struggling at school and spent the time speaking with a youth worker for support.

We collect evidence in the form of a Wellbeing self – assessment completed by young people when they first join the project. This involves 14 questions which provides a score of wellbeing and is then completed annually to measure distance travelled and the impact of the work with everyone.

We collect feedback from young people through dialogue, user surveys and young people's evaluations.

Young people participate in the planning of activities that we deliver. So should they wish to gain more information or skills in a specific area, we work with them in a way that enables them to learn, in a way that suits their individual needs. We then check their understanding using conversations, games, quizzes and fact or fiction cards.

We work closely with the majority of parent's and carers; this allows us to build a good working relationship and get better insight into the impact of our work. This is particularly important for young people with speech, language, and communication needs.

We also make use of other forms of information such as youth worker session evaluations and staff observations, which are recorded and recognition of achievements such as certificates and accreditation.

Most of the young people that attend The Westgate Youth Project face adversity regularly, albeit, bullying, transitions between foster placements, care homes and key workers, changes in locality, discrimination through ignorance due to the lack of visible indicators of disability, or inconsistent education due to their needs not being met. Young people often change school regularly in a bid to find the most appropriate therapeutic environment.

When young people become members of The Westgate Youth Project, they become a part of a community; one of the main aims of the project is to provide an inclusive, safe environment for young people who share common factors and experiences. In turn becoming part of a community and developing a sense of belonging, reduces isolation, improves mental health and wellbeing, in turn increasing the resilience of the young people.

Because of the varying needs of the group and the fact that some have been attending for several years and some have been attending for several weeks they are all at very different places on their individual journeys.

Young people are offered the opportunity to try new things, with each new thing that they try so their confidence, self-esteem, resilience, and sense of agency grows.

One young person with ASC and ADHD requires substantial support from youth workers; this young person only very occasionally engages with her peer group

and will take part in activities only with one-to-one support from a youth worker. She is reticent to take part in activities because she doesn't want to stand out as different or do it wrong and draw attention to herself. However, when boxing was introduced as an activity, she took part with great enthusiasm. She also took part in African drumming. This young person found the confidence to take part in new opportunities, enjoy them, learn from them, and feel empowered by her successes in them.

At a young person's initial visit to The Westgate Youth Project, they complete a Wellbeing self – assessment form. This is based on the Warwick Edinburgh Mental Well Being Scale indicating positive mental health and gives a primary indicator of a young person's mental health and wellbeing. This is completed annually and is used to measure the impact of work with a young person and distance travelled.

In addition to this we work closely with most parents and carers of the young people attending the project and gain regular feedback from them.

Parents and carers in general are very good at communicating with us if the young person has any current concerns outside of youth club, if they will be away and a young person will be unsettled or in respite care for example. We are then able to ensure that we are aware of each young person's current situation, able to keep an open dialogue and put youth work interventions in place if the need arises.

Equally young people, their parents and carers share with us positive outcomes that they have experienced or observed as a result of taking part in Westgate Youth Project activities.

We collect feedback and suggestions from young people through dialogue, using user surveys and young people's evaluations.

During staff briefings at the beginning and the end of each youth work session, observations regarding young people are discussed and recorded on youth work evaluation forms. Key data is taken from other internal information such as case studies, attendance figures and records regarding individuals such as 1:1 interventions and Early Help Notifications.

An important part of adolescence for any young person is to be accepted as a member of a peer group. Being accepted by one's peers and functioning as part of a group as well as independently is an important part of growing up, trying out different roles and personal and social development.

For young people with hidden disabilities there are many barriers in place that must be removed in order for them to become a part of their peer group. If they are at a mainstream school other young people don't tend to accept them due to their unseen differences, if they are at a specialist school it tends to be out of area, so none of their peers are available during their social leisure time.

By being a part of the community that is The Westgate Youth Project these young people are able to gain solidarity and social affirmation from being a part of the group. They are able to interact with their peers and use the skills that promote personal and social development in a safe environment. Young people

have the benefit of youth workers to facilitate conversations and support the social structures that will help them to come together and work as a group.

For the majority of our young people this is the first time that they have experienced being part of a peer group where they can interact socially without facing some degree of discrimination.

Adlam Accountancy Services

Your Ref:

Our Ref: EJ/JG/W094

2nd November 2023

Mr A Brown
Westgate Youth Project
2 Saxon Road
Ramsgate
Kent
CT11 0LN

22 Grange Road
Ramsgate
Kent
CT11 9LR

Phone: 01843 851319

E-mail: enquiries@adlamaccountancy.co.uk

Dear Mr Brown,

Re: Westgate Youth Project

Please find enclosed draft copy Charity Commission Accounts for the Year Ended 31st March 2023 for your review.

Would you please read through these and if in agreement please sign and return to our office at your earliest convenience, for our records.

Kindly note that it was necessary for us to fully examine your summaries against Bank Statements in order to reconcile the Bank.

We found additional income totalling a net £1612.00 which we have introduced, being no entry made of £1836.80 received on the 4th November from the Co-op and an entry was included by mistake of £322.71 on the 11th November. A further £98 was also received, believed to be from The Tuck Shop.

Due to additional time required to identify income and to amend transactions to record information for the year, it has become necessary to increase our fee slightly.
We enclose our invoice for your kind attention.

Upon receipt of the signed accounts and settlement of our invoice we will then forward to you Charity Commission Accounts for your onward submission.

Yours Sincerely,

Adlam Accountancy Services

VAT Reg No: 385 5894 34

Adlam Accountancy Services Ltd



Adlam Accountancy Services

Invoice Number: 27975

Customer Ref: W094

Date: 02 November 2023

Mr A Brown
Westgate Youth Project
2 Saxon Road
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CT11 0LN

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Fax: (01843) 851746

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22 Grange Road

Ramsgate

Kent

CT11 9LR

Invoice Number: 27975

Details	Amount
To Preparation of Charity Commission Accounts for the Year Ended 31st March 2023	320.00

Our Fees	£	320.00
VAT @ 20%	£	64.00
Total	£	384.00

Bank Details Account Number:38944863 Sort Code:30 98 97

Terms Strictly 30 Days Net

Interest @ 1.5% per month will be charged on over due Accounts



Adlam Accountancy Services Ltd - Registered Office 22 Grange Road, Ramsgate, C
VAT Reg No.: GB 385 5894 34





CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name
Westgate Youth Project

No (if any)

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period
from

Period start date
01/04/2022

To

Period end date
31/03/2023

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Last year
	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Kent Community Foundation	4,500	-	-	4,500	3,668
Awards For All	-	-	-	-	8,312
Reconnect Grant	-	-	-	-	1,889
Local Community Funds	822	-	-	822	-
The Henry Smith Charity	6,500	-	-	6,500	-
National Lottery Community Fund	8,673	-	-	8,673	-
Coop Grant	1,837	-	-	1,837	-
Subscriptions	750	-	-	750	# 472
Other Grants	471	-	-	471	-
Other Income	352	-	-	352	1,005
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	23,905	-	-	23,905	15,346
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	23,905	-	-	23,905	15,346
A3 Payments					
Staff Salaries	17,144	-	-	17,144	14,510
Admin Costs	490	-	-	490	211
Rent	1,100	-	-	1,100	900
Youth Work - Session Resources	1,104	-	-	1,104	783
Workshops	-	-	-	-	95
Insurance	655	-	-	655	509
Equipment Renewals	138	-	-	138	90
Other Expenses	137	-	-	137	351
Accountancy	360	-	-	360	360
Depreciation of Assets	482	-	-	482	497
Sub total	21,610	-	-	21,610	18,306
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
Laptop & Printer	-	-	-	-	778
Mobile Phone	-	-	-	-	139
Prepaid Insurance	338	-	-	338	196
Sporting Goods	340	-	-	340	-
Sub total	678	-	-	678	1,113
Total payments	22,288	-	-	22,288	19,419
Net of receipts/(payments)	1,617	-	-	1,617	- 4,073
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	13,941	-	-	13,941	18,014
Cash funds this year end	15,558	-	-	15,558	13,941

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 Account	15,343	-	-
	Petty Cash	215	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	15,558	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK

	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets	Equipment	4,163	-	-
	Fixtures & Fittings	170	-	-
		-	-	-
	Insurances prepaid	338	-	-
		-	-	-
		4,671	-	-

	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			-	
	Accountancy Services		384	
			-	
			-	
			-	

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

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval