



**WOKING
YOUTH**

Supporting the future

Woking Youth

Registered charity number: 1192098

Annual Report and Accounts

1st April 2023 – 31st March 2024

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Introduction

Woking Youth is a dedicated youth charity committed to making a positive impact on the lives of young people in the community of Woking. This report serves as a comprehensive overview of the charitable activities undertaken by Woking Youth during what has been a challenging past year, highlighting our mission, accomplishments, and the transformative effect of our youth-focused initiatives.

Who We Are and What We Do

Founded in 2020 by two local youth workers who recognised the growing need for universal, free, and accessible youth work in Woking, Woking Youth has been steadfast in its commitment to empowering young people. We firmly believe in the profound and positive impact that sustained youth support can have on shaping the future of the next generation. Through the provision of safe spaces and purposeful activities, coupled with the guidance of positive role models, we strive to encourage, engage, and empower young people, regardless of their circumstances.

Our mission is clear—to identify and address the needs of the youth in Woking. At the core of our approach is a dedication to placing young people at the heart of everything we do, valuing their knowledge, ideas, and skills as integral components in shaping our practices and services. Central to our philosophy is a passionate commitment to championing and celebrating the successes of every young person we meet.

Collaboration is a cornerstone of our strategy. We actively partner with local agencies, working collectively to provide the best platform for young people to access the support they require. By engaging with the wider community, we advocate on behalf of young people, fostering an environment where their achievements are not only recognized but celebrated.

Our Approach

Innovative:

- We approach our work proactively and dynamically, adapting to the evolving needs of young people and the youth sector.
- We seek out new and exciting ideas to continually develop and enhance the impact of our youth-focused initiatives.

Accessible:

- Our commitment to accessibility is unwavering. We strive to provide the most accessible support to young people through local, universal, and free-to-access services.
- We ensure that our services are welcoming, inclusive, and non-judgmental, ensuring every young person feels valued and supported.

Collaborative:

- Working in collaboration with local communities, we actively advocate for young people, celebrating their successes and amplifying their voices.

- By forging partnerships with local agencies, we maximise our ability to offer comprehensive and effective support to the young people we serve.

As we reflect on the past year, we express our gratitude to all those who have contributed to the success of Woking Youth. Together, we continue to make a meaningful difference in the lives of young people, fostering a future where they can thrive, grow, and achieve their fullest potential.

The Need

The need for our services over this last year has been proved time and again by our work, and the feedback we have had from young people and the community. In June 2023 Woking Borough Council, who had been funding a number of community projects and had given us a large grant to continue services over this year, declared themselves bankrupt. The true impact of this on the community and the young people we serve is not to be underestimated, nor can it always be easily measured, but its impact underscored much of this year, with parents, young people and other services all feeling the uncertainty of this period not knowing who would be worst impacted, and what this might mean in terms of need creation.

Throughout the year we continued to engage with young people in our weekly sessions, and the need for youth work became increasingly evident. Each interaction delves into a range of issues affecting their lives— such as mental health struggles, identity, poverty, social media, isolation, and educational challenges. These conversations reveal these issues profound impact on daily lives, emphasising the resilience required by some to stay afloat. Witnessing these struggles reinforces our belief in the positive impact of early intervention through youth work. Through our efforts, we have had the privilege of assisting numerous young people in confidently confronting their challenges and mitigating adverse effects. Despite these successes, there is still significant work to be done, and the demand for our services continues to grow.

Nationally there was a change in focus back to other social and policy issues post Covid, once efforts could be diverted from its response. One of these was an interest in what works in the youth space. In 2023 the Department for Culture, Media and Sport commissioned the “youth evidence base” that found a “clear association” between regular youth club participation and improved education, health and wellbeing (as well as reduced negative behaviour such as crime) in the short term across the studies. It also found strong evidence that these effects were sustained long-term into adulthood.¹ In a report on the impact of youth work on young people entering the criminal justice system the National Youth Agency found something similar, but highlighted that the Open Access services like our needed to help remedy the situation has been reduced massively by funding cuts and the diversion of local authority funding to targeted only youth work approaches.

“a clear association between reduced funding for youth provision and an increase in some crime rates for some young people. This is particularly concerning given that youth service expenditure in 2019 experienced a real-terms decline of 70% since 2010. Since 2019, rising prices and increasing inflation rates are likely to have exacerbated this shortfall. Our own research found that open access youth service expenditure has been disproportionately affected, with expenditure levels just over half of that spent on targeted services.”²

¹ (UK Youth, Institute for government, 2024)

² (National Youth Agency, 2024)

Both demonstrated that there is a national need for open access youth services, in helping Young People build the healthy, happy, and fruitful futures they deserve. Though with funding in Surrey already aimed only at targeted intervention, and the now bankrupt borough council unable to provide financial support, the ability to meet that need is reduced to only charities such as ourselves, with no extra resource to help enable this to happen.

The stark statistics on the well-being of children and young people in Woking underscore the pressing need for dedicated youth work initiatives. One in eight children in Woking remained living in relative poverty at the beginning of 2023. This highlights the economic challenges, with 24.4% belonging to absolute low-income families and 18% experiencing overcrowding.¹

There is a growing need for mental health support; previously nationally, one in nine children had a probable mental health disorder before the pandemic, surging to one in six in 2020². a number that continues to increase with a suggested one in 5 having a possible mental disorder, and 12.5% having and eating disorder.³ This escalation is troubling, associated with a decreased likelihood for young people to feel safe at school or have supportive friends. The urgency is emphasised by a 39% increase in under-18s being referred for NHS mental health treatment in 2023⁴. Furthermore, online bullying affects one in eight 11 to 16-year-old social media users⁵, just over a third of 10-15 year olds had accepted a friend request online from somewhat they did not know and one in ten of the same age group has received a sexual message online,⁶ illustrating that challenges extend beyond physical spaces to online spaces too.

In Surrey, after the significant surge in referrals for Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health services, escalating from around 1400 referrals per month in December 2020 to 1800 to 2000 per month from March 2021 through to June 2021. Children's mental health services are facing unprecedented strain, evident in the extended wait time for support, averaging 64 days at the time⁷. date for the same corresponding period of 23-24 is not available however from the information that is its evident adolescent mental health is still very poor across Surrey with self-harm in Surrey for 10-24 year olds is increasingly getting worse (468.7 per 100,000 in Surrey, 505.6 Regionally and 421.9 in England).⁸ In stark juxtaposition, our doors are open now 3 nights a week, offering open access support with absolutely no waiting list. Here, young people aged 11-19 find a haven without the need to fulfil any criteria. Importantly, our support encompasses a broad scope, and it is long-term, extending for as long as young people need it. In a landscape where alternatives are limited, this distinctive feature accentuates our commitment to promptly and inclusively addressing the needs of the youth in Woking.

¹ (Tutty, 2023)

² Mental Health of Children and Young People in England 2022 - wave 3 follow up to the 2017 survey - NDRS (digital.nhs.uk)

³ (Analytical Services, Population Health, Clinical Audit & Specialist Care Team, 2023)

⁴ Child referrals for mental health care in England up 39% in a year | Children | The Guardian

⁵ Mental Health of Children and Young People in England 2022 - wave 3 follow up to the 2017 survey - NDRS (digital.nhs.uk)

⁶ (office for national statistics (ONS), 2023)

⁷ <https://mycouncil.surreycc.gov.uk/documents/s81909/Annex%203.pdf>

⁸ (Surrey County Council, 2023)

Given these challenging statistics, the need for comprehensive and accessible youth work in Woking is imperative. Initiatives offering long-term, free-to-access, and universal support are crucial to address the multifaceted issues faced by the youth, fostering an environment where they can navigate challenges and develop into resilient, empowered individuals. Woking Youths' commitment to championing and celebrating young people's successes takes on renewed significance, emphasising the vital role that youth work plays in shaping a brighter future for Woking's youth.

Chief Executives Report

In this year we have continued with the establishment and growth of the two services we had started the previous year and the establishment of a new one in the Westfield area of Woking. Another area of significant recognised need. Due to the large grant received last year from Woking Borough Council we have not required any large grant applications this year which has helped us ride out the impacts of the council's recent bankruptcy, avoiding having to compete with other local services for funding. Our focus and achievements have therefore been in enhancing our local standing among various stakeholders, including parents, other services and, most importantly, the youth population.

This year Knaphill drop-in ran supported by its allocated funding from the previous year and was able to continue with funds from the WBC grant and support from the local Co-op, who accepted us as partners for their local Community Fund. Surrey County Council Committed to continue the previous year's arrangement providing the venue at no cost. We have also this year been able to increase our local standing by partnering with the local Anglican church in helping widen the experience of their youth pastor apprentice in different forms of Youth work, having him assist in the running of the drop-in sessions. This has had the dual function of increasing our staffing, allowing him to see a different form of youth work but also to be able to advocate to members of his congregation on behalf of our young people very thus giving a voice to Knaphill young people who too often have been seen as nothing more than a nuisance.

These drop-in sessions, driven by discussions with the youth expressing their needs, have proven highly successful, particularly in reaching and engaging with some of the most isolated young people in our communities, these sessions continue to include a high number of those who are homeschooled and those with additional needs.

The Lakeview drop in has also proved very successful and really found its place in the community. The last year has seen an increase in numbers, and participation from the young people in the surrounding areas. In August 2023 this group ran a stall at a local community fair, with games they had devised and banners they had made. The young people directly ran the activities, interacting with members of their community, and being seen. For many of those involved it was the first time they felt they had ever been seen in a positive light by their neighbours, or felt they could have a positive place within their community.

We were also able to open a new project this year, on a pilot basis. In partnership with Metropolitan Thames valley housing, we opened our Kingsmoor Park youth drop in in November 2023. The club was successful almost immediately, with relatively high numbers and community support through volunteering. Many of the attendees had attended a previous council run club that had closed at short notice and which had led to some significant antisocial behaviour. It has taken these young people some time to trust us and it is still early days but so far we have experienced none of the issues we expected and have had very positive feedback from both young people and their parents.

However, amidst our successes, the year has not been without challenges issues with payroll the previous year, arose again in 2023-2024, as we became aware our payroll systems did not work as we thought, and we had to pay late filing fees and high estimated PAYE bills. This situation led us to change our systems opting for a paid for system that automatically completed many of the tasks we thought our previous system did but did not. We also as an organisation lost our inaugural treasurer, who had to step down for personal reasons, with another board member taking on the role temporarily before being confirmed later in the year. Additionally, the multiyear bid we had been working on with ROC and other partners, failed to pass the expression of interest phase leading us to reformulate, with the

intention of resubmitting in the 2024-2025 period. This makes our future funding more precarious once the money from Woking Borough Council runs out which is expected towards the end of 2024 - 2025.

Looking ahead, our focus includes both sustaining and expanding our current initiatives. The Kingsmoor pilot ends in March 2024, but we are confident we have proven the viability and need for the project and expect a continuation of funding for this project beyond this. Despite the setback, collaboration with other members of the Reaching our Communities Youth stream aims to develop a comprehensive joint bid for all youth work in Woking.

While facing challenges, we are confident in our ability to maintain current operations and eager to focus on future endeavours. Both our team and I embrace the upcoming opportunities with enthusiasm.

Adam Davey



Youth worker & Voluntary CEO

Governance

Woking Youth Trustees:

Trustee name	Office	Dates acted from:
Jane de la Rosa	Chair	12/12/2020
Edward Stokes	Treasurer	19/12/2023
Kristina James-Talbot		19/12/2023
Fay Kearley		12/02/2021

Chief Executive and senior staff members:

Name	Paid role	Voluntary role
Adam Davey	Youth Worker	CEO
Briony Foat	Youth Worker	COO

Structure, Governance and Management:

Governing Document Type	Constitution adopted 31 January 2020
How charity is constituted	Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)
Trustee Selection Method	Apart from the first charity trustees every trustee must be appointed for a term of one year by a resolution passed at a properly convened meeting of the charity trustees. In selecting individuals for appointment as charity trustees the charity trustees must have regard to the skills, knowledge and experience needed for the effective administration of the CIO.
Additional governance information	Woking Youth works with young people aged 11-25 within the Borough of Woking in Surrey Day to day running of services is managed by voluntary CEO and COO overseen by Trustees.
	There are child protection and safeguarding policies in place for staff, volunteers, and trustees all of whom must have a Current Disclosure and Barring Check. These are renewed in line with statutory requirements. All trustees give their time voluntarily and receive no remuneration or other benefits.

Activities

The objects of Woking Youth are:

1. To provide support, help and resource for young people between the ages of 11-25 living in the Borough of Woking, by providing advice and assistance and organising programmes of physical, educational, and other activities as a means of:
 - a. Advancing in life and helping young people by developing their skills, capacities, and capabilities to enable them to participate in society as independent, mature, and responsible individuals.
 - b. Advancing education.
 - c. Providing recreational and leisure time activity in the interests of social welfare for people living in the area of benefit who have need by reason of their youth, age, infirmity or disability, poverty, or social and economic circumstances with a view to improving the conditions of life of such persons.

In the past year, our charity set ambitious goals and achieved remarkable milestones:

1. Capitalizing on the successes of last year, and maximising service potential.
2. Increasing community engagement and volunteer recruitment.
3. Establishing and beginning the Kingsmoor Youth drop in.

Throughout the year, our dedication of the past couple of years translated into tangible results as we reached **109 young individuals** through our services, had 1032 individual attendances and delivered 303 hours of support. This number not only reflects the success of our initiatives but also reflects the growing relevance and influence of our charity within the community. As we reflect on the past year, we take pride in these accomplishments and look forward to continued growth and success in our mission to support the youth in Woking.

Knaphill Youth Drop-in

Following the successful start of the project in July 23rd 2022, The youth club has continued to grow, and develop. Many of those first contacted in the detached work continue to attend and have brought along friends and relatives swelling the size of the club to 61 registered members and allowing for different types of work as they bring different needs to our attention. A major one of these has been around drug use with some of the home school population, we have run drugs education sessions, voluntarily engaged with by the young people on the risks or both drug use and concurrent risks such as county lines, youth violence and engagement with the justice system. This has been backed with signposting and referrals to appropriate services.

We have also been pleased with a partnership with the local church providing us with a trained youth pastoral apprentice to help assist in running our sessions, this has allowed us to run more activities and in a different way than we could have with just the 2 staff members.

The Drop-in operates every Monday evening from 7:15 to 9:15 pm. Throughout this reporting period, we dedicated 129 hours to delivering support, and had 476 individual attendances. .

Lakeview Youth Drop- In

Lakeview youth drop in runs weekly on Wednesdays from 6:30 to 8:30 pm, and has become a vital community fixture. Our numbers have grown from 13 registered members to 28, the group has also changed in character greatly from last year. Initially it was a very male focussed group, but this was changing towards the end of the 2022-2023 period and this change has continued with it becoming a very mixed group.

Many of those attending are actively experiencing poverty. It became clear this year that for many of the females in the group period poverty was a real issue, one young person clearly expressing that for them and their parents some months there was a real dilemma around the decision to buy food, or tampons. Therefore, with support from Surrey County Council and an organisation known as the Pad Project we installed a free-to-use sanitary dispensary for the young people in all our clubs, where young people can take as much as they need anonymously. Alongside this many in this group, had felt damaged by Covid and isolated from the wider community. A number are home schoolers, and most were unable to access other services or leisure time activities, either being unable to afford transport or the service itself. That we situated ourselves in their community, and at no cost to them has been greatly appreciated and helped speed relationship building.

Of all the groups this Lakeview has led to the most signposting referrals and advocacy work. In one instance we were able to assist a young person in accessing the funding to sit GSCE's they would have missed otherwise and then was enabled to go on to start college.

It is also with lakeview that we ran a stall at a community funday to raise awareness, and funds for the club. The young people planned and ran the activities (Hook a Duck) with support from youth workers, raising £89.77 which they decided to save to fund the stall the next year. For many it was a perspective changing moment as they felt seen for the first time as individuals able to do something positive for the first time by members of their community. This positivity from them was matched by some of the feedback from the community when asked by the lakeview action group who ran the event, who said:

"11-19 age category feels like a forgotten group. There not much going on for them in the area, that's why I've picked up one of these flyers for the youth club (11-19 year olds). All they want to do is hang out with their mates, they end up making their own fun and it's not always the best. They need a 'hang out' space."

. The ongoing success of these initiatives underscores our commitment to fostering positive change and empowerment among the youth across Woking. We delivered 138 hours' worth of sessions and had 500 individual attendances

Kingsmoor park youth club

Our Kingsmoor project started in November 2023, after long negotiation with Metropolitan Thames Valley Housing. In the few months it has been running we have had 21 registered members, roughly split 50/50 between those from the Kingsmoor Park estate and the wider south Woking area. This has been particularly beneficial as it has allowed young people from different areas, schools and with different needs to associate and develop different social skills. We were warned due to the way the previous club shut down that we may experience some anti-social behaviour, however having the wide mix of young people, and running from a local church seems to have forestalled this creating an environment where the young people are able to learn, adapt and thrive together. This collaborative feel has also been greatly benefited by having members of the direct community volunteer.

Kingsmoor project is directly funded by MTVH who pay on invoice for work done and provide refreshments, equipment and pay for building hire.

Kingsmoor Youth drop-ins run from 7-9pm, Thursdays at St Marks church, Westfield. In 2023-2024 we have delivered 36 hours work and had 56 individual attendances.

Reaching our Communities & Youth practitioners Forum Woking

Our ongoing collaboration with ROC Woking remains important to us, as we actively participate in this collective of diverse individuals and existing community groups within Woking. Together, we explore innovative avenues for collaboration, pooling resources for the greater good of the community. Our commitment extends to consistent involvement in the Youth Work committee, where we contribute to discussions and strategic planning.

We have participated in a number of the Youth practitioners forums and have taken a leading role in putting together a joint bid with multiple youth organisations over Woking. Unfortunately, our first EOI from this group to the national lottery was not accepted, but we were given guidance and encouraged to re submit later in 2024 with a new EOI.

Volunteering

This year has also seen more volunteers for our services, these have come to us in different ways and are equally as valuable. Unfortunately, the two volunteers who has started with us ended up both having to stop volunteering for their own reasons, one leaving to take up a management position in youth work for Surrey County Council. Both are grateful for the support and experience we have given, and both intend to continue in the youth sector in some form. They have, thankfully, been replaced by two new volunteers, one a trainee youth pastor/worker from a local church in Knaphill who was interested in expanding their knowledge of youth work. With them and their line manager, we were able to negotiate an agreement where they could serve weekly in Knaphill, with the church taking responsibility for DBS, and supervision while direct line management in our sessions and safeguarding was to go through us. This has been a great success, and the volunteer wants to continue with us should it be possible at the end of his traineeship. We were also able to attract back a volunteer to Kingsmoor who had previously been a part of the previous work done there. With Woking Borough Council services being limited, we were uncertain as to whether we would still be able to process DBS through them. Therefore, to ensure that we were compliant with safeguarding we purchased our own DBS HR software which we used for this DBS. Her presence has greatly increased our standing with the local community and attracted young people back who openly admitted they were angry at how the old service closed and didn't want to attend something new that didn't feel it was theirs. Her presence encouraged engagement and comforted them that this service could again be relevant to them.

Fundraising

Thanks to the large grant given us at the end of the 2022-2023 period we have been able to focus more on operational matters than fundraising. However, this doesn't mean we have not been successful in this area, rather it has been less of a priority over this period.

We received £ 1,316.26 in November 2023 from the Coop community fund, this figure was based on our application the previous year but also our social media fundraising and local awareness directly relating to votes from Co-op members using Co-op provisions in the Knaphill area. We were also successful in a bid to Costco for their members fund, receiving £311.00 after a staff member put our

name forward as a worthy cause. Otherwise much of our income has been from individual giving, something that will be a focus going forwards. As previously mentioned, we are actively involved in a collaborative endeavour to submit a multi-organisation bid, with the goal of obtaining a more substantial funding allocation to enhance our charity's financial stability, but we won't know any more on this until the 2024-2025 financial year.

Financial management

Financial management has been of particular concern this year, we became aware going into the year that our systems were not working as expected in filing a record of wages and tax paid with HMRC. This led to late filing fees, and other payments to HMRC. This was compounded by the loss of our treasurer in early 2023. However, on recognition of these issues we sought advice from HMRC and with the new treasurer decided to purchase SAGE accounting software. Since doing so we have not had any issues with HMRC and are confident in running payroll going forwards.

Due to forces outside of our control we were in the position of potentially having to hand back a significant amount of funds to the Community Foundation for Surrey. We had included in the bid last year a large figure for expected rental costs for the Lakeview project, expecting the building to come under new management mid-project. This did not happen, and with the Council focusing elsewhere we were fortunate enough to be able to continue to use the space rent free and so we returned the funds allocated for this, and for volunteer costs for that project. The funders were very understanding and left us a significant amount to spend on training for staff and volunteers should we be more successful in recruitment in the coming year.

Safeguarding

At the core of our efforts, safeguarding is not only a paramount commitment but also an ongoing, dynamic activity deeply woven into our mission. We prioritise the continual refinement and updating of staff training to ensure our team stays well-equipped with the latest knowledge and best practices in safeguarding. This proactive involvement highlights our dedication to maintaining a vigilant and responsive safeguarding culture within our charity. By regarding safeguarding as an ever-present and integral element of our daily activities, we enhance our ability to cultivate a secure, nurturing environment where the wellbeing of every young individual takes precedence. This dedication ensures that safeguarding is not merely a Policy, but a vital and actively embraced aspect embedded in the very fabric of our work. This year we were able to train and designate Briony Foat as our DSL, to take a lead on all organisational safeguarding matters, and lead safeguarding policy reviews. Safeguarding is also a priority standing item minuted at every trustee meeting.

Publicity and Community Engagement

This year we have been able to do less community outreach work than the previous year, necessarily focussing our limited resources on providing the best we can through our drop ins. However, we have not abandoned our publicity completely. We have focussed on using social media, Facebook and Instagram, as a means of spreading our work, messages and keeping young people and parents up to date. A part of our High Sheriff funding was to create a video showcasing our work for their feedback and to publish on their website. With help of a local videographer, we ended creating 3 short videos to share with them and then on social media, each with a different focus. One video, explained who we are and why we do what we do, the next was feedback from young people on why our work is important to them and the final one was a short combining both giving an overview of who we are, what we do and why it's important to send to potential funders and anyone interested in our work.

Future Work

The trajectory of our future work is characterised by a holistic and forward-thinking approach. Our commitment to the community remains steadfast as we prioritise the continuation of our current services, ensuring the sustained provision of essential support and resources to the youth we serve. We have ambitious expansion plans dependent on the success of the multi-agency bid, however our focus until this time is to consolidate and maximise the potential of the work we are currently delivering. A large part of this will be to further develop capacity through volunteering and wider community involvement.

Recognising that our ability to reach and support more young individuals hinges on community engagement, we are placing a heightened emphasis on volunteer recruitment. The indispensable role of volunteers in augmenting our services cannot be overstated, and their contributions will be pivotal in supporting our growing numbers across all areas.

Additionally, to foster a culture of collective responsibility and engagement, we are diligently working on the development of an individual giving strategy. This initiative aims to inspire and involve community members in contributing personally to our mission, creating a network of supporters. To do this we aim to invest in social media usage, and to develop an online giving platform to encourage and make easy the act of giving.

In essence, our future work is a dynamic blend of continuity, expansion, collaboration, community engagement, and strategic initiatives designed to continue to uplift the youth we serve.

Achievements and Performance

TOTAL

Total registered with Woking Youth – indicator of multiple visits: 109

Total footfall for the year: 1032 attendances

Average young people at every session: 10

Hours of support provided: 303

Lakeview

Registrations: 28

Footfall: 500

Average young people per session: 11

Hours of support provided: 138

Knaphill

Registrations: 61

Footfall: 476

Average young people per session: 11

Hours of support provided: 129

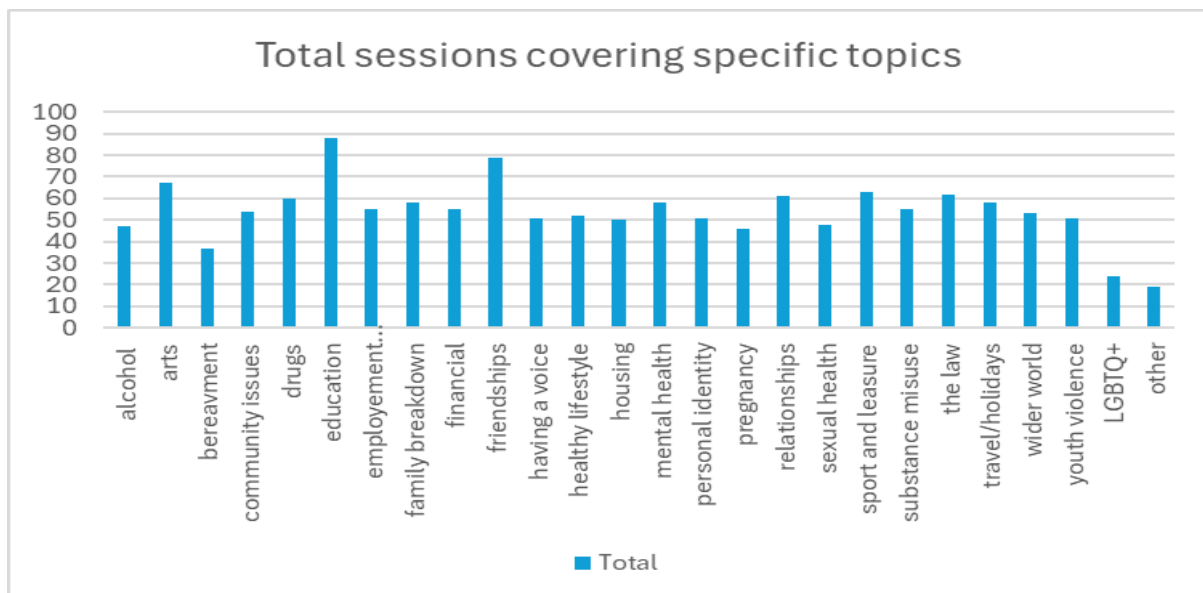
Kingsmoor

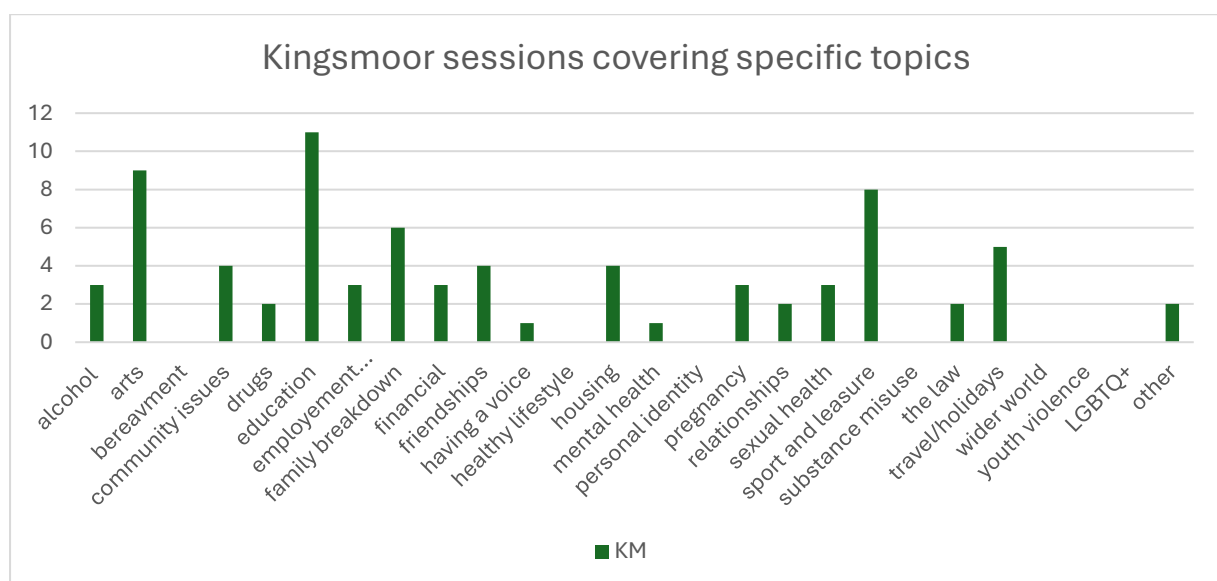
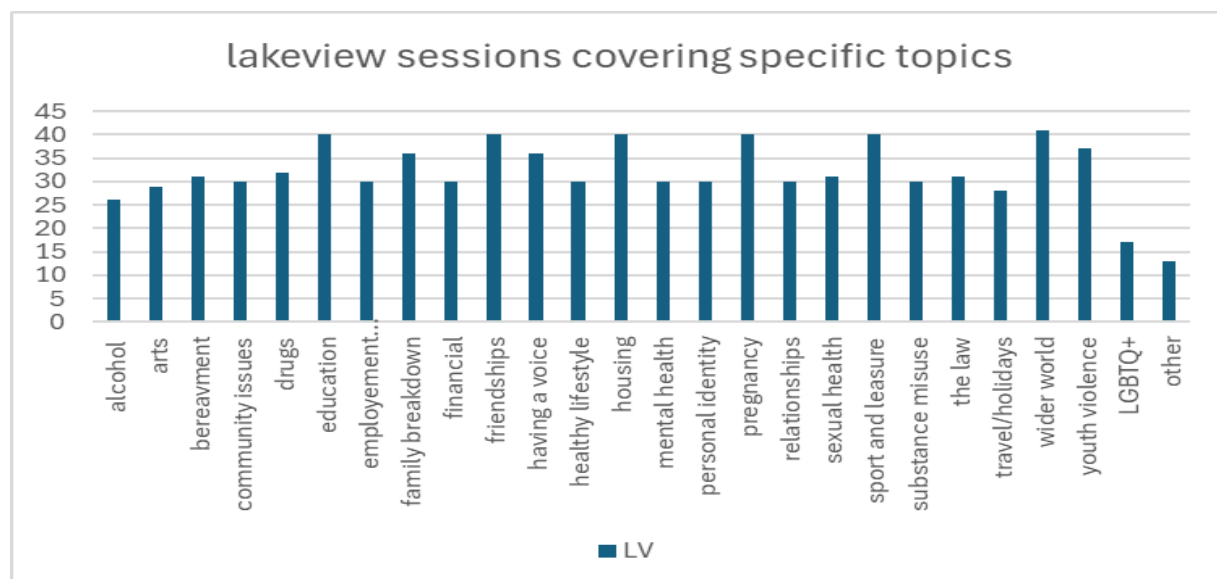
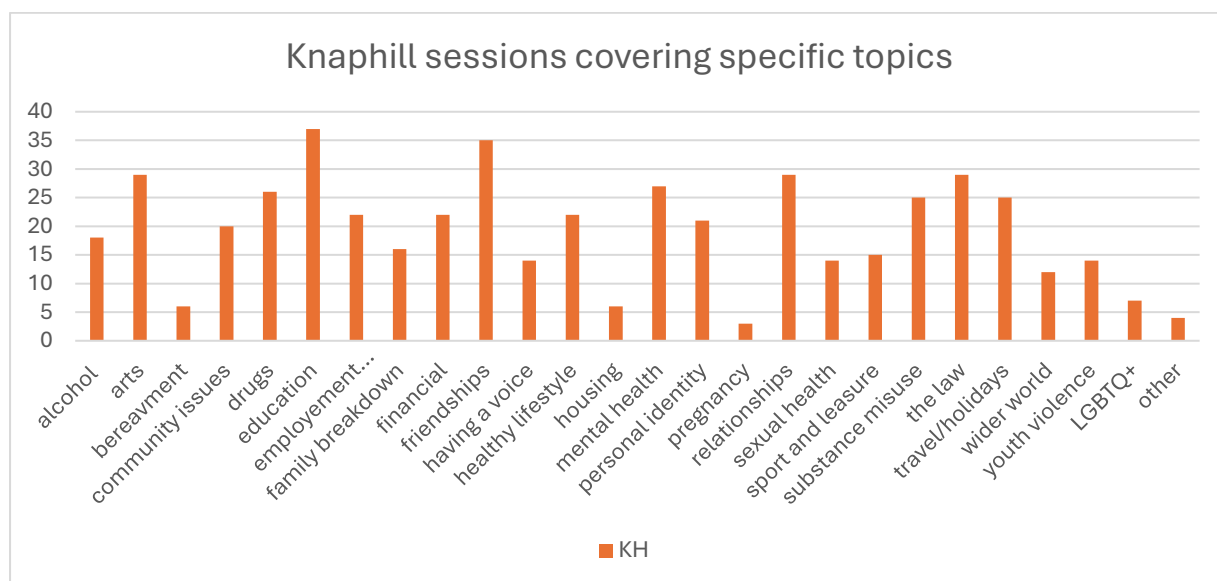
Registrations: 20

Footfall: 56

Average young people per session: 5

Hours of support provided: 36





This past year has marked a significant triumph for our charity, as we experienced success across key areas that surpassed our goals set for the year. Our dedication to making a positive impact on the lives of young individuals has been realised. Throughout the year, we had the privilege of connecting with inspiring young people who not only achieved remarkable feats but also demonstrated unwavering resilience in overcoming the challenges they faced. We take immense pride in the collective growth of our charity and, moreover, in the individual achievements of each young person we've had the honour to work with. Witnessing their progress has been truly rewarding, and we look forward to continuing our mission to support and empower them in the coming years.

Young Person Feedback

The invaluable insights provided by the feedback of young people serve as the most important indicator, reflecting the true measure of our achievements and performance in supporting the future.

"I don't have a great relationship with my dad, Adam at the Youth Club is the only man I can really open up to."

"I don't think you realise the impact you have on the young people under your care, them small 2 hour sessions mean a lot to some of us on the estate and basically keep us going"

"Youth club means hanging out with friends, meeting new people and trying things I haven't done before".

"It makes me feel more like myself, no one will judge me for being excited and hyper they are just cool with it. Gave me something to do rather than sitting in my room. Gave me something productive to do and to make new friends".

"It makes me feel happy and confident".

Email from young person after Lakeview funday:

"I just wanted to thank you on behalf of the young people for taking time out of week to come down and spend today raising money for us; It has not gone unappreciated. I really did enjoy today as I'm sure the other young people did as well. It genuinely was a very good day, and I hope we can do things like this again. We really do like having you guys as our youth workers, you're good people and you make a difference.

Thankyou.

Also, please pass this message onto other staff."

Case studies

(names changed to protect young people's identities)

Ivan

This year we started our Kingsmoor project, and with it met a number of new young people. One of those was Ivan.

Ivan was a young person who had previously attended the old Kingsmoor project before it had closed. Before he even attended sessions, we had been told about him by someone involved in the first project, he was described as aggressive and had been a part of anti-social behaviour at the previous club.

On his first attendance, it was clear he was aware of how others thought of him. He enjoyed the session but pushed as many boundaries as he could and was aggressive towards some of the younger members of the club, often boasting about fighting and his poor behaviour in school. His next week it looked like this could be similar, so it was decided for the staff to directly engage him and get to know him. By the end of these second session, he was beginning to open up and was listening to staff when the asked him to stop certain behaviours, and the next week he was seeking out youth workers to talk about his life.

It quickly became clear he had a troubled home and school life, with close family in prison and a feeling he had to be tough to survive or he might get hurt. He had been kicked out of a local school for fighting and was often in trouble at his new one for the same thing. He was able to talk about all of these without fear of judgement and ask for advice and support in how to deal with his emotions on these topics. Each week following he would seek out the youth workers to discuss the previous week and process it.

This pattern continued, and in a relatively small amount of time, he developed to a stage where he rarely pushes boundaries and feels safe expressing himself. Despite his behaviour elsewhere, in club it was open and honest, respectful and kind. Young people he once intimidated he now calls friends.

Its early days, but he already knows he can be himself our sessions, and we can't wait to see what comes next.

Mark

Mark is a young male who has been coming to our services for a while. He has a particulay difficult homelife as the young carer for a critically ill parent. Alongside this they had also left their school recently due to extreme bullying over their sexuality and were educationally off role living at home.

In discussion with youth workers, Mark made us aware of the situation and their fears they could never make anything of their lives. They were a gifted student before leaving school, but with their parent unable to help as so ill they felt hopeless, and it was having a real impact on their mental health.

With their permission, we contacted the parent and schools to see if we could help. Working alongside all parties, we were able to find a place they could take their GCSE's and were donated the books they required to sit them. We were able to help them apply and gain a place at a local college to take some

GCSEs alongside a course and found funding for them with a local charity to pay for the other required GCSE courses, as well as travel costs to get to college.

At this point in time, they are registered to sit 4 GCSEs and have just started a course at a local college. Needless to say, life is still difficult, but they have hope now - and they aren't letting it go.

Mental Health and Young People

Over the course of the year Woking youth found ourselves working with an increasing number of young people with poor mental health. Every drop-in having at least one young person who was either working with or awaiting a CAMHS appointment. Often, they had been waiting for some time and were reporting a worsening of wellbeing over this period.

Woking youth took a pragmatic approach, we could not change the waiting times or the young people's feelings about CAMHS, but we could work with what they brought, be this self-harm, social anxiety, processing trauma or any one of a number of mental health related topics we were being brought. We did this by working alongside the young people in our care, and developing approaches, resources and signposting/referral pathways for other, often non-statutory services.

We now have young people, who signposted through us have access to mentors, face to face and online youth counselling, wellbeing apps and trackers, self-harm support and harm minimisation resources. We have young people, who have been supported and encouraged to talk to schools, parents and professionals and feel safe and confident enough to know they won't be dismissed.

This would not have been possible if it wasn't for the voluntary nature of youth work, and the safety we have created in our drop ins. The young people feel safe to be themselves in the sessions, and safe talk to staff knowing they will be listened to and taken seriously.

Financial Review

Statement on reserves	Cash in the bank on 31 March 2024 was £17896.00 in unrestricted funds. The charity aims to have a reserve that will cover four months expenditure based on projected business. This will remain a priority in the next financial period
Funds materially in deficit	None
Principle sources of funding	Small grant funding from grant givers and local authority One-off individual giving from donors made the majority funding in this period. We also received a small but consistent amount of repeat individual giving.
How expenditure has supported objectives	All funding goes directly into the development of projects, business activities in support of projects or reserves. All projects are designed to ensure they meet our charitable objectives.

Trustee Declaration

The trustees declare they have approved the above trustees report.

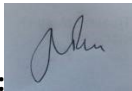
Signed on behalf of the charity trustees.

Full name: Jane de la Rosa

Position: Chair of trustees

Date: 21/01/2024

Signature:



Full name: Fay Kearley

Position: Board member

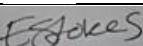
Date: 21/01/24

Signature:



Accounts

	Charity Name		No (if any)		CC16a
	Woking Youth		1192098		
	Receipts and payments accounts				
	For the period from	Period start date	To	Period end date	
		01/04/2023		31/03/2024	
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					
Donations	243.20	-	-	243	670
Unreserved Grants	-	-	-	-	20,013
restricted grants	-	2,795	-	2,795	12,909
petty cash dontion- lakeview	-	90	-	90	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	243	2,885	-	3,129	33,592
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	243	2,885	-	3,129	33,592
A3 Payments					
cost of charitable activities	-	929	-	929	-
governance costs	-	2,215	-	2,215	-
insurance	-	707	-	707	-
stationary and printing	-	366	-	366	-
internet and telephone	-	326	-	326	-
wages/salaries & NI	-	7,961	-	7,961	-
return of unspent funds	3,030	2,500	-	5,530	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	3,030	15,004	-	18,035	-
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	3,030	15,004	-	18,035	-
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 2,787	- 12,119	-	- 14,906	33,592
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	20,683	12,909	-	33,592	-
Cash funds this year end	17,896	790	-	18,686	33,592

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	Woking Youth account	17,896	700.00	-
	petty cash lakeview	-	90	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	17,896	790	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets	Details	-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
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 asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name		Date of approval
		J de la Rosa		06/12/2024
		E Stokes		06/12/2024