

**BRIDGNORTH TOWN COUNCIL  
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
7<sup>th</sup> September 2021**

LJ/2021

25<sup>th</sup> August 2021

REPORT TO TOWN COUNCILLORS

AGENDA ITEM 11 – YOUTH CLUB REPORTS

AIM

1. To receive reports from the Innage Lane and The Bridge Youth Clubs

BACKGROUND

2. The Town Council part funds through a 12-month contract (1 Apr 21 to 31 Mar 22) term-time weekly youth sessions at Innage Lane run by SYA. Part of the SLA requires SYA to provide regular reports to the Town Council (attached).
3. The Bridge Youth Club is a self-funded group and recently shared with the Council its report from 2020 via email:

“Just after Easter this year we released this report of our work in 2020. As I’ve been going through my contacts it dawned on me that you may not have seen it.

The PDF of the report is attached, as is the weblink below. They’re exactly the same but view differently. If you would like any paper versions I will happily send them in to you.

<https://thebridgeyouthcentre.co.uk/2021/06/16/2020-report/>

Regarding this summer, I thought you may be interested to know that I’ve signed the bridge up to the HAF programme and will be offering four weeks of activity and food for teenagers. Our programme is still building but publicity will begin to go out next week.”

Report attached

RECOMMENDATION(s)

4. Nil; to note and comment.



Lee Jakeman  
Town Clerk

Encls

2 x Reports from SYA Summer 2021

1 x Report from Bridge Youth Club 2020 - <https://thebridgeyouthcentre.co.uk/2021/06/16/2020-report/>



**APPENDIX 1**  
**TERMLY MONITORING AND EVALUATION**  
**SCHEDULE**  
 (Revised 16.1.20)

**The purpose of termly monitoring reports is to:**

- Demonstrate how the club is meeting the aims and outcomes contained within the agreement and the statutory requirements;
- Gather service user feedback,
- Demonstrate that your services are listening and responding to service user feedback (children and where appropriate parents / carers).

The termly monitoring reports shall include:

<b>Provider name:</b>	SYA
<b>Club/project name:</b>	Bridgnorth Junior Youth Club
<b>Term:</b>	Summer 2021 (April to July)
<b>Date:</b>	23/7/21

**1. Outcomes**

Please give specific examples/case studies of how your service has contributed to the Children and Young People Outcomes during the last term:

1. Ensure all children and young people are safe and well looked after in a supportive environment
2. Ensure the emotional well-being of children and young people by focusing on prevention and early intervention
3. Keep more children healthy and reduce health inequalities

<p><b>What we have done to increase/improve physical health</b></p>	<p>The weather has been fantastic every Monday this term for every session we have been outside for most if not all of the time – we have taken out sports / games and arts &amp; crafts activities to enjoy the fresh air.</p> <p>Having playing fields next to the youth centre means we have access to football pitches and a basketball hoop so have been able to utilise these in our sessions. The theme this term was the European Football Championships so we included traditional football, dizzy goals and penalty shootouts to our sessions</p> <p>Using the play equipment there we have had fitness challenges, climbed high for 'the Floor is Lava' and utilised them in treasure hunts.</p> <p>Inside we have played dodge ball which is always a favourite and we finished the term off with a swimming party.</p>
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<b>What we have done to increase/improve Emotional health</b>	It has been a struggle for some to come from lock down back to a group setting – we have allowed time in every session for sitting and chatting whilst doing an arty activity – and have chatted about friendships, settling back into school, respect and being out in the fresh air – also how what we eat can affect our mood and the way we feel. We made friendship bracelets and shared them amongst ourselves.
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## 2. Outputs Reporting

<b>Total number of different individuals who have benefited from the activities since contract start - 38</b>		
<b>Average attendance per session - 21</b>		
<b>Number of individuals x frequency</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Notes</b>
3	Bereavement	Candid discussion about nan dying and cancer
5	Bullying	Problems from school spilling into youth club – certain members not allowed to be near each other at school – have explained that doesn't apply at youth club and found a way for them to get on / tolerate each other now – work in progress
248	Exercise	Every session, all members have exercised through games and sport
9	Family	Siblings falling out. Money worries within the family
248	Getting active	Every session, all members have exercised through games and sport
140	Healthy eating	Introduction to 'the fruit bowl' full and left on the side throughout all sessions – very popular
8	Homophobia	Conversation with yr. 6 boys over their understanding of words and why they use them
12	Racism	2 different occasions – year 6 boys – definitely need to work on this more – will be part of Black History Month work we are planning
5	School	Problems from school spilling into youth club – certain members not allowed to be near each other at school – have explained that doesn't apply at youth club and found a way for them to get on / tolerate each other now – work in progress
12	Self esteem	Some of the older ones are actively taking part in running part of the sessions for the younger ones – making suggestions and having the confidence to do this now
14	Volunteering	One young volunteer that has come from the WHO group to assist and have spoken to two yr7's who from September would like to volunteer to help with the junior club
28	Competitiveness	Problems with yr. 6 boys – particularly the ones that are good at football – have had to end 'friendly games' some weeks as not friendly – have also had to remind them that football is only a game and that this is youth club not football team practice and to respect that people enjoy it but are at different levels





12	Friendships	We have some members with autism, behaviour, anxiety and learning difficulties – who do not find it easy to make friends- so each week we look at who is struggling and match them to a friend – this has resulted in some great friendships that are now blossoming out of school – would like to work on this more

### 3. Case study

**Give an example where an intervention or series of interventions has contributed towards a young person/people’s behaviour, physical or emotional health or behaviour change.**

As we are next to playing-fields we have been utilising these as much as possible so most weeks part of the session has included a game of football as we have lots of boys in the group that love football.

One session there were already some lads playing on the pitch when we got there (about 10 aged approx. 16 – 19) they could see that the youth club footballers wanted to play so invited them to play against them – so it was about 16 year 6/7’s against 10 older ones – the sportsman ship from the older team was great, they played their skills down and let in goals and clapped, cheered and congratulated goal scored and then they all sat together at half time for squash, fruit and a biscuit – the youth club boys loved it (and we had the chance to talk to the older ones about the youth centre and what we offer) – the next week the youth club team were looking out for them again.

### 4. Variation to service

New funders from this term and the youth centre was closed for the first 5 weeks so were forced to plan for outdoor activities.





## APPENDIX 1 TERMLY MONITORING AND EVALUATION SCHEDULE

(Revised 16.1.20)

**The purpose of termly monitoring reports is to:**

- Demonstrate how the club is meeting the aims and outcomes contained within the agreement and the statutory requirements;
- Gather service user feedback,
- Demonstrate that your services are listening and responding to service user feedback (children and where appropriate parents / carers).

The termly monitoring reports shall include:

<b>Provider name:</b>	SYA
<b>Club/project name:</b>	Bridgnorth - Seniors
<b>Term:</b>	Summer 2021 April - July
<b>Date:</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> August 2021

### 1. Outcomes

Please give specific examples/case studies of how your service has contributed to the Children and Young People Outcomes during the last term:

1. Ensure all children and young people are safe and well looked after in a supportive environment
2. Ensure the emotional well-being of children and young people by focusing on prevention and early intervention
3. Keep more children healthy and reduce health inequalities

<p><b>What we have done to increase/improve physical health</b></p>	<p>For the first half term we had no option than to be outside as the youth centre was still closed for COVID precautions. Luckily the weather was kind and so we ran the sessions outside – using the outdoor space at the Crown Meadow and next to the youth centre. This was a group all of which were new to the senior’s group – with the seniors the plan for the term evolves week on week based on requests and suggestions from the young people and also any issues raised. We have played football, basketball, had penalty shoot outs, played the floor is lava, run around quizzes, dodge ball, archery, Hero, chicken, friend and finishing up with a pool party.</p>
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<p><b>What we have done to increase/improve Emotional health</b></p>	<p>This was a group all of which were new to the seniors group – with the seniors the plan for the term evolves week on week based on requests and suggestions from the young people and also any issues raised – so we have spent time setting the boundaries and aims for the group – they have spontaneously taken on planning 'their day' a different member each week decides on an activity and also the food that we will all cook together – this has increased their confidence and made them all feel secure in the group – they have already planned a lot of things for the Autumn term.</p>
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## 2. Outputs Reporting

<p><b>Total number of different individuals who have benefited from the activities since contract start 31 at club plus 42 engaged with on the Crown Meadow</b></p>		
<p><b>Average attendance per session 16</b></p>		
Number of individuals x frequency	Subject	Notes
9	Confidence	H has got a new part time job – something we didn't think she would cope with before lock down. New members starting when then don't know anyone else there and just turn up
105	Exercise	Every session has had at least one exercise activity and everyone has taken part in all of them
105	Getting active	As exercise
65	Healthy eating	Fruit Bowl – loved by the group – also they chose what we cook for supper – healthy choices in the main
6	Identity	See case study for more information on G
8	Isolation	Anxiety for some of the girls – pressure of school after lockdown and also mixing in groups again
6	Relationships	T and M are all or nothing friends – they have been asked to work together as our young volunteers to help with this relationship
8	School	T does not attend school regular due to commitments at home so working with Education Welfare Officer to encourage attendance and support with family problems
10	Self esteem	Each youth centre session has been planned by one or two young people – it was their idea to do this and something they organize themselves. They are a good group – supportive of each other and very encouraging
4	Volunteering	2 YP will be volunteering with the junior group from September and have started planning some activities they would like to do with them





### 3. Case study

**Give an example where an intervention or series of interventions has contributed towards a young person/people's behaviour, physical or emotional health or behaviour change.**

G has always been a popular member of the youth club – this term we have seen his self-awareness and confidence in himself grow – he is keen to lead on tasks and games, teaches new games to the others and has found his own style. He revels in each week making a new creation to wear to match with the activity we are doing. He also now has the confidence to wear these creations in the centre and also on the playing fields.

We are keen to encourage this expression of his personality and support him in continuing to do this

### 4. Variation to service

**Has there been any significant variation to the service that you were commissioned to provide in this quarter and what actions are you planning in responses?**

Change in contract and no youth centre for half a term



## Bridge in a Box

When we discovered we were going to be put in a second lockdown in the Autumn, the team set about putting together a project to visit ten young people who had been isolating, or who we knew were struggling. The idea was to put the "Bridge in a box." Over the course of a couple of weeks, we visited 10 young people, starting with the one who was most isolated. This has been a wonderful project, and the time we spent on the doorsteps with young people and their parents made the whole thing worthwhile.

In the box we put a few things from the tuck shop, a can of fizzy drink, some information about staying connected, advice for good mental health in the winter, and a personal card.



*"You guys!! Thank you!! That's just made our day! How thoughtful! We are so grateful! Lots of excited noises coming from behind the box as he looks through it!!*

*Really really kind of you, thank you. xxxx"*

## A big thank you!

As an independent charity, The Bridge Youth Centre relies exclusively upon grants, individual local supporters and local supporting business partners who join with us in our work to help young people become Secure, Successful, Proactive & Independent. We want to extend our thanks to several generous individuals, to Libra Systems, to Lowe and Fletcher, and to Torchbearers Trust for their continued support.

Also to the Mayor's Charity, Bridgnorth Lions, Junior Youth Telford Football League, and the Government COVID Support Grant Scheme for contributions towards the work of The Bridge over the past year.

A big 'thank you' too to Ed Brown of EdSpin for all the decorating and the amazing art work he has created for us over the past year, which has transformed our upstairs area, much to everyone's delight.





## The Bridge Youth Centre

The Bridge Youth Centre aims to help young people become Secure, Successful, Proactive & Independent. We seek to achieve this by providing a high quality, safe centre to work from, a professional team of youth working staff, adult volunteers, and a group of young volunteers who participate in a local training programme.

As a completely local charity, we're in a unique position to make an impact on the youth culture of our town. Our staff, volunteers and all of the resources we use are local, as is our funding. We rely on the generosity of local people and businesses to carry on providing great opportunities for young people.



Before the first lockdown in March we were able to hold two Movie Days and an Ice Skating Trip with **15 young people** as well as our normal sessions. Also **2 of our amazing young volunteers** were recognised by the Bridgnorth Lions Club with Youth Community Awards. After the summer we managed to re-open with all the necessary COVID precautions to allow as many young people as possible to come back into Tuesday and Friday sessions, until we were interrupted again by the November lockdown.

In total 81 young people attended sessions in The Bridge last year despite all the difficulties caused by the lockdowns.

### Report from Becki about running youth work during the lockdown.

"Every week we have been running virtual youth on Zoom. Although there were initial teething problems, we have had around **15 different young people** engage with these sessions. We play games like 'Who am I?', Mafia, Categories, Heads Up, and take time to chat and catch up. I also posted on Instagram daily, giving the young people quizzes, encouragement, and tips on maintaining good mental health. Being visible on social media ended up being really important, and it gave the young people an easy avenue to contact us about things they were concerned about."

**Pictured above:** Sharon: Safeguarding. Michelle: Admin. Connor: Session worker. Craig: Volunteer Keith: Chairman. John: Manager. Becki: Assistant Manager. Mark: Volunteer



## ICE SKATING & PHOTO CHALLENGE FUN

It's easy to forget that prior to March 2020, we were still able to accomplish a good number of things. We opened up The Bridge for free for all young people in January, we ran an after school session for young people who wanted extra support, and during the February half term, we took a group of young people into Telford for a day of ice skating, McDonald's and a photo challenge. We had so much fun, even though a few young people were very nervous about the ice. We were so impressed with how more confident skaters were encouraging them and helping them out. The photo challenge was a great opportunity for the young people to get to know people they may not have previously interacted with as much. It was such a fun bonding experience, especially given that we linked with a few young people from Telford as well.

## Lockdown 2020

Although it is true that we were able to come back in to the building at times in 2020, the overarching picture is one of finding ways to support young people while they were separated from each other. Of course, in this regard, parents and schools play a massive part, but for what we were able to do, we were proud to be there consistently every week, even if it was only online.

*"My children discovered The Bridge as a safe place to socialise with other kids away from school and home and were very pleased when meetings continued on-line this year. This has sustained an important link with 'normality' that has played to kids' natural ability to adapt and has given them an important escape hatch where they can still be 'out' and in the company of older role models. The Bridge has been a vital piece of my kids' mental insulation against the effects of this strange year."*