

youth engagement findings

october 2020

bungay - nr35



Introduction: Overview

The document that follows has been produced on completion of 80+ hours of detached youth work within the Bungay area, throughout August and September 2020. It compiles a cross section of data capture formed by the views of Young People within the town.

The outcomes listed give Access Community Trust and Bungay Town Council (BTC) a platform of evidence to act upon. This can be used to devise a plan on how together, we can launch an effective youth service within the Bungay Area.

Detached Youth Work: Findings

During our time in Bungay over the summer months, we were able to engage with over 120 Young People aged between 8-18. Just under 100 of these young people were happy to complete a short questionnaire with the team. This is a great outcome, showing that overall, the Young People of Bungay are wanting their voices to be heard.

Over the Summer, this time was used to understand the community and what Bungay currently has to offer Young People. We were lucky enough to have a tour of the town with Sue and Bob from BTC in late July 2020, where they highlighted areas where Young People gather and zones that are targeted with Anti Social Behaviour (ASB).

While speaking with Young People, we understand that there seems to be a small group of teens causing most of the low level ASB in the area. Suffolk Constabulary (PC Emily Leech) also confirmed this, suggesting there has been some low level crime locally linked to the same individuals and that this is giving the community a negative opinion of all Youth in the area. This observation needs to be addressed, as during our time within the town we met with some fantastic Young People passionate about the future.

It was clear that there are pockets of deprivation within Bungay, which are likely to only increase due to the economy being in such a fragile state due to COVID-19. Recognising this, we were able to refer many Young People and their families to Access Community Trust's PINK Orange project and the local Food Bank to address essential food need.

We did observe heavy cannabis use amongst families during the warm weather period in August within outside areas, though we did not witness any Young People using cannabis, we feel that positive role models are seemingly lacking within many families.

Detached youth work locally up until 09/10/2020 will conclude our 12 week plan.

#generationCOVID

"The Youth of a Nation are the trustees of posterity"

Benjamin Disraeli



#YOUTHmatters

"Youth is the best time to be rich, and the best time to be poor."

Euripides

Data Capture: The Figures

After consulting with our trained Youth Team, we discussed what was needed to be actioned from the data captured. The Team wanted to identify and understand what issues Young People were dealing with locally and what Youth's were doing with their time.

We would like to continue to address these questions going forward, which will give us a clear idea of trends and the ability to address local issues as they happen.

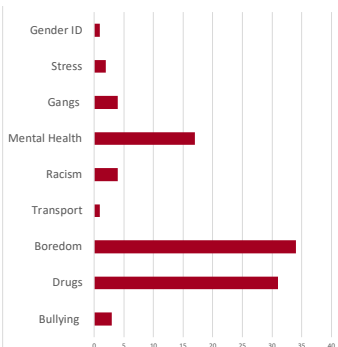
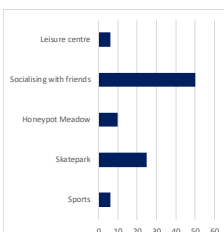
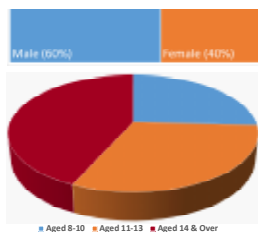
The data capture collected has given us some very clear findings:

70% believed drugs & boredom are the main Youth issues in Bungay

Only 15% of youths attended an after school or weekend clubs

Behind the data

From a base line of 97 Young People, the below visuals present gender mix, age of those surveyed, what the individual enjoys locally and what are seen as the main issues for Young People in Bungay.




The Questions

A live document was created to ask six simple questions:

1. Age of Young Person?
2. Gender?
3. Issues for Young People in Bungay?
4. After school clubs attended?
5. What do you enjoy locally?
6. Would you attend a Youth club?

A young woman with dark hair tied in a bun, wearing a red and white plaid shirt over a white t-shirt and blue jeans, holds a blue speech bubble sign. The sign contains the text:

17% of Youths
were worried about
their or a friend's
Mental Health at
the moment

A young man with short brown hair, wearing a grey and white checkered button-down shirt and blue jeans, holds a white speech bubble sign. The sign contains the text:

85% of Youths
would attend a
Young Persons
drop in centre
each week

Conclusion

Bungay is a vibrant town with a fantastic Youth community. Our findings conclude that an after school provision would be welcomed, that allowed Young People to spend time in a safe environment, surrounded by positive adult role models.

This Youth setting should be a fun well equipped environment, with well trained staff, that are able to offer support around mental health, exercise, local issues, sexual health advice (c-card) and be able to signpost efficiently as required.

Better multi-agency work would benefit Young People, in delivering the best bespoke service possible. Due to the lockdown, it has been difficult to engage with Bungay High School and in future this communication channel would be crucial to a successful Youth service. The local police force are already fully supportive to the development of a Youth provision within the town.

Aware that BTC have been concerned with local ASB and after speaking with many Young People, it seems that a concentrated group are committing these low level crimes. However, we do believe that it does leave Young People vulnerable to joining them, so preventative youth work would be advantageous.

Many individuals surveyed simply want somewhere to go, which will give them some positive enrichment. This is just as important as dealing with only the furthest to reach and chaotic young people.

It is recommended that continued detached youth work is crucial, due to the many outdoor spaces which will always attract young people. It is a great way to signpost into Youth provisions and to keep ourselves visible on the front line with Young People.

This brief report highlights local trends and gives a clear idea of how to best support the Young People of Bungay.

#youthempowerment

'Only through action do our words take meaning.'

Our bespoke solution for Young People

A COVID-19 safe service for young people in our service areas already operates in Lowestoft and Saxmundham. Elements of this model would easily transfer to Bungay.



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