

# Youth Action Wiltshire Winter Newsletter

We have had a challenging but exciting 6 months and would like to share some of the highlights with you, our friends, supporters and partners.



The demand for our Young Carers support work continues to grow, with 92 new referrals received and assessed in the last 12 months.

Over the summer the team facilitated 19 activity days and 3 residential's providing 121 young carers aged 5-18 years with a variety of respite activities. The activities programme included "Knights School", "Masterchef", Watersports, Conservation, Music, Golf and Archery.



In addition to group work sessions our team continue to provide wide ranging intensive 1:1 provision for young carers. For example in the last 12 months we have supported 23 young carers in transition from primary to secondary education, 16 to post 16 education and 2 into university. We have advised 23 families on levels of appropriate care, supported 43 young carers on how to stay safe in their caring role and provided equipment to an additional 10 young carers to keep them safe in their caring role

18 young people completed our Spring to Summer Study Programmes, gaining BTEC Awards in Vocational Studies. Additional qualifications were also achieved in Functional Skills - English and Maths, First Aid and Leadership. These young people have now progressed onto a variety of destinations including full-time employment, apprenticeships and higher level training courses.

16 young people have so far engaged in our new "Building Bridges" programme which launched in October 2016, taking part in personal and social development activities, volunteering sessions and accredited training courses.

In addition to the group work sessions our Inspire team continue to provide 1:1 support including Information, Advice and Guidance(IAG) Key Work support to enable young people to overcome individual barriers to progression, and help for each young person to complete and submit employment and training applications."

We have now completed our 3 year "CreditsInspire" project which aimed to reduce the number of young people who are NEET in Wiltshire. In total 306 young people were supported including 181 who were aged 13-16 years and 125 who were aged 16-18 years. 86% of engaging young people gained accreditation recognising their individual skill development with an amazing 912 accredited outcomes achieved in total." 84% of young people leaving the "CreditsInspire" project recorded an increase in self-confidence and motivation and 73% were supported into sustainable activity.





**Splash have been shortlisted in the Tesco Bags for Help campaign across Trowbridge, Chippenham, Frome, Westbury, Calne, Melksham and Pewsey - If you shop in any of these Tesco stores please collect a voting token every time you make a purchase during December and add that token to the Splash voting box.**

Splash delivered 38 activity days during the Summer and a further 11 activity days in October half term. Our Splash programmes included a wide range of activities to cater for all needs, interests and abilities from multi-sports to dance, kayaking to high ropes, fishing to conservation. Splash also ran a 2nd 5 day Youth Voyage in partnership with our Young Carers Team, Tall Ships Youth Trust and the Hugo Halkes Charitable Trust to give 8 young people the opportunity to develop lasting skills through sailing an ocean going yacht. As part of the experience the group took part in fundraising events to help fund costs including a bag packing day and a 10 mile sponsored walk; they also completed an ASDAN accredited leadership course and gained RYA start yachting certificates.

During October half term Splash ran the extremely successful Let's Paint project in Salisbury. Funded by Salisbury Rotary Club Craft and Heritage Festival, Wiltshire Council, The Friary Youth Club and Trethowans Solicitors 15 young people designed and painted a local underpass which had become dirty, unkept and unwelcoming. The finished project looks fantastic and has generated lots of interest and praise from local residents.

Our Splash team endeavour to really engage with young people who attend sessions in a bid to increase their confidence, self-esteem and social skills and to provide each young person with fun, empowering experiences that they can reflect on in the future. When not out on activities the team continue to provide 1;1 mentoring and develop new partnerships to ensure our activities remain varied, current and in tune with young people's needs and interests. Having already supported 281 young people through Splash sessions this year, we are working hard to secure future funding from private sponsors, charitable trusts and foundations, councils, voluntary organisations and private donors to meet the increasing demand for our provision.

Our team of outreach youth workers have been working with volunteers to lead diverse sessions at 7 rural youth clubs. We have provided intensive support for 3 new youth clubs as they have begun to provide much needed local youth provision.

52 voluntary youth leaders have attended our training sessions in emergency first aid, food hygiene and positive behavioral management and we have designed and piloted a new workshop covering the effective engagement of volunteers aimed to support the sustainability of member groups.

Our fund-raising support has resulted in £20,000+ of income to enable and diversify member groups local delivery.

24 young leaders have graduated from our residential ASDAN accredited leadership courses and we have also offered sports and arts delivery workshops.

Over 200 young people have had the opportunity to take part in exciting new activities through our clubs programme including water and adventure sports, course fishing and arts projects.



Delivered in partnership with local youth work charity Seeds4Success <http://seeds4success.org.uk/> 24 young people aged 16 & 17 years graduated from our summer NCS team programmes having completed adventure sports & leadership training residential's, then planning, fundraising for and completing their chosen social action project. Team members included young people with caring responsibilities, those recognised as at risk of becoming NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training) and young people with SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities).

We are hugely proud of all of the young people's achievements, all gained accreditation recognising their personal progression including leadership, first aid and volunteering awards. One NCS team decided to support Julia's House Children's Hospice by raising awareness and funds totalling over £700, the second team ran a range of conservation and reward adventure sports activities for local young people.

This years Ambassador team was made up of 10 young people aged 16-18 years who had previously engaged in our targeted youth support projects. They completed intensive training packages to become "YAW Ambassadors". Throughout the summer our Ambassadors provided crucial support to our direct delivery. A number of our Ambassadors also formed our "Young Listener" team who worked with Healthwatch Wiltshire and the Community First Community Organisers. After intensive training the Young Listeners completed a total of 174 individual "Listenings" with young people from 3 focus areas; Mental Health and Wellbeing, Special Education Needs and Disabilities and Young Carers. The findings and outcomes of these Listening's have formed a powerful report which Healthwatch Wiltshire will use to advocate for future positive change. The success of this project which was enabled by a combined total of 623 hours of youth volunteering was recognised through the team being national finalists in the 2016 Children and Young People Now Awards. We are looking forward to building on the amazing success of our 2016 Ambassador scheme and have begun working with 10 new recruits as they complete training to be able to provide peer mentoring and lead future group work sessions.



## Other YAW News:

Through the Youth Action Wiltshire partnership with Wiltshire Wildlife Trust which launched in January 2017 177 young people from across

Our projects have taken part in diverse environment conservation based

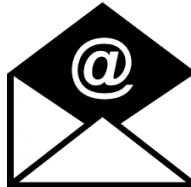
activities through our delivery of

"Our Bright Future Milestones Project

[www.ourbrightfuture.co.uk/portfolio/milestones](http://www.ourbrightfuture.co.uk/portfolio/milestones)



After 2 successful residential sailing projects in 2016 Youth Action Wiltshire have secured a further 5 year partnership with Tall Ships Youth Trust and associated funders which will provide personal development opportunities for a minimum of 80 young people with a caring role or who are facing challenges in their lives through two 5 day Youth Voyages each year.



To help us to keep costs to a minimum please advise us of your email address so that future updates can be sent electronically [dawn@youthactionwiltshire.org](mailto:dawn@youthactionwiltshire.org)

### Youth Action Wiltshire

Part of **Community First**

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Company Limited by Guarantee Reg no: 1757334 VAT Registration

No: 639 3860 06 Registered with the Financial Conduct Authority

No: FRN 311971



## Dates for your Diary:

**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2017**

### **An Evening of Operatics**

Martin and Victoria Nye will be hosting a fabulous evening of Operatics in their beautiful grounds in Foxham, Nr Chippenham

Tickets will be on sale from March 2017

The evening will include drinks, canapés and an amazing operatic performance  
Picnic suppers are welcomed, or can be pre-ordered

If you would like to sponsor some or all of this event please get in touch with:

Mrs Ginnie Keen - Youth Action Wiltshire Committee Member

01666 822263

[ginniekeen@gmail.com](mailto:ginniekeen@gmail.com)

**October 2017**

### **County Quiz Night**

We will be running coordinated quizzes across Wiltshire.

More details to follow.

If you are able to assist with securing a venue anywhere in Wiltshire please get in touch. Pubs, school halls, town halls, conference rooms we aim to run the same quiz at as many venues as possible to raise awareness and funds for Youth Action Wiltshire.

If you think you can help please contact:

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Thank you so much for your continued support it is critical in **Youth Action Wiltshire** meeting it's aim of supporting Wiltshire's young people to reach their full potential.

**Seasons Greetings and Best Wishes for the New Year from all at Youth Action Wiltshire.**

