

Youth Development Service
Citywide / Community-Focussed Youth Work

North Locality – Northern Area Youth Work Team

October - December 2020

Service Update

During the last quarter, as more universal/open access group work had to be suspended during November, it was vital that young people could still access support with a youth worker.

Face to face small group work for the most vulnerable including Smile and Young Carers Support Groups continued in our centres across the North Locality.

Turn 2 Us 121 support via our newly devised booking system to meet face to face with a youth worker provided emotional well-being support which young people could access themselves without referral.

Young people could also speak to us over the telephone, by text message support and engagement through our online and social media platforms.

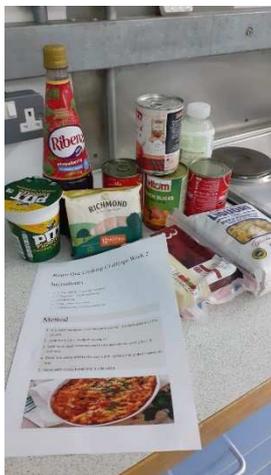
Referrals for more targeted support for vulnerable young people came through various professional routes as well as referrals from parents and most importantly young people themselves.

All our centre based youth work delivery currently operates on a booking or referral basis to ensure we can adhere to our safe systems of work and maintain safe social distancing for the teams and young people at all times.

Good News Story

Young people take up Route One Youth Centres weekly weekend challenge

To support young people's wellbeing during the pandemic and give them a fun activity to do over the weekend, youth workers at Route One Youth Centre have been creating weekly activity challenge packs.



These packs have included cooking ingredients with a recipe to complete, art challenges as well as sports activity cards. The packs have been handed out to young people on a Friday and young people have been encouraged to post their progress on the youth centre FaceBook page.

The challenge packs have been really popular and well received by young people.

One young person said, "I had been arguing with my Mum recently but since getting the cooking activity packs on a Friday, we have been spending more time together cooking and doing the challenges, we have been getting on a lot better now".

Another young person said "it's given me something to do over the weekend, I would just normally be in my room".

A parent also commented on the activity packs, saying "The packs have got the kids involved with the cooking because when we get the packs we do it together as a family, its good to keep them entertained over the weekend."

Between October and mid December over 88 weekend challenge packs have been handed out to young people across the Northern Area.

Smile group work

Youth Workers at Route One Youth Centre continued to offer targeted group work support to young people referred onto the HeadStart Smile group work intervention despite working under strict Covid-19 restrictions and the National lockdown this quarter.

To ensure safe practice the group sizes of young people are restricted to a maximum of 6 (including 2 youth workers) however to accommodate more young people we have increased delivery to 2 Smile groups a week.

Transport was offered to ensure access was not a barrier and if a young person couldn't attend Smile group work, telephone support and 121 appointments were offered as an alternative.

Youth workers also offered catch up sessions to those who had to self-isolate during this period.

December Holiday Provision 2020

Route One Youth Centres festive partnership with Hull Truck and Christmas support



Despite theatres being closed, youth workers at Route One Youth Centre linked up with Hull Truck Theatre over the Christmas period to ensure young people in North Hull could still enjoy the panto season.

To create awareness and encourage young people to watch Hull Truck Theatres free stream of Prince Charming's Christmas Cracker, youth workers delivered art activity packs to young people's homes so they could create their own Christmas cracker to add to the fun of watching the show with their families.

Throughout December, the team at Route One continued to provide food hampers to local young people and their families, supported by Viking FM's charity, Cash for Kids Mission Christmas 2020. Aiming to support vulnerable and disadvantaged children and young people, the charity donated some amazing gifts to the youth club which youth workers then distributed across the area.

During the Christmas break youth workers maintained a point of contact to ensure young people could still access support if needed. Contact numbers of when youth workers were available to offer telephone support were posted on the Youth Centre Facebook page alongside christmas activities which included a christmas quiz, kindness challenges and games.



Reflection and new ways of working into 2021

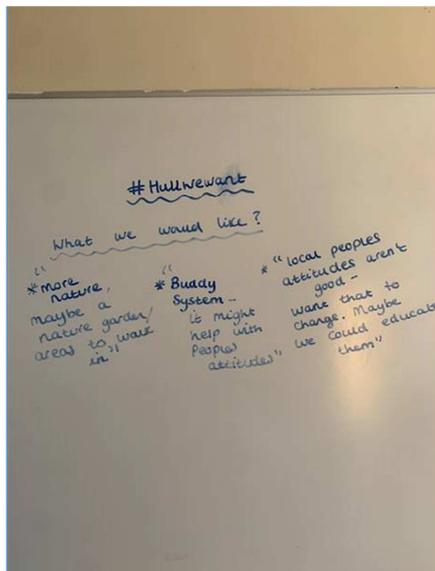
The youth workers at Route One Youth Centre have adapted the youth work offer for young people and responded flexibly throughout 2020 to the changes imposed by the pandemic and the varying Covid restrictions. As a result, new ways of working and different approaches to reaching and engaging young people have been developed which have been taken forward into 2021.

The mix of telephone support, online groups and social sessions, Walk and Talk and face to face targeted 121s and group work sessions within the Youth Centre have enabled young people to continue receiving support from youth workers and stay connected with their peers.

In January, Route One Youth Centre launched its own Instagram page and staff have undertaken training to better understand social media platforms and are planning to utilise these skills in the future to attract new audiences but also to promote a positive profile of young people.

Youth workers plan to continue offering a wide choice of ways young people can access support and engage with youth workers and each other.

Food parcels continue to be available and Route One's Facebook page and Instagram accounts are updated daily with current information on provision and support available for young people, parents and professionals.



Voice and Influence developments #thehullwewant

The Youth Work Team at Route One Youth Centre are committed to ensuring that the voice of local young people living in the Northern Area is at the centre of all current and future community developments. In preparation for Covid restrictions lifting in the near future, youth workers have begun consulting with young people at the youth centre and through our virtual platforms to find out their views on what they would like to change or see happen in their local neighbourhood.

The team at Route One are working alongside a network of partner organisations to drive this work forward which include the Northern Area Team, HeadStart Hull, The University of Hull, HCC Voice and Influence Team and St. Michaels Youth Project.

Plans are being discussed on how this ongoing piece of Voice and Influence work can be linked to the #thehullwewant conversation couch which will hopefully tour the Northern Area over the summer months. This fun and colourful engagement tool will be facilitated by youth workers and used to capture young people's thoughts and ideas to influence change in their local community.



If you require any further information on any of the work mentioned in the report, or wish to discuss how to access youth work support in the North Locality, please contact me by email or on the mobile number below or check out our Facebook page.

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