

Shelford & Stapleford Youth Initiative (SSYI) Update – Early 2024



SSYI is a Christian charity that has been supporting young people in our local area for over 25 years and we now work with over 270 young people in Great and Little Shelford, Stapleford, Sawston and Duxford. Our aim is to provide safe spaces, quality youth work and support for local 10–21-year-olds. Particularly focusing on those who are marginalised, isolated, at-risk or not accessing other provision. By building positive relationships with young people, running youth clubs, schools work and other activities we enable them to overcome challenge, learn and succeed. We have a dedicated Youth Centre in Great Shelford where we run 6 youth clubs a week, in various venues in Sawston we run 4 weekly youth clubs, and we run a club in the Community Centre in Duxford.

Despite the cold and wet weather these last few months have continued to be very busy with our team of 4 youth workers often seeing a weekly attendance of over 130 young people at our youth clubs and activities. 40 young people come along every Friday for our year 6+7 session in Shelford, with most of the year 6 class at Great and Little Shelford Primary there, alongside many year 7's from SVC, St Bede's and other secondary schools. Before Christmas we ran 6 Christmas parties, 4 Christmas meals and an Ice-Skating Trip in Cambridge. Over the February half-term, we had 2 film nights, a retro gaming evening and a couple of other sessions in the community.

Mentoring and 1:1s are a big part of our work and we are now meeting with 16 young people a week in this way, mostly in Sawston Village College but we also run sessions in the community, often meeting young people for some food or a walk in a public space. This allows us to work more closely with each one, building relationship, understanding their



needs, and journeying alongside them through difficulties they may be experiencing with their mental wellbeing, education, emotions, family, or the struggles they face due to deprivation.

We firmly believe in the power and value of youth work and see an ever-growing need for quality provision for young people.





Can you help us?

By Volunteering - Our work couldn't happen without our fantastic volunteers, and as the work continues to grow, **we are looking for more people to join the team.** If you are looking for a great opportunity to support local young people whether that's helping in youth clubs or joining as a Trustee, we would love to hear from you.

Youth work is so rewarding, and you don't have to be young or 'cool' to get involved, just a willingness to get stuck in and listen to, and chat with young people. A DBS check will be required to help out and training will be provided.

By Giving - As a charity we are very dependent on donations and are in need of some more regular givers to continue to offer the support we do, if this is something that you may be able to support with head to

www.justgiving.com/theshelfordandstaplefordyouthinitiative

We are so grateful for all the support we receive from the parish councils, churches, organisations, and individuals. Thank you. For more information on what we do or to enquire about how you can help, get in contact with our Lead Youth Worker Zac Britton on 07599 024210, Email zac.britton@ssyi.club, or Treasurer and Trustee John Greaves on 07771 930938, Email treasurer@ssyi.club



Our website can be found at www.ssyi.club or use @ssyiyouth to access our Facebook and Instagram pages. Thanks for reading!