

SSYI Annual Youth Work Report 2023/2024
Sawston, Shelfords, Stapleford and Duxford
 In partnership with Romsey Mill



Stories of hope

Tim's* journey with SSYI began in 2019, after hearing about the work SSYI do via his friends and his older sibling who had been coming to an SSYI youth group. Initially Tim seemed reserved with low confidence and self-esteem, however through engaging in various activities like youth groups, day trips, and attending Deeper residential trips, (faith-based exploration) Tim was able to build meaningful connections with others, including staff and forge new friendships with people he wouldn't usually interact with.

Tim enjoys outdoor activities; however, he would hesitate to pursue them independently, saying that he felt intimidated by skate parks and pump tracks due to a fear of judgment. Tim attends a targeted skate session, once a week led by Zac and Kay, where he can practice/ develop and share with others in the group his bike/skate skills in a safe, supportive environment. Tim says that these sessions have given him confidence and willingness to push himself outside his comfort zone and try new experiences i.e. Adrenaline Alley in Corby.

In the summer of 2023, Tim trusted the staff at SSYI enough to ask for help and asked if he could have some 1-1 support within school to help manage his high stress levels surrounding his upcoming GCSEs. These sessions provide a space for emotional support, discussion of challenges, and focused revision, empowering Tim to face his GCSE journey with confidence and resilience.

*The name of this young person has changed

Nigel* has been attending our youth club for year 8 and 9 students for almost a year. Nigel has autism and during his first week, he stayed outside the room and sat on the stairs. He was too nervous to interact with any staff or other young people in the club, so we kept checking on him and he eventually left. The following week, Tina managed to establish a good rapport with him and convinced him to come sit in the office where it was quieter, and he could observe the rest of the room. This made him more comfortable with the idea of attending future sessions. Nigel explained that he went to a different school from everyone else in the club and didn't know anyone in the room. He had difficulty signing in, writing down his name, and coping with the noise level. Six months later, Nigel attends the club every week, has made new friends, and learned some valuable skills. He has developed a love for playing pool and is always ready to challenge anyone. He comes in with a smile, greets everyone, and confidently signs in, orders food, and engages with the other young people in the club.

*The name of this young person has been changed

John* joined our Sawston youth group in September and initially, they struggled to initiate conversations, express their opinions, and actively engage in group activities. Their self-esteem was noticeably low, and John often felt overwhelmed by the social dynamics within the group and would need to take some time out from the session as he found it difficult to regulate his emotions.

During our Tuesday's session staff have worked with John to encourage them to interact with others and build relationships by playing team games and activities and by helping in our kitchen.

John also has 1-1 sessions with Kay as well as attending youth group, which have helped John learn how to manage his emotions better and they can now express when they are overwhelmed by a situation/activity.

Over the last few weeks, John's confidence has grown massively, and they have started participating in group discussions, feeling that they can voice their opinion even if different to others, and initiating conversations with others.

*The name of this young person has been changed



Developmental Relationships	Indicators	Actual
Engagement and Activities	Total number of young people regularly involved in SSYI activities	326
	Gender of the young people	Female: 131 Male: 192 Transgender/Non-binary/Intersex: 3
	Ethnicity of the young people	Asian/Asian British: 11 Black/African/Caribbean/Black British: 16 Mixed/Multiple Ethnic groups: 4 White British: 279 White Other: 16
	Number of young people we engaged with through detached work	174
	Number of young people we supported through open access activities	303 Shelford 6+7 Shelford 8+9 Shelford 9+ Sawston 7+8 Sawston 9+ Football
	Number of young people we supported through targeted group work	49 RED Shred It Up Girls Group Deeper Shelford 18+

Number of young people we gave community based 1:1 support	7
Number of young people we gave school based 1:1 support	18
Number of young people as young leaders / impacting their community	5
Number of trips/residentials	<p>14 trips, 1 residential</p> <p>2x Aqua Park Cat Café 2x Adrenaline Alley Deeper Residential Ice Skating Ninja Warrior Obstacle Training Ground Wrestlers (Thai Restaurant) The Gauntlet Bowling Escape Room Nandos 2 Night Residential - Dorset</p>
Number of young people we supported in more than one context	193
Number of young people we supported in a time of crisis	29
Number of hours of face-to-face delivery	1177



Overview of year

2023-2024 has been another busy and exciting year for SSYI, we have continued to grow and develop our work and are now running a new youth club in Duxford alongside our work in the Shelford's, Stapleford and Sawston. Through our open access sessions, targeted groups and activities we have regularly supported over 300 young people. SSYI's work was carried out this year by our skilled team of youth workers, Tilly Akoto, Tina Woodstock, Kay Salter and our lead youth worker Zac Britton. Jon Sanders the head of the Romsey Mill Youth Development Team has management oversight.

Kay joined our team in May of 2023 which has facilitated some of our growth and enabled us to run more 1:1 work during the day. One of the first things she was involved in was our fantastic residential that we ran in the half term, taking several of our young people to Dorset to stay at Brenscombe Outdoor Centre, giving them the opportunity to take part in activities like climbing, air rifle shooting and a cooking challenge. We were really keen for this to have a strong community feel so stayed in a large old farmhouse where we could all cook and eat together in a more comfortable environment. In the summer of 2023, we started our Duxford session on a Monday night and have engaged with over 60 young people. Through some generous donations and support we were also able to buy a 9-seater minibus, a football cage and a trailer for transporting the cage in to enable us to run more trips and activities. By the end of August, we were using the football cage weekly in Duxford and running one off sessions with it elsewhere.

From September 2023 we have been running 11 youth clubs a week, 6 in Shelford, 4 in Sawston and 1 in Duxford, through these we often engage with over 130 young people a week. Our younger sessions have been particularly busy with up to 40 people attending our Friday year 6+7 session and up to 30 coming along to our 7+8 session in Sawston. It has been great to restart 'Shred it up' our targeted skateboarding and BMX session this year which has been made possible with our new minibus.

Mentoring and 1:1s are a big part of our work and, as of March 2024, we are meeting with 16 young people a week in this way. Most of these are taking place 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.

Throughout the year we been engaging with a growing number of young people involved in drink and drug related activity and are still seeing a rise in mental health challenges among those we work with. We firmly believe in the power and value of youth work and see an ever-growing need for quality provision for young people. It has been such a privilege to work with and alongside so many incredible people, we will endeavour to continue to develop our work to best meet the needs of local young people. We are so grateful to all our supporters and partner organisations; we couldn't do it without you!

Developmental Relationships	Indicators	Actual
Mechanisms of Change	"I enjoy my time with SSYI"	99%
	"I feel part of a community at SSYI"	89%
	"The youth workers make me feel welcome"	97.6%
	"The youth workers care about me"	95.1%
	"The youth workers give me the support I need"	90.2%
	"The youth workers listen to me"	98.6%
	"The youth workers trust me"	95.1%

	“The youth workers respect me and my background”	97.6%
	“I have a say in what activities take place at SSYI”	78%

Excerpts of conversations in Focus Group

K – How has SSYI helped you?

A – SSYI has helps me stay calm as I have a lot going on at home and school and struggle to make friends who don't cause trouble and who will listen to me. I can come to SSYI and vent to staff about how bad my week has been, and they listen, offer advice, and help distract me from being sad or upset. I also understand things better as staff can explain things in a way that I can understand as I don't always understand why people act or behave in a certain way.

L - SSYI keeps me out of trouble, I have a big mouth and if someone is getting lairy with me I'll knock them out, but SSYI gives me somewhere to hang out with my friends and chill for the evening. It also gets me out the house, away from my Xbox so I can come and play pool and darts and stuff and it's really cool.

Community connections, partners and enablers	Partner Organisations	<p>The Parish Councils of Great Shelford, Little Shelford, Stapleford, Sawston, Duxford and Harston</p> <p>John Huntingdon Charity Sawston Village College St Andrews Stapleford St Mary's Great Shelford Great Shelford Free Church All Saints Little Shelford Sawston Free Church Hinkledux Parish Churches Shelford Playscape Cambridge City FC</p>
	Number of Volunteers	10



Third Party Quote

‘SSYI provide our pupils with incredibly valued support, both in school and off-site in the community. The youth workers are highly-skilled and are able to engage with pupils in a meaningful way to provide much needed help for those who are experiencing difficulties in their lives. We are richer as a school for the care and dedication shown towards our pupils by the SSYI team.’

Clare Greaney: Assistant Principal – Sawston Village College

‘Both of my children regularly attend youth club and always come back smiling. They feel comfortable with the team and I know they are letting off steam with their friends in a safe place. I always recommend this club to other parents!

When they saw Zac and Tilly in the playground it made a real difference. Just you both being there gave them a real boost. I wanted to say thank you because it is something that is really helping with a difficult part of the transition process.’

Parent



Developmental Relationships	Indicators	Actual
Outcomes	Young people expressing an improvement in confidence	79.2%
	Young people expressing an improvement in their ability to overcome challenges	74.3%
	Young people expressing an improvement in their ability to get on with others	86.5%
	Young people expressing an improvement in their wellbeing	85.3%
	Young people expressing an improvement in their skills	81.7%
	Young people expressing an improvement in making positive choices and decisions	81.7%
	Young people expressing an improvement in feeling safe in their community	86.5%
	Young people expressing an improvement in their ability to have a positive impact on others in their community	80.4%

	Young people expressing an improvement in hope for the future	78.1%
	Rating of SSYI sessions out of 10.	9.2

Quotes from young people

How has SSYI helped you/why is SSYI important to you?

'There 1 of the best teams to talk to and they help and listen to you really well and help u I am thankful for them'

'Made me happier and has helped me take part I'm fun activities and challenges '

'Helped me open up'

'It has helped me because I feel much more confident in myself and I feel I can do anything.'

'I feel more confident talking to other people and talking to adults'

'It helped me to become friends with people I wouldn't usually and it's important to me because it's a place I can hang out with my friends without feeling awkward'

'It gives me time to relax with my friends after a day at school this helps if I've had a bad day'

'because it's very welcoming and everyone is very nice ,I really enjoy my time here and look forwards to it every week.'

'I go to a different school to my friends and it is a nice way of meeting up with people.'

'SSYI is important to me because they always make me feel welcome '

'It's fun and I can play with my friends who I don't see too much anymore, except for youth club'

'It's fun to play with friends and it gives me something to look forward to on a Monday.'

'Because its a chilled and calm place'

Young Leader Story

Chris, one of our young leaders shared with us his journey with SSYI, from Young Person to Young Leader, here is their story.

I started attending youth club regularly in 2022 on a Friday night, when I was in year 8, I enjoyed playing pool and hanging out with my mates. In January 2023 I started doing the Duke of Edinburgh Award at school and had to find somewhere to volunteer as part of this. I asked the team at SSYI whether I could help out with one of the youth clubs, and they said yes! In September of 2023 I started helping with the Friday session for school years 6+7 helping to run the till and sell food and drink. I also played pool with some of the young people and got to know lots of them. It is great fun to help out and I enjoy the responsibility of selling the snacks. I am planning to continue helping even after DofE!

