

Shelford and Stapleford Youth Initiative Report April 2020

Introduction

SSYI, established in 1997, is a community-based Christian charity serving the villages of Great and Little Shelford and Stapleford, providing youth activities for local 10-18 year olds. Our activities provide opportunities to engage with young people and build relationships, encouraging more positive behaviour, involvement in the community and activities to promote informal education.

This report covers the last year of work from April 2019 to March 2020, including photos and feedback from young people. We hope you find it informative and encouraging.

Overview



The core work of SSYI has historically centred on the Friday Youth Club at the Youth Centre on Woollards Lane in Great Shelford. This continues to be a key part of our work. Other activities are established as specific projects with individual resources, budgets and aims. We work closely with our partners Romsey Mill, who provide management oversight, co-worker resources, and policy / procedural guidance.

We took on the full time lease of the Great Shelford Social Club facility – now renamed the Youth Centre - in April 2019, in agreement with Great Shelford Parish Council (GSPC). This has given us the opportunity to run many more activities there, with an additional five groups now meeting regularly through the week.



We have also been improving the Centre, with the support of the GSPC, including an office, and more flexible space. The young people have been heavily involved in planning and working on the refurbishment, and it is now a much better space for the youth of the area. Further work is planned for 2020-21.



We believe in the importance of working with young people in several contexts, recognising that this is more likely to help them to bring real change in their lives. Apart from the club evening and activities we run trips, residentials, events, focused “projects” and 1:1 work. Our combined activities reach 100+ disadvantaged and at-risk young people, the vast majority of which live in our three villages. We have also developed our work within Sawston Village College, meaning that we can support several young people in their school as well as in the community.

Through the year the work of SSYI has been carried out by our fantastic youth workers. These are currently Zac Britton (Lead Youth Worker), Tina Mogg, and Charlie Trueblood, who started in March 2020. Zac's time has been shared 50/50 with St. Andrew's Church, Stapleford where he has led their youth work. Craig Geange left us in November 2019, and

Jon Sanders, of Romsey Mill, continues to provide management oversight and guidance. Our cadre of volunteers continue to be an invaluable part of the team. Full DBS safeguarding

accreditation is mandatory for all staff and volunteers, and all the young people are registered on attendance at SSYI activities, with parental consents obtained and recorded as needed.



Activities and Youth Clubs

Friday Youth Club



This open access youth club has now been split into two sessions, for younger (yr 6/7/8) and older (up to 18yrs old) age groups with activities including Pool, Xbox, darts, hot food, football, table tennis, games and more. About 60 young people attend across the two sessions and the average rating they have given this year is 8.3/10

"Everyone is very friendly and I feel as though I can talk to any of the adults about anything and they are always happy to listen. I feel very much at home at the youth club as everyone is welcoming"

Girls Group

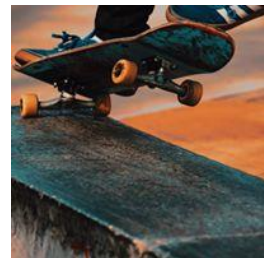
A targeted weekly group for girls with a focus on working with those who need extra support to do with relationships and mental health. This group enjoy cooking, painting their nails and playing Dobble and Jungle Speed, two very fast paced games.

RED

A youth group for young people aged 15 upwards discussing life issues in a relaxed and safe environment, with lots of discussion, group games and food. This group is open access but most of the young people that attend have been invited along as we have identified them as needing some extra support This has involved 14 young people (Rating 8.7/10).

Shred It Up

A weekly skate and scootering project established at the request of young people in which young people visit different skate parks across the county, and two trips to Adrenaline Alley in Corby. It teaches them new skills, encourages positive risk taking and helps the young people to expand their social skills. This involved 16 young people (Rating 8.8/10)



Alpha Youth

A series of sessions exploring the big issues of life and faith and unpacking the basics of the Christian belief in an open and safe environment. This has been followed up by a regular Wednesday evening discussion group.

Trips & Residential



Throughout the year we have been on many trips, including our annual trip to The North Pole in Cambridge, Clip 'n Climb (indoor climbing wall), and in August 2019 we took 18 young people away on a 3-day residential to Stubbers Adventure Centre in Upminster, alongside 5 youth workers. The trip was packed with activities including Jet Skiing, Tunnelling, Raft Building, Laser Tag and more. It also included going to a Jump Evolution trampoline park for 2 hours of bouncing, swinging and dunking on the way. These activities helped to challenge the young people to overcome their fears and push themselves. The young people rated the Residential 9.2/10. Example comments included:

“Overcoming my fears and having ago at all of the activities no matter how scared I was”
“(I enjoyed) Everything; wouldn’t change it”
“Winning the most politest award”
“I loved it and I respect all the leaders for doing this”

Detached Work

We engage with young people in many ways outside of the weekly clubs. This includes work within Sawston Village College. As part of this we interact with the pupils during lunchtimes, meeting new people and building on the relationships we already have. During Friday evenings we now have enough resources to engage with additional young people outside on Great Shelford Recreation Ground. This enables us to reach many who do not currently attend the club sessions themselves as well as those who do. A total of 161 young people have been reached in these ways.

Mentoring / 1:1's

Mentoring and 1:1's are a great way to really invest in young people, particularly those with challenges in particular areas including anger and anxiety, or who are struggling within mainstream education for a variety of reasons such as mental ill health, behavioural

“Thank you, and your team, for the excellent contributions to our community here at Sawston. The work is invaluable.”
 Head of Year at Sawston Village College

difficulties and a lack of confidence . We have supported 6 young people in 1:1 sessions this year aimed at those (Rating 8.3/10). Referring agencies included

Sawston village college and Stapleford primary.

We have had a small mentoring group with 3 lads (Rating 10/10) involving activities such as cooking, golf and skate parks trips. Gauntlet and had a two day residential to Wicken Fen which involved camping, making a campfire and cooking, etc



Funding

Our annual budget in 2019-20 was around £54,000. This is funded via grants from local councils and churches, individual donations, and applications to broader grant schemes. We also play a full part in local events like the Shelford Feast, Little Shelford “weekend” and Stapleford village weekend, Shelford Rugby Club Fireworks evening, and run specific SSYI fundraising events – the annual summer Garden Party (June), Big Breakfast (March).



Future Plans

SSYI is taking on additional work in Sawston in 2020, in collaboration with Romsey Mill, and with full engagement of groups involved in existing youth provision there. This currently involves taking on responsibility for all the existing Romsey Mill / SSYI activities, but we hope to expand to meet the greater needs of hard-to-reach young people in Sawston in future. This is enabled by Zac Britton relinquishing his St. Andrew's Church responsibilities and taking on full time leadership of SSYI's activities.

The arrival of our new worker, Charlie, made possible by generous funding from Great Shelford Parish Council for her first 12mths, will enable us to grow SSYI activities amongst the girls, which have hitherto been limited by resource constraints.

With this expansion, our costs of delivery are growing, with a budget for 2020-21 of around £60,000. We are looking to increase fundraising but the biggest need is for more regular monthly and annual donors. This helps us have a consistent flow of income allowing us to plan our yearly delivery of youth work easily and enables us to generate more local support

Current Situation

The COVID-19 epidemic, and government guidance, has meant that SSYI's face-to-face activities are on hold during “lockdown”, but our youth workers continue to support the young people remotely, via social media and regular 1:1 contact. This is crucial at a time when mental health issues, and difficult home situations mean greater risks, and needs for active presence and help. Nevertheless we all hope to return to planned group and direct activities as soon as possible.

We wish to say a massive thank you to all of you who continue to support SSYI financially. Your investment in SSYI and the young people just shows how much you truly care about the local young people and wish to see them flourish as individuals. This includes the local parish councils, churches, businesses, organisations and generous individuals who have given us financial support either directly or indirectly.

More information

If you would like any further information about SSYI, then please contact.

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...or access the SSYI Website: www.ssyi.club