

Quarterly Youth Provision Report

Reporting Period: April – June 2026



Executive Summary

This quarter has seen continued positive engagement across our youth provision, with young people accessing safe, welcoming spaces where they can develop confidence, build friendships and receive support from trusted youth workers.

Alongside delivering our regular sessions, we have continued to strengthen relationships with families, schools and partner organisations, ensuring young people receive early support where needed. Our relationship-based approach continues to encourage young people to seek help voluntarily and develop resilience through positive experiences.

Quarter at a Glance

Sessions Delivered

33 including 4 days over Easter

Total Attendances

339

Individual Young People Engaged

70

New Registrations

9

Young People Engaged:

56% male | 44% female

Partnership & Community Engagement Meetings

- Meeting with Southwater Youth Project re: working together
- Meeting with the Neighbourhood Wardens – planning for The Steyning Festival
- Meeting with Steyning Grammar School re: detached work pilot
- Presence at The Steyning Festival Warden's Day, Fletcher's Croft
- Networking at Upper Beeding Primary School Fayre

- Meeting with Steyning Downland Scheme re partnership work
- Networking at Upper Beeding Parish Council Meeting
- Meeting with the Community Fridge re partnership work
- Meeting with Places Leisure re: offering for summer activity week '26

What We've Achieved

- Delivered consistent weekly youth provision.
- Maintained strong attendance and engagement.
- Welcomed new young people into sessions.
- Delivered activities promoting confidence, teamwork and wellbeing.
- Continued one-to-one support through informal conversations and trusted relationships.
- Strengthened partnerships with schools and community organisations.

Impact This Quarter



Our provision has continued to make a positive and meaningful difference to young people, families and the wider community. Through consistent relationship-based youth work, we have supported young people to build confidence, develop resilience and access trusted adults who can provide encouragement, guidance and early support.

Alongside our regular sessions, we have continued to strengthen partnerships, increase opportunities for young people and **develop pathways** that support their personal growth and future aspirations. The following feedback from a parent of one of our Primary Youth Club members, Young Person 'T', highlights the positive impact of this work — from building confidence and belonging for young people, to strengthening relationships with families, encouraging wider community involvement and creating opportunities for partnership working with schools;

“As I have been saying to you at the club I can not express enough how amazing finding you has been for T and us also .He has never had the confidence to join any clubs before and

from where we were at the start of him coming to try it out, stood in the doorway hardly able to come in to see now exited he now is on a Wednesday, for the coming Friday is just wonderful!

He has really gained confidence since joining and I find the way you and Nicky are with the children goes above and beyond anything we've experienced with any other club we have tried. The support nurturing and care you have shown has been huge to us and really stands out, encouraging him with a little job to do at the steining festival and making him feel he could do it even when he was so nervous and then taking the time to write him a letter about it for school just highlights how wonderfully beneficial to the children this club is. I'm so happy to have found it.

T has made a new friend also through the club and we meet them regularly and have become good friends which has been great.

Please share our thoughts with everyone involved with the club and give a huge Thank you from us for doing such a fantastic job and for all the effort you all make.

We are very glad to have met such a lovely bunch of people!

*Kind regards
(T's Mum)"*

Young Person Spotlight – Young Person 'L'

From Participant to Positive Role Model (*Anonymous Case Study*)



Over the past quarter, we have seen the positive impact that consistent, relationship-based youth work can have on a young person's confidence, aspirations and sense of belonging.

One of our teenage members has engaged regularly with our youth provision and, through developing trusted relationships with youth workers, has grown in confidence and self-belief. Over time, they have become increasingly engaged within sessions and have expressed an interest in taking on a more active role within the club. The Teens session began with Young Person 'L' as the sole attendee. Rather than disengaging, they continued to attend week after week, patiently allowing time for relationships to develop and for the group to grow. Their commitment played an important part in establishing the strong foundation of the Teens provision we have today.

Recognising their strengths and willingness to support others, we are developing a volunteering pathway to enable this young person to progress from participant to volunteer. This will include completing safeguarding training, supporting our Junior Youth sessions and gaining valuable experience working alongside youth workers.

This opportunity is not only supporting their personal development but also providing them with transferable skills, increased responsibility and insight into potential future employment within youth work or other helping professions. This is particularly significant given the additional barriers many young people with autism face when entering the workplace.

Research shows that autistic people experience significantly lower employment rates than the wider population, with only around **3 in 10 working-age autistic adults in the UK being in employment**.

Creating opportunities for young people to gain confidence, develop skills and build positive work experiences at an early stage can play an important role in improving future employment outcomes.

Through this volunteering pathway, Young Person 'L' will have the opportunity to develop communication, teamwork, responsibility and leadership skills within a supportive environment, while gaining valuable experience that can contribute towards future education, training or employment opportunities.

This journey highlights the importance of youth provision as a space where young people are not only supported but empowered to contribute, lead and positively influence others.

Supporting Young People's Development

Young people continue to benefit from having a safe, welcoming environment where they can build friendships, develop confidence and access support through trusted relationships.

Key outcomes this quarter include:

- Young people have continued to develop confidence, self-esteem and resilience through regular engagement with youth workers and positive peer relationships.
- Sessions have provided opportunities for young people to practise social skills, independence and teamwork within a supportive environment.
- Staff have been trained in *Autism Awareness in Education* to support our increasingly neurodivergent Primary session.
- One of our Junior Youth members has grown significantly in confidence through continued encouragement and support. They have become more engaged within sessions, developed greater self-belief and have begun exploring opportunities to take on responsibility through volunteering.
- We have seen positive changes for a young person with autism by adapting our approach to meet their individual needs. By building on their interests, including

using comic-based conversations as a way to connect, alongside consistent encouragement and positive reinforcement, we have strengthened engagement, improved confidence and supported them to feel understood and valued within the group.

- A young person has chosen to share personal experiences and challenges with youth workers, including their ongoing journey around family relationships. This demonstrates the importance of having consistent, trusted adults and safe spaces where young people feel able to talk openly and receive support at their own pace.
- We have begun developing a volunteer pathway for one of our 16-year-old members, with the aim of supporting progression into future paid youth work opportunities. This will include safeguarding training, supporting Junior Youth sessions and involvement in our summer activity programme.

Strengthening Partnerships & Community Support

We have continued to develop strong relationships with local partners, creating a more connected network of support around children, young people and families.

Achievements this quarter include:

- Securing a six-week pilot with **Steyning Grammar School** (Shooting Fields site) to deliver detached youth work from September 2026. This will enable us to engage with young people in a more informal setting, particularly those who may not access traditional support services.

As part of the preparation for this pilot, we will work closely with the school to agree safeguarding procedures, information-sharing processes and recording systems, including appropriate access to CPOMS, ensuring any concerns or disclosures are recorded and managed in line with school safeguarding processes.

- Establishing a local partnership network involving the Family Worker, Steyning Downland Scheme, Neighbourhood Wardens, the Library Service and Family Support Work (The Sussex Charity for Children). This group aims to strengthen communication, share resources and identify opportunities for collaborative working.
- Developing stronger relationships with local wardens and the wider community partnership network, resulting in practical support for youth activities. Through collaboration with the **Steyning Community Partnership**, our summer excursions have been able to operate under their affiliate membership, enabling access to a community minibus and DBS-cleared driver support. This partnership has helped remove transport barriers and create opportunities for young people to access experiences further afield that may not otherwise have been possible.
- Agreeing a partnership with the Family Worker at Steyning Parish Church to launch a **Dungeons & Dragons group** from September. This will provide a creative and

inclusive opportunity for young people to develop communication, problem-solving, teamwork and social confidence.

- Establishing new referral pathways with **Family Support Work (The Sussex Charity for Children)** and **The Mix**, enabling young people and families to access additional support where appropriate.



Expanding Opportunities & Developing Provision

We have continued to invest in the development of our youth provision and create new opportunities for young people.

This includes:

- Securing **SAFeR Steyning Area 1st Responders** for September 2026, strengthening our knowledge and practice around supporting young people safely.
- Applying for a range of funding opportunities to support the sustainability and growth of our provision, including for soundproofing of our Upper Beeding base.
- Successfully securing **£450 from The Steyning Society**, which will fund the purchase of an iPad for our Primary and Teens sessions. This will provide young people with access to research tools, homework support and digital learning opportunities.
- Expanding our summer activity programme to include excursions and new experiences for young people, providing opportunities that may not otherwise be accessible to all members of our community.
- Recognising the importance of creating dedicated opportunities for our girls within the club, we are introducing a female-led skateboarding workshop as part of our summer programme. Through listening to our young women and understanding their interests and needs, we aim to create spaces where girls feel represented, encouraged and confident to try new activities.

We know that girls can sometimes face barriers to participation in traditionally male-dominated activities, whether through confidence, fear of judgement or lack of positive role models. By providing a female-led environment, we are helping to challenge those barriers, build self-belief and encourage our girls to take risks, develop new skills and recognise their own capabilities. This is part of our wider commitment to ensuring all young people feel included, valued and able to participate fully within our youth provision.

Partnerships Developed This Quarter

- Families
 - Local schools
 - Community organisations
 - Support agencies
 - Local services
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As our youth provision continues to grow, we are experiencing increased demand and a number of operational challenges which require ongoing development and investment.

Staffing Capacity & Recruitment

- Our biggest ongoing challenge is building a sustainable staffing model. The majority of our team are currently employed on casual contracts, with only one member of staff on a contracted basis. This can create challenges around consistency, availability and capacity, particularly during busy sessions.
- Some sessions are now supporting up to 27 young people with a team of three staff members, which can be demanding when responding to increasingly complex behavioural, emotional and additional support needs. Maintaining a safe, inclusive environment while providing meaningful engagement for all young people remains a priority.
- We are continuing to explore ways to strengthen our workforce, including developing a volunteer pathway and creating opportunities for young people to progress into volunteering roles.

Session Environment & Resources

- Creating suitable spaces for youth work continues to be a challenge. At Junior Youth Club, the current venue setup and acoustics can make it difficult to provide quieter conversations, focused activities and smaller group work.
- Following our recent session supported by the Manta Ray Trust, we identified that improved acoustics and sound management would significantly enhance the environment for young people and staff. We are therefore exploring fundraising opportunities to support soundproofing improvements at our base.

We have explored alternative spaces, including the village hall, however moving young people away from their established social groups and friendship networks has proved challenging. We will continue to review venue options that balance accessibility, safety and the needs of young people.

Meeting Increasing Need

- Demand for places continues to increase, with our Junior Youth session reaching capacity and creating waiting lists.
- We are seeing a growing level of emotional, behavioural and wellbeing needs among young people, requiring more individual support and tailored approaches from youth workers.
- Developing additional capacity will allow us to continue offering high-quality relationship-based youth work while ensuring young people receive the level of support they need.

Despite these challenges, the team remains committed to providing safe, inclusive and impactful youth provision. The challenges identified this quarter also highlight opportunities for future development, including strengthening staffing capacity, expanding our volunteer base and improving our physical spaces.

Looking Ahead

Our priorities for the next quarter are:

- Continue delivering high-quality youth provision.
- Develop partnerships with local schools.
- Expand detached youth work opportunities.
- Support young people through summer activities and transitions.
- Continue evaluating impact and responding to emerging needs.
- Recruit another Youth Support Worker.
- Develop life skills within our teens group such as navigating public transport, ordering food and drinks in community settings, managing money, building confidence in social situations, and developing independence through supported activities such as visiting local pubs and community venues with guidance from youth workers.

Thank You

Thank you to our staff, partner organisations and families for their continued support. Together we are helping young people feel safe, connected and empowered to achieve their potential.