# Quarterly Youth Provision Report
# Reporting Period: July - September 2026



## Executive Summary

This quarter has been our busiest yet, with the move to a full-time role enabling significant progress across the service. With the current contract due to end in May 2027, we have also begun focusing more closely on forward planning, gathering feedback and evaluating our impact to help shape the next phase of the project. Over the past three months, we have strengthened our delivery, established a positive and consistent team rhythm, and grown in confidence and capability as a service. Alongside consolidating our existing provision, we continue to strengthen community and partnership links, while reaching new young people in an increasingly focused and purposeful way. Overall, we feel we are in a strong position, with a committed team, established foundations and clear ambitions for the future.

## Quarter at a Glance

### Sessions delivered
25 Including 6 summer holiday sessions

### Total attendances
270

### Individual young people engaged
67

### New registrations
12

### Gender breakdown
Male — 55.3% | Female — 44.7%

During July–September 2026, The Hangout Youth delivered 25 sessions, including six sessions over the summer holidays, with a total of 270 attendances and 67 individual young people engaged. While this represents a reduction in sessions and total attendances compared with April–June, the figures should be considered in the context of the five-week summer break.

Despite the reduced delivery period, individual engagement remained relatively stable, decreasing from 70 to 67 young people. New registrations increased from nine to 12, demonstrating continued interest in the provision. Average attendance per session also increased from approximately 10.3 to 10.8, indicating sustained participation across the sessions delivered.

The gender balance remained broadly consistent, with 55.3% male and 44.7% female engagement recorded for the quarter. Overall, the figures demonstrate continued reach and engagement during a period of reduced delivery, alongside positive growth in new registrations.

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**Partnership & Community Engagement Meetings**

**Key meetings and engagement included:**

- **Steyning Grammar School**: Emer Nicholson Harris, Assistant Headteacher (KS3, TT) and Deputy DSL re development of detached youth work and opportunities to engage with young people beyond traditional youth club settings.
- **The Mix:** Obtained support information and resources for distribution during the summer programme and beyond. Information about accessing support is also displayed on the backs of our toilet doors, helping young people find information privately and discreetly.
- **Brighton Bouncy Castle Hire:** Developed a new partnership to support the delivery of our summer family celebration event and future events.
- **Brighton Girls Skate Club:** Established a connection to support female representation in sport and explore opportunities for girls to participate in skateboarding in an encouraging and inclusive environment.
- **Horsham and Shipley Community Project:** Developed a partnership to provide young people with opportunities to try wood carving and explore creative, practical skills.
- **Upper Beeding Allotments:** Connected with local allotment holders who volunteered to support our summer rewilding project. This engagement also created a wider community connection, with one volunteer subsequently registering their grandchild with the youth club.
- **Friends of Upper Beeding (FUBS)** Summer Fayre: Represented our Youth Provision at the community summer fayre, raising awareness of our work and strengthening our presence within the local community.
- **Steyning Downland Scheme:** Met with Matthew to discuss our ongoing collaboration following the departure of their Youth Officer. We agreed to continue supporting one another and maintaining our working relationship.
- **Steyning Minibus:** Established a new partnership with Ian Alexander and Graham Walsh to explore community transport opportunities that can help young people access activities and experiences.
- **SAFeR – Steyning Area 1st Responders:** Continued our relationship with SAFeR, who delivered first aid training for our young people, building on their involvement in the previous year.
- **Family Support Network:** Welcomed Michelle Stokes for a visit during the summer to meet young people and strengthen connections around referral pathways and additional family support.
- **Steyning Parish Church:** Worked in partnership to deliver our first Dungeons & Dragons session. A brand new opportuntiy for youth.
- **Steyning Full Council Meeting**: Two youth members represented their peers through a presentation at the Full Council Meeting, providing an opportunity for young people to share their perspectives and raise the profile of youth provision within the local community.

**What We've Achieved**

- Growing our digital reach: The Youth Club's Instagram account recorded 110 followers, with audience growth of 12.2% over the period August-September.
- Delivered a successful summer activity week, creating new experiences and opportunities for young people through new community partnerships.
- Coordinated two trips simultaneously during the summer activity week to maximise participation and income.
- Strengthened team communication and collaboration, with staff working effectively together throughout a busy summer programme.
- Received excellent feedback from families about our provision and activities (see *Impact This Quarter*).
- Delivered a successful Summer Family Celebration event, welcoming 69 attendees, including young people, siblings and parents.
- Responded proactively to safeguarding concerns within the Teens group, temporarily pausing the club to introduce additional safeguards and strengthen procedures.
- Developed a new Young Person's Club Agreement, supporting young people to understand expectations, raise concerns and take ownership of their club environment.
- Strengthened safeguarding communication with the Designated Safeguarding Lead at Steyning Grammar School.
- Began planning a dedicated session on healthy relationships and managing disagreements, seeking advice from the Juno Project and Horsham District Council's Youth Provision Officer.
- Prepared key performance indicators (KPIs) for presentation to the committee for approval.
- Recruited a new Young Volunteer and developed a supporting scheme, including policies, induction and ongoing support.
- Integrated our Young Volunteer into regular Junior Youth sessions, providing practical experience and opportunities to develop skills and responsibility.
- Introduced a new Communication and Operational Procedures Policy for The Hangout team.
- Strengthened support for youth workers around lone working and safe working practices.

- Ran a youth-led competition to design a new youth club logo, encouraging creativity, participation and ownership of the provision.

- Supported young people to attend a Steyning Town Council meeting, creating opportunities to develop confidence, gain experience and engage with local decision-making.

- Participated in the Steyning Festival, where young people volunteered in community roles and contributed positively to the event.

- Wrote to young people's teachers to recognise and celebrate their contributions and achievements through volunteering at the Steyning Festival.

- Supported four young people to transition from Junior Youth Club to Teens Club upon reaching the age of 13.

- Delivered our first Dungeons & Dragons session in partnership with Steyning Parish Church, achieving a full house.

- Successfully secured £450 from The Steyning Society towards an iPad for use across our youth clubs.

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**Impact this Quarter**

Feedback from parents and carers, gathered in September, was overwhelmingly positive, highlighting the Youth Project's importance to young people, families and the wider community.

- 92% (12 out of 13 respondents) rated the importance of a dedicated youth service as 4 or 5 out of 5, with 85% (11 out of 13) rating it "Extremely important".
- 100% of parents who answered the recommendation question said they would recommend the provision.
- All 12 respondents who answered the anonymous-use question agreed that their feedback could be used to demonstrate the project's impact.

**Building confidence, independence and social skills:** Parents reported increased confidence, independence, communication and social skills, alongside new friendships, reduced anxiety and a stronger sense of belonging. Feedback highlighted the value of having a relaxed, supportive environment where young people can try new things, build relationships and socialise away from the pressures of school.

**Supporting families and carers:** The benefits extend beyond young people themselves. Parents valued having a safe and welcoming space for their children, affordable activities and holiday provision, reassurance that their children were supported, and opportunities for family members to enjoy time or activities of their own.

Feedback also highlighted the project's role in reducing isolation and strengthening community connections.

**Creating a space young people want to attend:** Parents repeatedly described the provision as safe, nurturing, friendly and welcoming. Young people particularly enjoy socialising with friends, meeting new people, having greater independence, feeling trusted and being part of something positive. This demonstrates that the project's impact lies not only in the activities offered, but also in the supportive relationships and sense of belonging it creates.

One parent of a Junior Youth Club member summed up the impact on their family:

*"The children ask to go every week which tells us how happy they are to attend. I am able to take part in a yoga exercise class because it gives me an hour or so which makes a huge difference to me."*

The below feedback from another parent highlights how a nurturing environment builds confidence, friendships and the courage to try new experiences;

*"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 how excited he now is on a Wednesday, for the coming Friday, is just wonderful. He has really gained confidence since joining [...] The support, nurturing and care you have shown has been huge to us."*



**Young Persons Spotlight - From Building Trust to Taking Responsibility**

This quarter, an important moment with four of our older Junior Club members demonstrated the impact of relationship-based youth work and the value of recognising young people's potential.

During one session, the group were spending time outside, but the noise levels and difficulties following instructions meant we needed to bring everyone back indoors.

The four young people helped gather litter from the grass, and we used the opportunity to talk about community responsibility, explaining that, even when litter is not theirs, helping to look after a shared space shows respect for others. Although they were initially reluctant, they engaged with the task and were thanked for their contribution.

At the end of this conversation, the young people approached me themselves to ask whether they could stay outside for an additional 20 minutes if they promised to be quiet and respectful. Recognising their efforts and the opportunity to build trust, I agreed that they could remain outside with a youth worker. They kept their word, behaved respectfully and spent the extra time chatting together.

This created an opportunity to talk about roles of responsibility within the club. I told the group that I was impressed with their behaviour and believed they might be ready to take on greater responsibility. Three of the four have been part of the club since it launched in November 2024, making this a particularly meaningful step in the relationships built over time.

One young person, who has been offered the opportunity to explore a role of responsibility, clearly continued thinking about the conversation after the session. Their parent later messaged to say:

*“We spoke to H on Thursday after Youth club and he said yes to having more responsibilities at youth club. Thank you so much for asking him. I think it'll do him good to do something like this.”*

I was particularly proud that he was willing to put himself forward. We are now exploring a suitable role that will give him the opportunity to contribute positively, develop new skills and experience being trusted with responsibility.

**Why this matters:** This is about seeing beyond challenging moments and recognising the strengths, potential and capacity for growth in every young person. By setting clear expectations, acknowledging positive choices and offering opportunities to earn trust, we can help young people develop accountability, confidence, communication and leadership skills.

This approach aligns with the National Youth Agency’s National Youth Work Curriculum, which emphasises participation, empowerment, trusting relationships and opportunities for young people to take an active role in their learning and development. Rather than simply expecting young people to follow rules, youth work creates opportunities for them to understand their impact, make positive choices and become active contributors to their community.

For The Hangout Youth Provision, this is an encouraging example of how consistent relationships and small, meaningful opportunities can help young people begin to see themselves as role models and valued members of the club. We look forward to supporting this young person as they take their next step.



**Supporting Young People's Development.**

This quarter, we have seen encouraging progress in young people's confidence, independence and social development. One Junior Club member who previously relied on craft activities to feel comfortable is now confidently engaging with a much wider circle of young people, often with a smile on his face.

Another young person received positive feedback after presenting at Steyning Town Council, with their parent describing it as a valuable new experience.

We have also successfully implemented our Young Volunteer pathway, with our 16-year-old volunteer now fully part of the team, confidently building playful, positive relationships with young people and bringing a valuable younger perspective to the staff team.

Feedback from parents continues to reinforce the positive impact of the provision, with one highlighting the significant benefits to their child's social and emotional development.

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**Strengthening Partnerships & Community Support.**

**Achievements this quarter**

Community support for our service continues to grow, with increasing signs that word is spreading about the work we do. Examples this quarter include; The Sussex Grocer sponsoring our stand at Steyning Festival by providing sweets, At Emily's recommending our service to the Co-op Community Donation Fund, and Love Steyning regularly promoting our work.

We are also receiving positive feedback from further afield, with the Horsham Community Safety Team reporting that they are increasingly hearing good things about our service. This growing recognition reflects the strength of our community relationships and the value people see in our work.

**How have partnerships supported young people and strengthened provision this quarter?**

One particularly memorable example was the woodworking session delivered during the summer with volunteers from Horsham and Shipley Community Project. We had initially wondered whether the age difference and the volunteers' quieter manner might create a disconnect with our young people, particularly those with additional needs, including ADHD.

These concerns quickly disappeared. The young people were so engaged that, with no chairs available, they stood throughout the session, completely absorbed in the activity.

The session demonstrated the power of bringing generations together through a shared, practical activity.

There was a genuine sense of mutual respect, with young people connecting with volunteers through their shared interest in the craft. This highlighted the value of offering practical skills they may not otherwise have the opportunity to develop at home, reinforcing our commitment to expanding intergenerational work over the coming year.

Steyning Downland Scheme now trust us enough to allow us to use their land independently for the first time this summer, while Upper Beeding allotment holders continue to generously share their knowledge and skills with our young people.

Looking ahead, we aim to strengthen relationships with local schools to reach more young people and ensure our provision continues to meet their needs.

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**Expanding Opportunities & Developing Provision**

As discussed at a recent Joint Parish Youth Committee meeting, we hope to expand our provision over the coming year, building on the five existing strands of our service to develop a nine-strand offer by May 2027. The proposed timetable for this development is outlined below, with progress dependent on staffing, funding and operational capacity.

- October–December 2026: Consolidate existing sessions, progress school relationships and staff mentoring, develop the young people's steering group, and prepare for the next phase of outreach provision.

- January–March 2027: Progress school-based sports, develop detached youth work using the outreach vehicle as arrangements allow, and explore the introduction of a dedicated SEN session.

- April–May 2027: Review progress, evaluate the impact of new provision and agree priorities for the next contract period, including the sustainability of the expanded offer.

Alongside this phased development, we will continue to strengthen referral pathways, build intergenerational and community partnerships, and explore further funding opportunities. Our aim is to ensure that growth is both sustainable and responsive to the needs of local young people.

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In our last Quarterly Report, we mentioned experiencing increasing demand and a number of operational challenges which required ongoing development and investment, such as;

**Staffing Capacity & Recruitment**
Our previous challenge was establishing a sustainable staffing model, with much of the team employed on casual contracts. While availability and capacity at sessions were previously a concern, this has become more manageable as the service has developed. Our Junior Youth Club has settled into a calmer dynamic as older members have transitioned to Teens, while newer members have found their place within the group.

Our focus has shifted towards strengthening the team's confidence, skills and independence, ensuring staff feel equipped to lead sessions, manage behaviour and challenging situations, respond appropriately to safeguarding concerns and make sound decisions. We now operate a rota system for planning and leading sessions, helping to share responsibility more effectively. Our young volunteer is also providing valuable support at our busiest club, easing pressure on our small team. Looking ahead, we are increasingly focusing on volunteer recruitment as a way to build capacity and support the long-term sustainability of the service.

**Session Environment & Resources**

Our Junior Youth Club venue - Upper Beeding Sports Hall, continues to challenge in terms of acoustics. Quieter conversations and small group work or focus sessions are very difficult in this environment. We continue to review venue options to balance accessibility, safety and the needs of young people. As we have a new group, we may try to use the Village Hall again for focus sessions in 2027.

**Meeting Increasing Need**

Demand for places has shifted over the past quarter, with attendance at our Junior Youth Club levelling off while numbers at our Primary Youth Club continue to grow steadily. Launched in January 2026, the Primary Youth Club has taken time to establish and build awareness locally, but we are now seeing young people attend regularly through word of mouth. Over the next year, we hope to build on this momentum by strengthening links with local primary schools and developing opportunities that support young people's personal development and engagement in extracurricular activities. We are currently in discussions about delivering an assembly at Steyning Primary School as a first step towards raising awareness and reaching more children who could benefit from the service.

**Where are our Teens?**

One of our ongoing challenges is reaching teenagers 13+ who are not currently accessing our provision. Despite continued promotional efforts and growing awareness of our service, we are still struggling to engage some of the young people we most want to reach. How do we connect with teenagers who may be spending more time in their bedrooms, online or on their phones, and who do not necessarily see youth clubs as something for them?

Nationally, Ofcom's research has consistently highlighted the central role that smartphones and online platforms play in teenagers' lives, making it increasingly important that we understand where young people spend their time, what interests them and what would motivate them to engage in person. We need to ask ourselves whether we are offering what teenagers actually want, and whether we are reaching them in the right places, in the right way.

Over the coming year, we need to think differently, listen directly to teenagers and explore new approaches, including school-based outreach, peer-led promotion and activities shaped by young people themselves. Ultimately, the challenge is not simply to fill places at our Teens Drop-In, but to understand why some young people are not coming through the door in the first place - and what it would take to change that.

**Looking Ahead**

**Our priorities for the next quarter are;**

- Strengthen school links and explore school-based youth work.
- Progress plans for detached youth work and outreach.
- Develop youth voice through the steering group.
- Find new ways to engage teenagers aged 13+.
- Build staff confidence and recruit volunteers.
- Explore school sports and a dedicated SEN session.
- Strengthen safeguarding, wellbeing support and referral pathways.
- Review venues, evaluate impact and secure funding for resources through grants and external funding, reducing reliance on council funding.

**Thank You**

Thank you to our staff, partner organisations and families for their continued support. As we look towards our project renewal in May 2027, we are excited about the opportunities ahead and committed to strengthening youth work, championing young people's voices and securing a lasting place for youth provision within our community.