

## Appendix C Detached Youth Work SSP Funded project feedback

### **Detached Youth Work**

Detached youth work uses the principles and practice of informal education to engage young people in a constructive dialogue about their needs, interests, concerns and lifestyles to support them in their personal and social development. Unlike centre-based provision, detached youth work takes place in 'non-institutional' settings, spaces young people have much more control over. Primarily, but not exclusively, the work takes place in the street, but also in parks, cafés, shopping centres, and other spaces young people have chosen to be. This makes it accessible to young people who are unlikely to attend building-based provision, especially those that are hard to reach/disengaged from support services.

### **Role Overview**

Detached youth workers play a vital role in engaging with young people in their own spaces—on the streets, in parks, and in other community areas. By building trust and providing advice and guidance regularly in young people's chosen/own settings, opportunities are created for young people to access support, make positive choices, and develop essential life skills.

### **Engagement Numbers**

Between April and December 2024, the 2 additional funded staff would have themselves have been involved a number of projects. The expectation is that they would run a session after school five days a week and also work up until 9:00 PM two evenings a week as well as supporting my number hope young people one to one also one of the staff took over running the street games programme with young people while the member of staff wasn't around. They were also involved within the team running summer programmes at half term as well as my number of sessions in schools and school assemblies. They would have been on engaged with over 185 session each with around 1400 contact sessions with young people (contact may be same young person more then once) they would have been seen outside the schools by many more young people Also providing tailored support to address their group/individual outside schools and on streets. This number dose not contact the members in the community on other events. These staff also worked one to one supporting the needs to around 28 young people each received intensive one-to-one support because of this work, leading to visible improvements in their educational, personal, social, and emotional development.

Each member of staff that we are funded works 5 sessions a week outside schools when they break up as well as 3 evenings a week till 9pm. They are about to hold a case load of around 10 vulnerable young people at a time as well as support with project run by the team

### **Quotes from the Team**

- *"Detached Youth Work allows us to meet young people in a place they have chosen to be; regular presence in a young person's environment demonstrates reliability and commitment, which promotes trust and positive engagement over time."*
- *"Detached youth work involves/promotes building connections/relationships between young people and their communities, which supports the reduction of anti-social behaviour in their area and positively impacting the wider society."*
- *"Detached Youth Work allows Youth Workers to identify areas with potential/anti-social behaviour and put things in place to reduce/avoid escalation".*

### **Impact Story**

One, of the many successful stories the Community Detached Youth Work Team have had involved a 15-year-old male, who was disengaged from school and involved in anti-social/criminal behaviours. Through consistent weekly support, 'A' regained confidence, self-belief and aspirations. 'A' returned to education and his involvement in ASB/Criminal activities reduced.

### **Schools Supports**

Several schools had reported issues at their schools amongst pupils after school. The CD team was called into to support the schools with keeping pupils safe, managing any issues and being a presence/assurance for the community. The team every day, in pairs went to each of the schools and the hotspots, engaging pupils, staff, community members and walking in and around the school premises to ensure that pupils got home safely and there were no major incidents.

While on the street walks, the team gained, observed and collated intelligence that formed and supported the work that the team was looking to deliver and was already delivering.

### **Quotes from school staff**

- *"It's great to have you out here, supporting and engaging young people. The school really appreciates it."*
- *"Thank you for being here and engaging our pupils. Your presence is highly appreciative and it's good to see the pupils interacting with you and that so many of them already know you through your work"*
- *"It's great to have extra pair of hands-on hand, gives us assurance that you guys are here, and we know we can count on you"*

### **Conclusion**

Detached youth workers provide young people with support/opportunities they might not otherwise receive, promoting resilience, confidence, and personal growth. Their ability to adapt to group/individual needs ensures every interaction has the potential for meaningful change and these staff as you see give us more the 200 session a year each having over 1500 contact session with young people.