



**BRIGHTON & HOVE  
YOUTH COLLECTIVE:  
COMMUNITY BASED  
YOUTH WORK**  
Oct 2012 – Sept 2017



The Youth Collective  
project has given me  
a safe space to talk  
without being judged.





The Youth Collective project has given me a safe space to talk without being judged. Talk about how I feel, how I'm coping with things and it has helped take a massive weight off my shoulders.

The people at the youth project have helped me cope with my transition from secondary school to college - which I'm not sure I could have done without them.

This is also a place I can come to get free contraception without feeling nervous or scared.

This is also such a safe space for me, in the past when I've struggled with thinking I might be pregnant, I've been offered confidential advice, free pregnancy testing - and even leaflets as they understand that I get too nervous to talk about things sometimes. On the same subject, they even offered to book my doctor's appointment for me as I was too scared to talk on the phone.

Youth services help so many young people. We make friends here, we talk about our worries, our struggles, our hopes, our goals. They make us feel normal, and they understand everything we tell them like no one else can.

Imagine, please, that you're living in a world where it feels like everyone is sane except you. You think about things so deeply, the smallest thing will tip you over the edge and suddenly you can't leave the house for days. You have so many issues, you feel so alone and scared.

But then imagine - someone offers you a safe space - where your issues exist aloud - in a world outside your own head. And the people in this space (the kids, the adults - everyone) have this ability, this super power to shoot your cloud like worries from the sky, and their weapon? Reasoning, comfort, advice, support, understanding etc...!

This is how I feel every Thursday at the youth session. I can talk without being pressured, openly expressing anything (and I mean anything) I've said some very open things here and never have I been laughed at or dismissed, and I have no fear that I ever will.

I love the youth project and youth services. I feel wanted here, while all my life I've never felt that way before. It helps so many of us..."

**- 17 year old young woman**





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## OVERVIEW

Between Oct 2012 and Sept 2017 the Brighton & Hove Youth Collective consisted of 8 community and voluntary sector organisations: Brighton Youth Centre, The Crew Club, The Deans Youth Project, Hangleton & Knoll Project, Tarner Community Project, The Trust for Developing Communities, YMCA Downslink and the Young People's Centre (YPC).

It was commissioned by Brighton and Hove City Council to deliver universal youth work across the city to young people aged 13-19, and up to 25 with SEND (special educational needs and disability), against a number of targets and outcomes for young people under the overall strategic outcomes of 'Young people are able to enjoy their leisure time' and 'Young people have the opportunity to be active citizens and shape the services that affect their lives'.


The Youth Collective worked collaboratively with each other and other organisations in the city to run events and put on activities for young people; everything from local community events to city wide events like Brighton Fringe Festival and the B.fest, youth arts festival.

The Youth Collective continues – a new format and new structure continues to work with young people as of Oct 2017

Throughout the  
**5 year period of  
funding Oct 2012  
to Sept 2017**  
the Youth Collective  
worked with between  
**2500 – 3000 young  
people each year,<sup>1</sup>**  
who attend our provision between  
**22,000 – 30,000  
times each year.<sup>1</sup>**

<sup>1</sup> All data collected from a BHCC data base, populated by the Department for Families, Children and learning with specific youth work activity and outcomes recorded by youth work staff





**Outcomes, based upon delivery of the youth work curriculum, were achieved by more than 80% of participants during each year.**

## **THE COMMUNITY YOUTH WORK OFFER OVERVIEW OF ACTIVITY**

Throughout each year we have provided youth clubs, street outreach work, specific group work sessions, sports activities, arts opportunities, school lunchtime health drop ins in the city's secondary schools, the B.Fest youth arts festival, co-ordinated the Big Lottery Fund's Chances 4 Change programme on young people's mental health, provided support to vulnerable and at risk young people, supported young people to have their voice heard through participation work, delivered holiday programmes, intergenerational events, facilitated participatory budget initiatives and co-ordinated training for volunteers across the city.

## **OUTCOMES**

Young people have gained outcomes through our work – they have better social, emotional and physical well-being, raised aspirations, have made a 'Community Contribution', have Increased skills in Arts and Culture, Increased skills in Sports Activity, have greater independence, have been involved in volunteering and through our 'participation' model have been involved in the planning and delivery of our activities. Young people have been supported with health, relationships, sexual health, and substance use issues.

I've met people  
on the way who  
inspired me.

If I wasn't part of the community  
I'd feel insecure, isolated and might  
damage something.

Communication skills, confidence, understand young  
people, understanding people generally! Team work,  
self-fulfilment, self-satisfaction, empowerment,  
compromise and diplomacy, project management.

We are now in a good place  
to help other young people  
of a similar age influence  
decision-making and help  
them to take responsibility.

It's really good because it broadens your  
knowledge on lots of subjects that we are  
not really taught about at school. It's good  
because it's like a safe environment where  
you can talk about different things  
and not be judged on your opinions.

It helped me get into the Police  
& train around public services.

## YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMENTS ON ACHIEVED OUTCOMES

It's good to get people  
involved in projects who are  
getting into trouble. It inspires  
a "we can" attitude.

It's nice to be part  
of community – doing  
things for others.

Very consistent with information  
and providing support internally  
& externally which is excellent.  
I felt listened to and supported.

Today was really fun, sorry  
I didn't speak much, I get really  
anxious and don't like talking much.  
Art makes me more relaxed and then  
less anxious and then I started  
to talk a little more.

Gave me a purpose and  
was a good distraction  
from bad things.

It taught me to be  
respectful of other  
people's views.

Helping others helps you know what's  
important for you. I realised I enjoy helping  
others and want it to spread out to other  
communities. At the same time I want  
to learn from others.

# MORE THOUGHTS ...

You feel really  
welcome here.

Youth clubs are important  
because you can chill  
and its not like school.

Really friendly. Felt comfortable  
speaking to the workers & I found  
out lots about resources  
that could benefit me.

It helped me step out  
of my comfort zone.

What do you like about youth  
club - 'everything', 'cooking',  
'it's really fun', 'friendly',  
fun staff, food and lots  
of activities.

People listen to you, don't think  
of you as a dickhead. I enjoy  
talking to people and making more  
friends. It's worth more because  
I put my own time into it.

It's good having a  
c-card and you can  
chat about stuff.

When I think back on the  
young leaders residential  
we did last year, that  
was one of the happiest  
memories of my life.

Great to put it on my cv;  
the experience helped me  
get a promotion at work.

Instead of watching stuff  
on the TV at home about  
how things are going bad,  
I want to now get involved  
in changing some stuff.

Without it I wouldn't have  
met others with other views.  
I've become less shallow, more  
open minded and I've got  
broadened horizon.

Youth club is the only  
thing I look forward  
to every week.

The club gives us  
somewhere to go  
after school.

I come to youth club  
because I love it, I can't  
stay at home.

# SERVICE DEVELOPMENT HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ Development of the Youth Collective website, building on the single brand and point of information
- ▶ School Health Drop-ins in 6 secondary schools, providing a range of health support and better links into youth provision
- ▶ Development of the B.fest youth arts festival, including a live music showcase at The Level and 57 arts events across the city
- ▶ Supported the White Ribbon Campaign Addressing violence against women with workshops for young people for the first time
- ▶ Development of health Mentor roles to bring about greater consistency of delivery across Youth Collective projects
- ▶ Development of the Wild Park Youth festival
- ▶ Engaged with Social Media Think Tank event To address emerging concerns around the use of social media, mental health and self-harm
- ▶ Co-ordinated training for volunteers across the Youth Collective

## FACILITATING VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTION

Our work is assisted by an amazing team of volunteers contributing around **300 hrs** per week, totalling **15,000 hrs** per year, the equivalent of over **£142,500** of service delivery annually.

- ▶ Co-ordinated delivery of the Big Lottery Fund's Chances 4 Change. Providing interventions for young people in schools through Right Here, Life Coaching to address individuals' issues and training for staff around mental health, suicide and self-harm
- ▶ Health work including healthy relationships and sexual health work Work with schools – supporting school PHSE days
- ▶ Facilitated young people's participation in the Youth Review through the Young People's Reference Group
- ▶ Delivered alternative education provision for the Pupil Referral Unit
- ▶ Worked with Local Action Teams & local PCSOs to address neighbourhood concerns around Anti-Social Behaviour
- ▶ Sexual health, improved consistency of the offer to young people across services, embedding support into youth provision

## VALUE OF YOUTH WORK

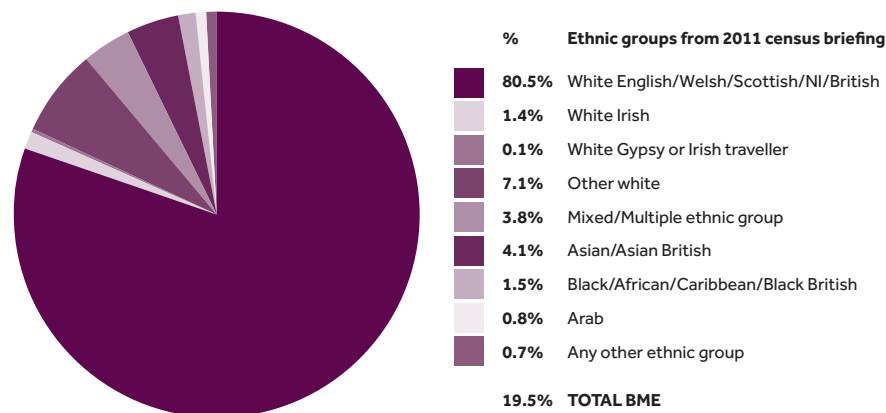
Research into the value of youth work by the Youth Collective, working with the New Economic Foundation, demonstrates that every **£1** invested in open access youth provision results in **£5.56** of social value. Young people who participated said they had increased self-worth, an increased sense of community belonging, and increased personal expectations, including better career & educational prospects.



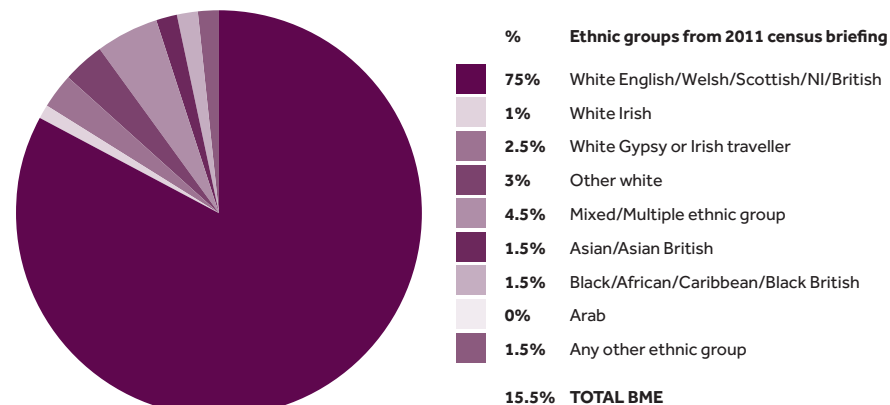
# ETHNICITY BREAKDOWN/COMPARISON



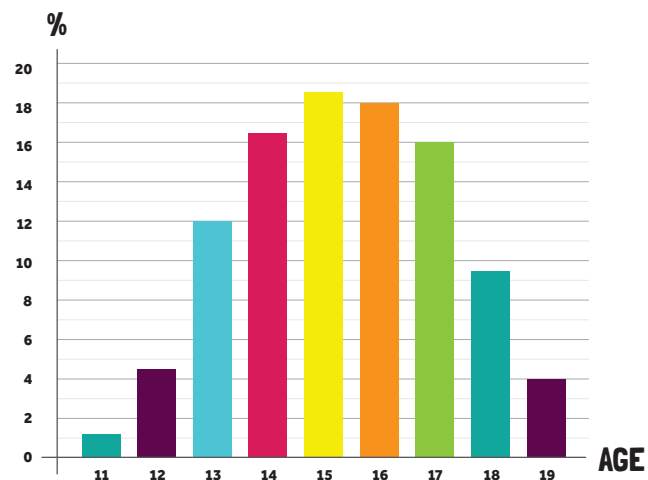
## BRIGHTON & HOVE 2011 CENSUS BRIEFING



## YOUTH COLLECTIVE 2014-2015



## TITLE FOR THIS GRAPH?



In addition to our delivery BHCC have funded separate BME youth work, as well as work for those young people who identify as LGBT or those with a disability<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> All data collected from a BHCC data base, populated by the Department for Families, Children and Learning with specific youth work activity and outcomes recorded by youth work staff. Figures taken from a sample year, April 2014 - March 2015

# YOUNG PEOPLE USING THE SERVICE

**40% FEMALE**  
**60% MALE**

# RISK & CHALLENGING BEHAVIOUR

## Working with young people with risk factors

The range of additional needs and risk factors that we are working with includes young mothers or those at risk of teenage pregnancy, young carers, children in care or care leavers, those with Special Educational Needs statements, registered disabled, young people attending the Pupil Referral Unit, those with mental health issues and issues around anxiety, depression and anger management, those accessing mental health services, those who are non-/irregular school attendees – this is due to a range of factors including bullying, those using high levels of cannabis, alcohol and other substances.

We identify risk through informal needs assessments, working with small groups and individuals. Assessments are based upon the needs that young people present with, the support that young people request and the emerging risk that is identified as relationships with the young people using Youth Collective services develop. We get to know young people's risk factors through working with them and their families over an extended period of time and through building trust.

The majority of the young people we are working with live in those areas most affected by poverty and much of our provision is located in areas of higher deprivation – Tarner, Whitehawk,

Moulsecoomb, the City Centre and Hangleton and Knoll. Many of the young people we work with have parents/carers with additional needs; this could be insecure employment, mental health issues, some have family histories of drug and alcohol abuse and challenges around longer term unemployment. Low self-esteem or assertiveness is manifested in patterns of negative behaviours, particularly around relationships and trust.

## ASB + Tarner Park TCP

Tarner Community Project (TCP). Problems with anti-social behaviour arose in Tarner Park at the end of 2016, TCP have managed to resolve these issues through community engagement, young people's involvement, and working with other support services. As a result community cohesion has become far stronger. Through the community working together the park is once again a safe space enjoyed by everyone. A 'NEET' (Not in Employment Education or Training) group was set up as emergency support as it was recognised that those engaging in anti-social behaviour were highly vulnerable young people at risk and they were also participating in criminal activities. TCP have maintained this group as there is such a high level need for support and have secured funding to continue the group for the foreseeable future. This group has grown in numbers and TCP have increased staff and volunteers to ensure they maintain a high level service to meet the presented need. TCP have also benefited from the work with the Public Health funded health mentor role to offer guidance in specific areas such as sexual health. Through community engagement it became clear that a number of young women were especially at risk but needed to access a female only space to feel safe and get the support they needed. A bi-weekly group was established and has proved invaluable to a small group of at risk girls.

## Working with the Pupil Referral Unit (PRU)

Brighton Youth Centre have been working with the PRU since the Summer of 2013 as a part of a multi-agency response to Operation Blower, a partnership approach that worked with the police and Community Safety Team to addressing anti-social and criminal behaviour by a group of youths in Brighton and Hove.

***"In moving to sessions at BYC there has been a marked increase in engagement in the sessions both at BYC and within the PRU. Attendance rates on Fridays rose by 12% judged against the first half of the year and the range of activities offered enabled much greater student participation outside of a normal school offer. In taking part in these activities students could both test their perceptions of what they could achieve and also build new skills.***

***This resulted in them building confidence in their abilities, changing their self-perception and ultimately taking risks with learning. Recorded incidents of poor behaviour on Fridays amongst pupils also reduced radically in the second half of the year, falling by 30%. No students received fixed term exclusions excluded on Fridays during the BYC programme. Further, only 1 of the students on a YOS programme was involved in criminal behaviour and 4, who were being monitored closely by YOS and the community safety team have not offended since activity sessions moved to BYC."***

### Tim Self

Deputy Interim Headteacher  
Brighton and Hove Pupil Referral Unit

## RISK FACTOR CASE STUDIES

***The following case studies illustrate these additional needs and risk factors.***

### JASMINE 18 yrs old

Jasmine is an 18-year-old white British female who became known to the TDC aged 11 through detached youth work. TDC encouraged her to attend a weekly young women's group, she struggled to participate in any of the activities, but attended sessions regularly. Jasmine began to speak to the youth workers about some of the issues in her life that she was finding difficult - she was being bullied at school and was often sent out of the classroom as she was finding it difficult to manage her anger issues.

At this time Jasmine identified that the group helped her make friends with other young women in the area, as she made new friends her confidence began to grow and she started to engage in group activities and contribute ideas to the planning and evaluating of sessions. At 15 Jasmine had become a youth leader for the young women's group and also helped out in other community events. This was challenging for her in that she needed to learn ways to manage her anger when other young people were messing around but she learnt new ways of challenging members of the group appropriately.

*During Jasmine's Health and Social Care Level 1-2, TDC met with the college so that she could use her hours working with them as a workplace learning placement. Workers set up one-to-one support to help her create learning outcomes that would fit in with her college curriculum. At this time Jasmine was struggling financially as none of her family had employment, she had to walk a long distance to college every day, and she couldn't afford the bus fare. By identifying her learning from being a youth leader with the TDC she was able to update a CV with the transferable skills she had gained. With some support and a reference from the TDC Jasmine was able to find weekend work at an indoor soft play park.*

*Jasmine is now an adult volunteer for the TDC and starting a new young woman's group for young women that live in the community; she believes it was the group that she attended that has helped her achieve her potential. So would like to give other young women those same opportunities.*

## **EWAN**

### **16 yrs old**

*Ewan is 16 years old and has been involved with the Hangleton and Knoll Project since he was 8 years old; he has mainly participated in their positive activity programme. Ewan has demonstrated challenging behaviour throughout his involvement but as he has learnt to trust HKP workers and build a positive relationship, his behaviour has changed and he has become very receptive to youth work support and intervention. Ewan has severe dyslexia and other mild learning needs. These have been a real barrier to his engagement with School/College and negotiating his way through some very difficult situations he has experienced. When Ewan was 16 years old his parents decided to move away, he and his older brother decided to stay in the South due to their education and friend networks and*

*were placed in a B&B near Brighton Marina. It was during this time HKP experienced Ewan coming into the youth work office, presenting as very hungry and having a dishevelled experience. After a while Ewan opened up about what had happened and shared his story about his parents moving away and that he was not happy at the B&B with his brother so was sofa surfing between his friends and girlfriends in the local Knoll estate area. Financially he was only receiving a travel fund bursary from college and odd 'bits of money' from his brother.*

*Over seven months staff from HKP offered Ewan extensive time and support to help him work through the situation; they have advocated on his behalf with housing and helped him open his own bank account and apply for income support. Usually with this level of intensive support required HKP would refer to another service, but knowing Ewan well HKP knew that the chance of his engagement with a new service was very small as it had taken such a long time for him to trust and engage with them. HKP have come across many barriers in supporting Ewan to open a bank account and access benefits. These have included him having no birth certificate, national insurance number and no permanent address. HKP supported Ewan to apply for this documentation and worked with Ewan to access housing other than sofa surfing at his friend's house. HKP built up a good relationship with his friends Mum and have kept her informed throughout the process.*

*The last few months have been a very difficult process as Ewan has often forgot to turn up to 1:1's we have fixed for him or we haven't been available when he has come in. Also with Ewan short term memory he has often found it difficult to understand all the processes that have been required by the bank and benefits advisors. However, I am convinced that without support from the Hangleton and Knoll project, Ewan needs would have 'slipped under the net' and he would not now have a bank account and be receiving*

benefits to help him move forward. He is very proud of his birth certificate and national insurance number he now has and would like to save some of his benefits towards paying for a provisional driving licence. Further work with Ewan around budgeting and saving as we feel this would really benefit his money management. We will also continue with our support around housing and his other emotional/welfare needs.

## **JAKE**

### **14 yrs old**

Jake is a young man aged 14, of White British heritage, and identifying as LGBTQ. He first came into contact with the Project and the Youth Team at the age of 10/11 through detached and through sporadic attendance at different groups and activities.

Jake has a range of complex and interlinking needs. He is currently permanently excluded from school and receives home tutoring three times a week instead. He has faced years of homophobic bullying at school and within the community. He has had multiple interventions from different services including the Youth Offending Team and the Community and Adolescent Mental Health Services. He has a problematic home situation, experiences mental health issues and has attempted suicide.

Jake would attend youth groups and activities, occasionally with the Hangleton and Knoll Project but also with other providers. However because his behaviour could be very challenging, he would often get excluded from these groups. On one occasion, the Youth Service had to leave him in town during a trip because (in their eyes) his behaviour became unmanageable. Jake started to attend the weekly drop-in in Knoll Park. He was able to be himself

at the drop-in and his on-going participation was positive. When questioned about why this was a different to other groups in terms of his interaction and his behaviour he reflected on this: "it's not boring here and the youth workers really get along with young people, they're not just there to supervise or to tell us off".

The positive interactions within the drop-in have been of benefit to Jake. When asked what he liked about the drop-in he said: "interacting with other young people, which feels better and safer. You get along with people you wouldn't normally get along with". He talked about his relationship with another young man: "me and T used to hate each other. Now we hang out".\* In the light of the bullying that Jake has faced within the community, that he identified, these relationships are particularly important.

Jake is now starting to take a more involved role in the drop-in, helping out with the shopping and various other small roles. He would like to increase his involvement: "helping the project is good, it needs a youth understanding of youth, not just adults. I like to help with people and interact with other youth". He is also seeking more support from youth workers on a 1-to-1 level. He has recently expressed an interest in returning to school and has asked for youth workers to advocate on his behalf in regards to this: "I want to sort stuff out. It's important to go to school. I want to do stuff with my life".

\*It is important to note here, that at the start of the drop-in, T could be quite homophobic towards Jake. T is another very vulnerable young man. Workers ongoingly challenged T, but in a supportive way around his language and actions. The establishment of the drop-in as a safe space for everyone has had its challenges along the way. However it has also been externally noted. A worker from ExtraTime, remarked that "you never see such diverse groups of young people getting along in the same space".



## ROSE

14 yrs old

Rose was 14 when YAC began supporting her and is now 16, she was initially referred via the Early Help Hub for family mediation aged 14 and offered 1:1 support through a YAC support worker in the hope that it would help her to start opening up, as she did not feel ready to engage in mediation at this stage. Rose was low in mood and self-harming at the time. Mum was offered some 1:1 parenting support alongside this to support her around her own emotional wellbeing. Rose had also recently been referred to Tier 3 CAMHS, who YAC liaised with and agreed that they would offer additional support if the young person felt it would be helpful once they had finished working with her.

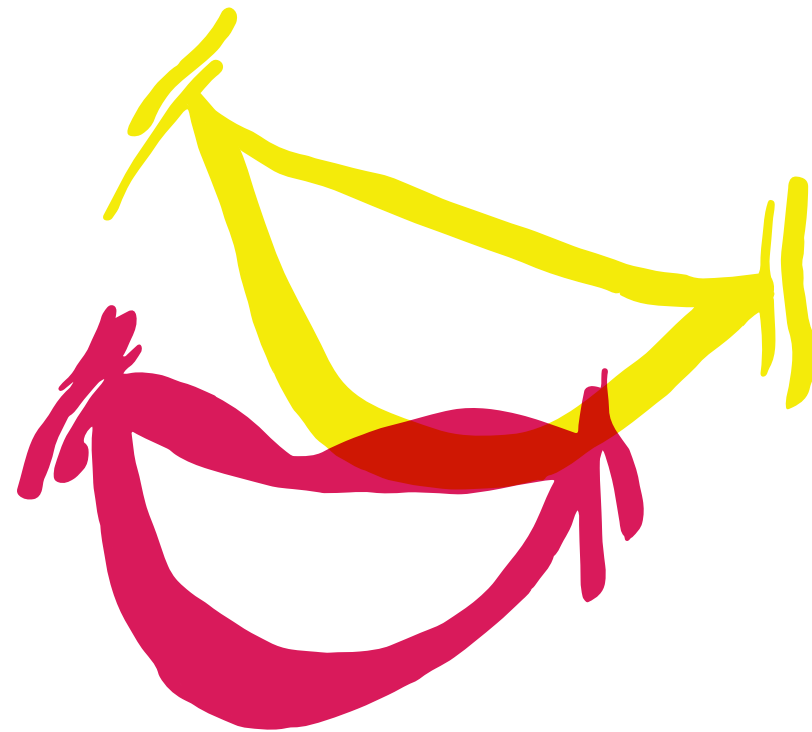
After disengaging YAC then received another referral from the Early help Hub requesting protective behaviours work due to an incident which raised concerns around Rose's vulnerability to CSE. It was decided that rather than involving a specialist worker, a YAC support worker who already had a relationship with Rose would work on her risk taking behaviour around alcohol use and staying safe when out and about with friends, her difficulty managing in school and concerns around transition to college and Rose's own concerns about her ability to see risk at certain times.

YAC worked with the School year head, providing support in engaging Rose, the School inclusion support lead worker, and CAMHS.

Rose now feels more positive about transition to college and is engaging well in family mediation having previously not felt ready to do so. Despite difficult feelings towards mum and becoming frustrated with the process, she is still continuing to engage in this

service and try and improve her relationship with mum. Her ability to open up to and build relationships with professionals has greatly improved.

Rose now has improved skills around assessing and identifying risk and how to keep safe in the community. Rose is no longer self-harming and engaging in mediation and her and mum is improving in communication. Rose has said that 'I feel like I am now able to be more honest about the things that are worrying me'.



## HOW THE SERVICE HAS CONTRIBUTED TO THE COMMUNITY

### **JAMES** 14 yrs old

**"I started off organising stuff at drop-in, helping with the shopping and cooking. Then I helped at the Community Fun Day and made announcements on the mega-phone. That was great and I can't wait to do it again this summer. I want to be a Young Leader."**

### **CHRISSY** 13 yrs old

**"It made me realise you can change stuff, and get stuff done. The park's better now, and we helped with that."**

*There has been a range of activity that has seen young people contribute to their communities, this activity has been as diverse and varied as the communities that we work in and support. Involvement in community events brings people of all ages and diverse backgrounds together and it also gets young people to volunteer and try new things that they wouldn't normally do and learning new skills as well, for example, communication skills, handling money and dealing with situations they wouldn't normally come across. In one example young people raised £1150 to put on a community fun day with a focus on health, working with adults and community groups.*

*Young people are volunteering for projects on a regular basis, helping out with older people's activities and other community groups, assisting on holiday programmes, helping out at events: running stalls, activities, preparing refreshments contributing to consultations and communicating with the council about local initiatives.*

*We have represented, advocated for, and celebrated young people's participation and achievements at our local Community Action Forum. Young people have learnt about community issues and needs and the different avenues available for change at a local level.*

### **FRIENDS OF HANGLETON PARK** Christmas wreath-making event

**"Thanks to the young people and youth team for all your invaluable help at the event, without you we could not have done it."**

### **50+ GROUP**

**"Three young people came to help out at the Cream Tea event. They did an excellent job which was greatly appreciated. The older people loved having them there and it was especially good for those people who sometimes have problems with children in the area"**

## FRIEDA

**"We got feedback from the local community on the day. Lots of people were saying how well the fun day was going and were donating money for all our hard work. Other people said that they really enjoyed the smoothie bike and that they were able to get involved to make their own drink and especially the young people enjoyed this. Also people said they were happy with the price of the wristbands because they believed that you got a lot for your money. We sold our customised wristbands for £2 which included a smoothie, unlimited goes on the laser quest and wrecking ball and a burger or hot dog. We kept the price range low because we wanted everyone to be able afford the wristbands and get a lot for their money."**

In December 2015, at a Community Action meeting, the local PCSOs reported that there were significant decreases in anti-social behaviours carried out by young people from the Hangleton and Knoll area, which they attributed to the work involvement of the youth project.

Other areas have also been working in collaboration with Local Action Teams and in consultation with the local community police who have seen recent rises in criminal damage, vandalism, ASB, arson and theft amongst young people in some areas; there have been successes around this type of work with projects having positive inputs – in one example there had been no vandalism to the site a year after the project was initiated and the Community Action Group reported that there had been no further complaints about drugs use or antisocial behaviour.

## CASE STUDIES

### IMPACT OF YOUTH WORK

In order to demonstrate the impact of the work that we are delivering we have included a few case studies that illustrate the kind of young people we are working with, the needs that they have and the issues that we have supported them with.

### DAVID

YPC User

**The "group is special to me because it makes people be able to talk to people without there being any judging on anything being said in the group and people can be themselves"... "it's a great way of gathering everyone together and if you have any problems then you can talk about it and they can make you feel happier and it is a lot of fun and we treat each other a bit like family and it's a way of escaping from bad things."**

*David first made contact with YPC when he was sleeping rough on the streets of Brighton and squatting in abandoned / unoccupied buildings. He was in a very dark place when he started using the service and he believes that YPC indirectly saved his life.*

*"The project offered a safe space to talk about personal issues that were affecting me, gave me a chance to shower and to eat a hot meal. If this service was not in place, I would have been out engaging in petty crime and committing robberies in order to feed myself and bulk my finances."*

## RYLIE

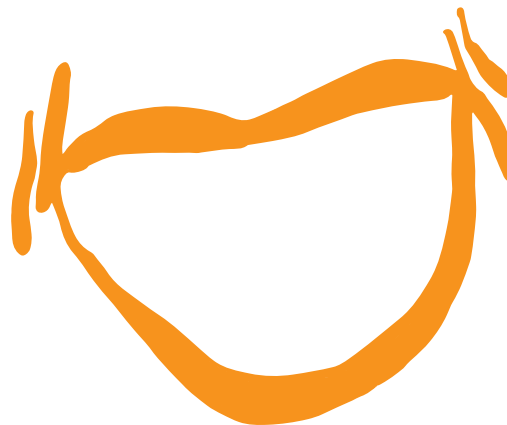
### Hangleton & Knoll youth team worker

*Rylie is a 17 year old female who has been involved with the Hangleton and Knoll project for the past 4 years. Initial contact with Rylie was through detached, where youth workers built a relationship with her through meetings in the local park. Rylie knew of the youth team and its work, but had not engaged with projects or activities at that time. Rylie had a friend that accessed one of the youth team's groups, and this motivated Rylie to access a music project that was running. Rylie reflected that at this time in her life, she was going through a particularly difficult period. She said she was being bullied at school, and did not have a strong peer network in place. She identified that she had self-esteem issues, related to her weight, and although her mum did go into to school to address the bullying issues, she feels let down by the school, as in her words, "not much was done". Rylie reflects on the relationship with her mum at the time as 'distant', and relationships at home as strained. At the time she was living with her mum, dad and brother.*

*After the music project, Rylie began accessing a weekly youth club that was supported by the youth team. Rylie said that after a detached meeting the youth workers promoted the youth session, and supported Rylie to attend, but walking her and a couple of peers up to the session, and introducing her to the workers and young people. This supported introduction gave Rylie the confidence to continue attending the sessions. She reflected that if she hadn't joined the sessions, she would have continued hanging about in the park. Rylie felt that the easy going, informal environment of the young sessions made it easy for her to engage, and through her continued attendance she began to develop stronger peer friendships, with other young people attending.*

*Rylie said that with her increased confidence, she became involved in another local youth group, and started to get more involved in organising and supporting sessions. Rylie wanted to get more involved with the Hangleton & Knoll Project, and became involved in volunteering through the young leaders programme. Rylie reflected that she liked helping people, and she feels good about this work. She recently attending a young leader's residential, to develop her leadership skills and experience, and gained an OCN qualification on the course. Rylie reflected that this was a very positive experience for her, and by meeting being thrown into an entirely new environment with unknown young people and workers, was challenging, but the experience increased her confidence. She feels she now works better in a team, and her communication with others has improved. Rylie also has participated in NCS (National Citizenship Service) something that was promoted to her by the youth team, and again this was a positive experience for her learning and development.*

*In March this year Rylie's parents split up, and her mother is now with a same sex partner. Rylie describes the split as "unexpected", but "for the best". Rylie does access a newly established LGBT group, which the youth team supports. Hopefully she can seek some support and advice in this safe environment, and manage some of the issues she is now facing in her and her family's life.*



## BETTY

14 yrs old

Betty is a 14 year old young woman who lives in central Brighton with her dad, brother, step-mum and four step-siblings. Betty's house is very busy and the housing officer and employment advisor who have worked with the family have described her home life as chaotic. When Betty was younger she had selective mutism, she now speaks but isn't able to produce speech sounds correctly or fluently. Betty has been accessing Turner Community Project (TCP) since she was 8 years old. Initially she attended the Junior Youth Club that TCP ran at the Phoenix Community Centre, now she is older she accesses a range of provision including the girls group and senior youth club.

Betty first joined the girls group in 2016. Initially Betty wouldn't go into the building, she preferred to run around the park that the project is based in. The youth workers at the girls' group session went outside to engage and work with Betty and as the weeks passed Betty started going into the building and engaging with sessions. Betty is now able to attend a full session inside the club, participating fully in the activities on offer.

Youth workers who have supported Betty to access the session have noticed a considerable change in her behaviour and her skill set. When she first came to the group her clothes and body were grubby, the youth workers challenged and supported Betty on this and suggested ways that she could look after her personal hygiene.

The youth workers have since noticed that Betty comes to each session having spent a bit of time on her appearance and clothes. At the sessions Betty has particularly enjoyed learning how to cook. She has learnt how to make biscuits and other dishes which she has tried to recreate at home. Taking part in the sessions has enabled Betty to learn and remember basic food hygiene and she is the first to remind everyone to wash their hands before they start cooking.

Betty said that she enjoys attending the sessions that TCP run and intends to continue doing so, she particularly enjoys the girls group because it isn't very busy, she enjoys the activities and it makes a difference to her well-being and mood.







## The Future

Young people are the future! The organisations that are part of the Youth Collective continue to work collaboratively and in partnership under new arrangements through Brighton and Hove City Council's Youth Grants Programme to provide vital services for young people. The Youth Collective website [brightonandhoveyouthcollective.org.uk](http://brightonandhoveyouthcollective.org.uk) offers a 'one-stop' web resource for young people, parents and carers seeking details of activities that are available across the city – this activities diary will be expanded to be as inclusive as possible and feature other organisations offers too.

We are working in partnership with the Sussex Community NHS Foundation Trust to deliver youth work interventions that support the 0-19 Healthy Child Programme and the community nursing offer. We work in partnership with the NHS Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and Sussex Police to support young people in our communities.

## Funding

Match funding adds value to the investment made by BHCC. In each year of the Youth Collective contract partner organisations secured further funding of £400,000 to support their work with young people. Over the duration of this contract these organisations secured an additional £2 million to support the city's youth.

Working with the New Economics Foundation a social valuation was undertaken in 2015, this demonstrates that every £1 invested in open access youth provision creates £5.56 of social value. Young people participating in the research identified that there is an increase in their self-worth, an increase in a sense of community belonging and an increase of their personal expectations, such as a better career or educational prospects.



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