



GROUNDWORK REPORT

Melbourn

January - March 2019

Matthew Barnes-Smith

Monthly Overview

Youth Delivery

Cooking – Toasties, cup cakes, pancakes, smoothies, pasta, nachos, fajitas
Indoor competitions & challenges
Outdoor sports, games & gymnastics
Free time – outside games, pool, arts and crafts, football.

Overview

This report coincides with the return to Youth Club sessions after the Christmas break, and the new 2019 school term. The Youth Club close on the 18th December for the Christmas Period and reopened again on the 15th January.

The new year started well with lots of the the previous year 7, 8 & 9 faces returning to the Youth Club. Numbers have not been the same as the previous term, falling slightly during the dark and cold nights to between the 15-25 mark.

Each session has had a particular theme focus with activities, games and cooking always present. Outdoor activities have continued outside when the young people chose to engage in them, with the favourite activity being football. The upgrade on the lights have continued to help outdoor activities continue in the winter months, and help the youth team to managed the young people whilst they are outside in the dark. This has enabled the youth team to continue building successful relationships with existing and new attendees.

The reduction in numbers has also been due to a clear divide in interests between the younger and older attendees. This was discussed amongst the MAYD committee and a decision has been proposed by Groundwork and accepted, to return to a split session: 6-7:30pm for year 7&8's and 7:30-9pm for year 9+. This will allow for tailored sessions, and the youth team to be able to focus on providing the right space for the differing ages groups and their needs. This session structure will begin after Easter on 23rd April 2019.

Young people can make positive choices

The groups continue to choose to help cook and clean up after themselves, as well as serving other young people food. The team continues to have open dialogue about future activities and projects that the young people would like to engage with during the sessions, which are then implemented within the programme plan.

Every so often the Youth Team have had to step in to discuss behavior and respect issues during the sessions. The Young People have reacted well to this and standards in their attitude towards each other and the Youth Club have increased.

Young people are confident

A number of the young people are now taking the lead in cooking activities who had not done so before. These individuals have shown a big increase in their confidence when interacting with the other young people and the Youth Team staff, and this has had a ripple effect in their engagement levels and enthusiasm in other activities.

Young people are able to communicate

The team have identified the need to maintain relationships with the attendees by splitting the sessions in to different age groups. Feedback from the young year 7's was that the older group made the environment a little intimidating at times, and the older attendees felt the sessions weren't mature enough for them. We have spoken with both groups and received positive responses on the proposed change of sessions, which will begin after Easter.

Some of the older age group are now discussing more about their relationships with girlfriends and boyfriends, as well as things they are exposed to outside of school such as smoking and alcohol. The youth team have made it clear that if they need support they can speak confidentially with the team, who will also look into partnership work in 2019 with external support services. These topics will try to focus around risky behavior.

Young people are healthy and kept safe from harm

The upgrade on the lights conducted in October has helped to reduce the worry of the young people being outside in the pitch black, and allows the Youth Team to conduct activities outside throughout the winter months.

There was one first aid incident involving a year 9 male who had punched a wall in anger. This issue was attended to by the Youth Team, who informed his parents and have had discussions with him since. Minor first aid was administered to the young person and no damaged occurred to the building.

Volunteers / sessional workers

A new volunteer has been appointed to the team who will volunteer her time from March onwards. Sessional work Sophia Sharp has informed the team that she will stepping down from her role at the end of March 2019. Groundwork have began the recruitment process to find her replacement.

Partnerships and Future work

An assembly was given at Melbourn Village College in March to the year 7 group with new attendees coming to the Youth Club after this. Further arrangements will be made with the school to promote the new session timetable and increase awareness of this to the older ages group.

A Tesco Bags of Help funding application has been made at the end of February, with the proposal focusing around supplying the Youth Club with an external storage facility and new resources.

Outputs



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January (3 sessions)

	Young people	Sessions
CHANGING PLACES		
CHANGING LIVES		
Barrington	2	3
Fowlmere	2	3
Foxton	1	2
Melbourn	23	47
Meldreth	3	7
Royston	4	9
TOTAL	35	71

February
(3 session)

	Young people	Sessions
Barrington	1	1
Fowlmere	0	0
Foxton	1	1
Melbourn	20	27
Meldreth	4	4
Royston	7	9
TOTAL	35	42

March
(4 sessions)

	Young people	Sessions
Barrington	1	4
Fowlmere	1	1
Foxton	1	1
Cambride	1	1
Melbourn	26	56
Meldreth	4	8
Royston	6	10
Shepreth	1	1
TOTAL	41	82