

## Melbourn Youth Consultation Report

### The Consultation

Groundwork was funded by MAYD to deliver a two-part youth consultation in school and online over the October and November period. Groundwork planned to deliver four assemblies and lunchtime sessions at Melbourn Village college and one assembly and lunchtime at King James' Academy in Royston. The consultation provided young people with the opportunity to feedback on what youth provision they would like to see in the area. For those unable to take part in the face to face consultation and to ensure as many people as possible could provide feedback, an online version of the survey was created.

On communication with Melbourn Village College, Groundwork learnt that assemblies were no longer taking place at school to reduce the number of young people congregating at one time. Instead, the school requested that Groundwork supply a video to play to the students in their form time. The video would provide details on who Groundwork and MAYD were, the aim of the consultation and where the team would be during the lunchtime sessions. Groundwork were happy to oblige; however, this caused a slight delay in the lunchtime sessions going ahead, as it took time to produce the video.

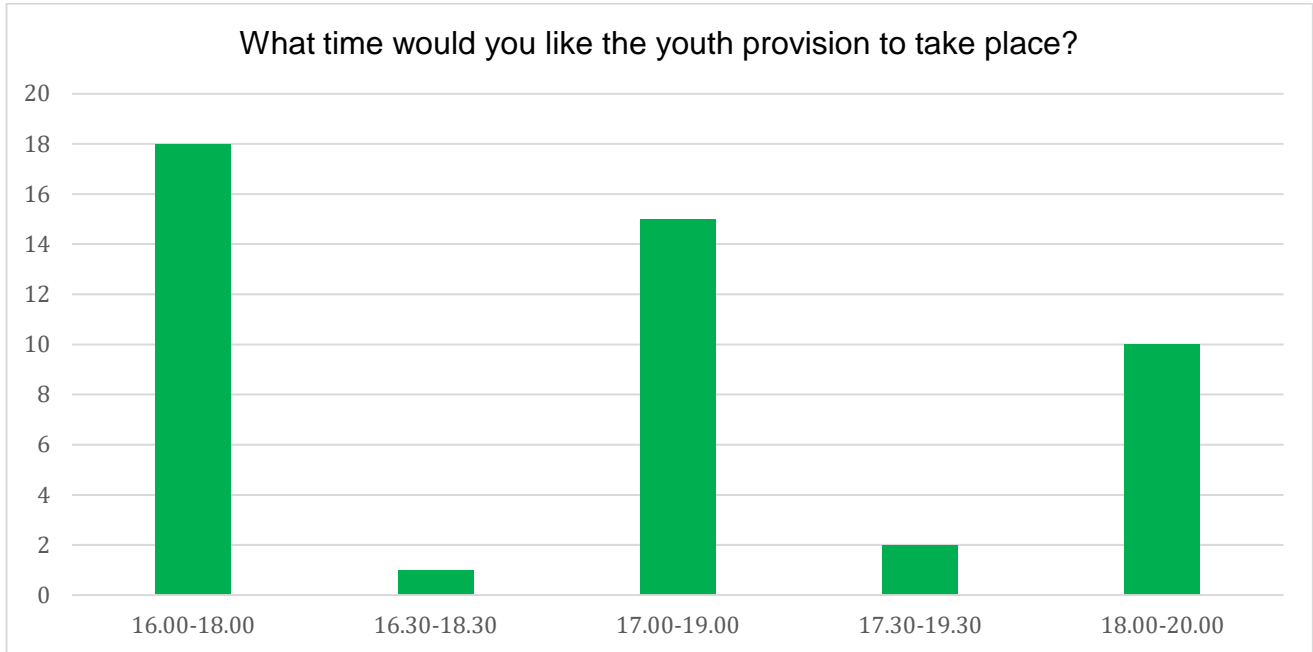
During the consultation Groundwork was located in an outside space on the school grounds, in between the key areas of years 7,8 and 9 during lunchtime. The consultation was set up to provide young people with the opportunity to take part in an interactive questionnaire, where they could discuss their answers with the youth workers on hand and add to a wall of questions using stickers and post-its. All those who took part in the face to face consultation then had the chance to win a prize from our punch wall, where they could pick a cup, punch through the paper and receive their prize. This was a great success and the first two sessions saw a buzz of people interacting with the staff and taking part. Sadly, after the first two sessions, due to the rise in Covid-19 cases, the school had to stop the face to face sessions and external partners were no longer allowed in school. To encourage more young people to take part in the online version to the survey, Groundwork adapted the video and provided a QR code to the school. This meant that the young people could learn about the online survey and then access it directly using the QR code on their phone. The school used this information in form time to encourage young people to take part and sent the information directly to parents. Groundwork also sent the video and information to King James School in Royston, who also were unable to allow external visits.

In all 56 young people took part in the survey, 38 face to face and 18 online. Had the consultation been delivered in its entirety, we believe Groundwork would have been able to engage with over 100 students in total. This demonstrates how powerful face to face work is and how positive providing young people with a voice is. Despite not completing the consultation sessions as planned, Groundwork was pleased with the number of young people who interacted in the sessions and the information received. All those who took part were also given the opportunity to provide a contact email in order to be put forward to win an amazon

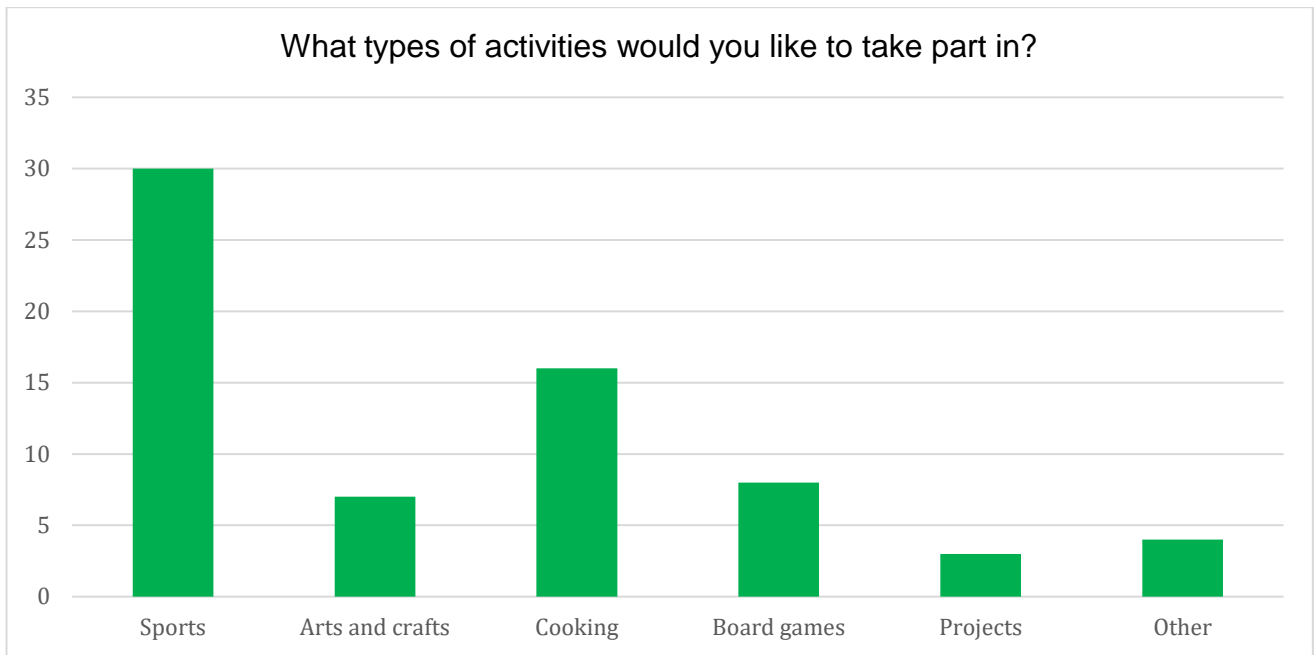
voucher. This provided another incentive to take part either in school or online and created a fantastic contact list for Groundwork and MAYD to communicate new provision with the young people.

Below are the results from each of the questions asked in the survey, followed by suggestions of what provision could be offered by Groundwork in response to the young people's needs.

### Consultation Results

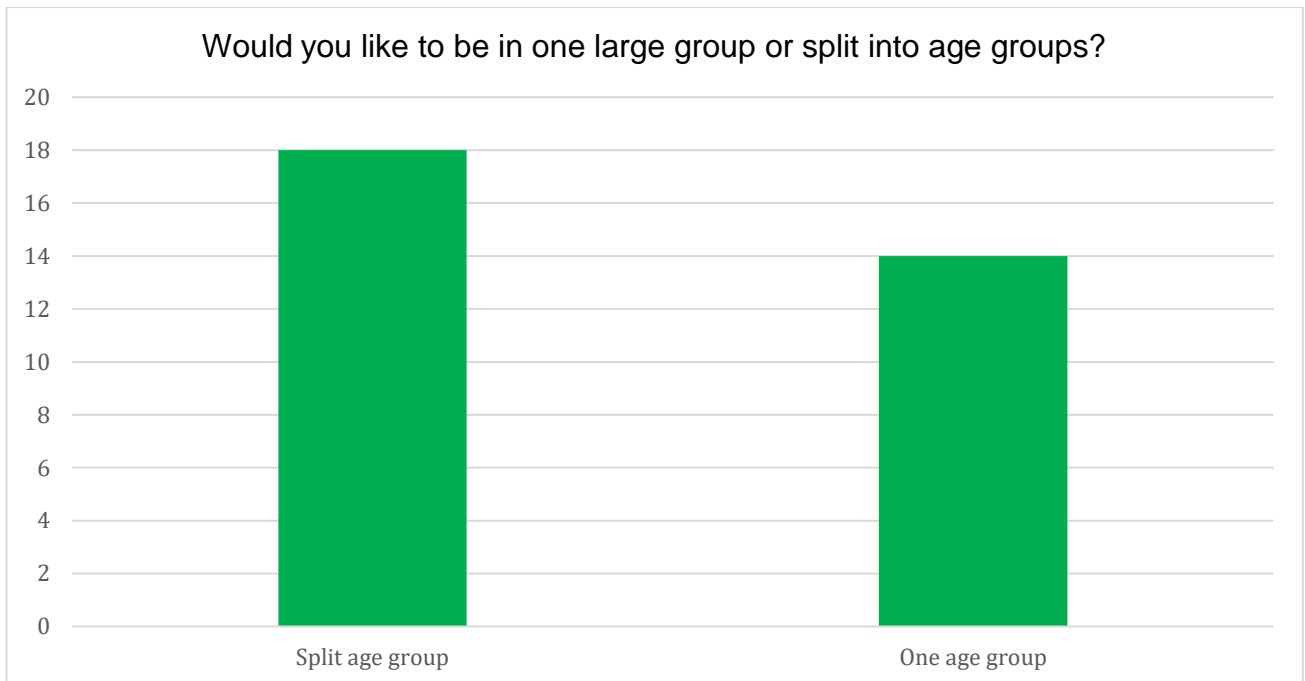


The results show that providing youth provision early in the evening or after school is more preferable, although an evening slot is also popular. By providing a session after school, specifically if the provision can be located on the school grounds, would attract young people and may also tackle some of the barriers highlighted later in the consultation, such as transport and location, as the students from Melbourn Village College would have good access after school.

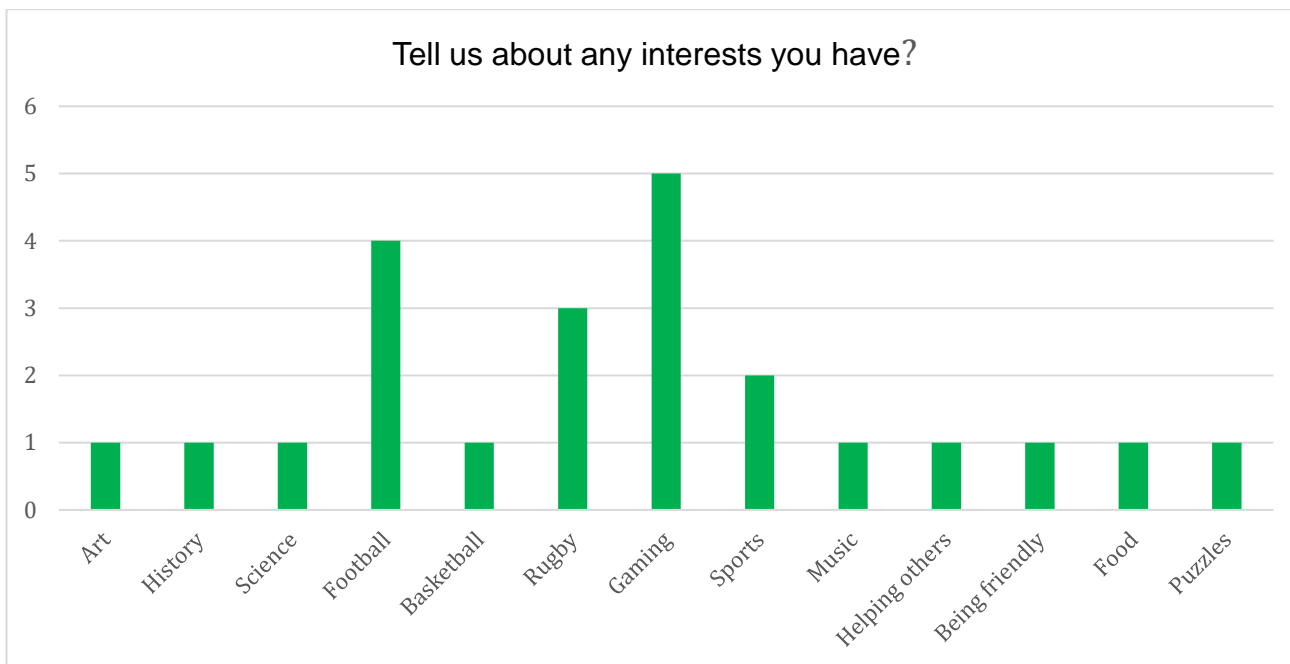


Other – games like truth or dare.

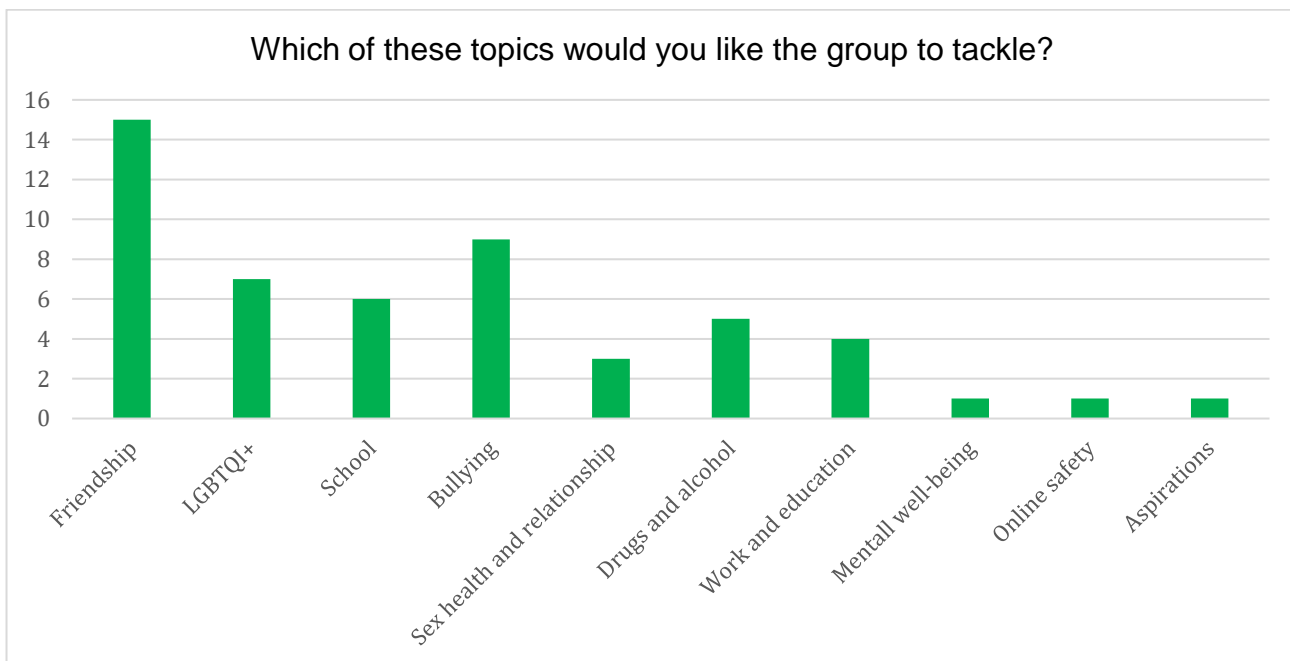
As we have seen in the past, sport is still a keen interest for young people alongside cooking. This suggests that young people would engage in these targeted programmes of activity.



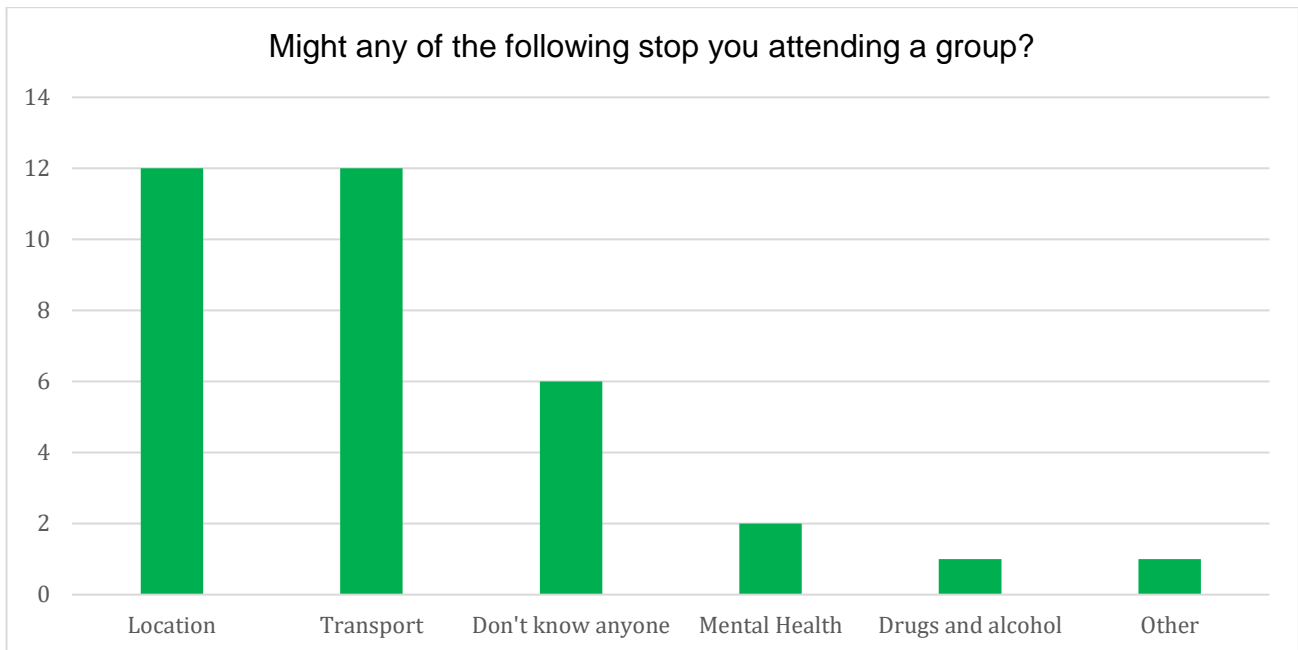
A split age group is more desirable, although there isn't much difference between the two responses.



This question provides some very interesting results including more detail on the types of sport young people are interested in and also the growing interest in gaming. This highlights some exciting opportunities for youth provision specifically over the winter when it may be harder to offer sports outside.

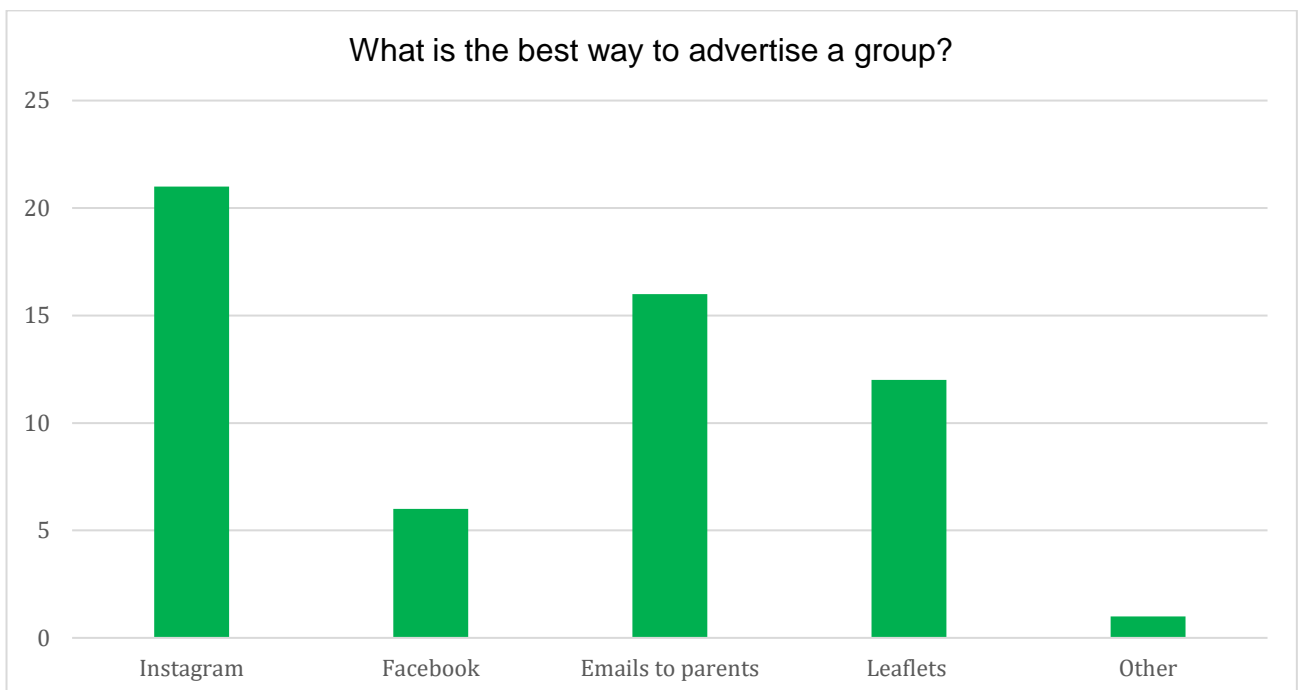


The key topics young people want to explore in the area include friendships, LGBTQI+, school and bullying. Interestingly friendship was the highest, which could be a direct result of Covid-19 and the impact it has had on young people's lives. The top four demonstrate the need for youth provision and a safe space for young people to meet people, learn how to build strong trusting relationships, learn how to behave and treat others and explore who they are.



Other – after school clubs

Location and transport are key barriers stopping young people from access provision in the Melbourn area. This is not surprising as many of the young people live in the surrounding villages or Royston and would therefore have to travel to Melbourn for any provision. In the past, Groundwork has explored offering provision in a range of different locations, which would be possible for some of the activities provided later in this report. However, as many of the young people will come directly from Melbourn Village College, one way to combat this would be to hold an after-school provision in the building on the school grounds (if available), allowing easy access after school and reducing the need for two-way transport.



Other – posters

As we see with many young people, Instagram is still the most popular mode of communication. Groundwork already has an Instagram account for Melbourn Youth Provision providing a great platform to advertise any future provision. Groundwork has also recently acquired a new system called Hubspot that allows us to streamline all marketing, including timetabling regular posts on all social media platforms and sending out regular personalised mailouts ensuring we could communicate with parents and young people alike. We would also continue to use posters and leaflets in school.

## **Suggestions for future delivery**

The following suggestions for future delivery are based on the results of the consultation and past experience and knowledge of the area, location and facilities Groundwork have available to them.

### **Winter Provision**

#### **Option 1 – Youth Gaming Café**

If the building on the school grounds is available and suitable, Groundwork will offer a 1 night a week youth gaming café. A safe space for young people to come and relax after school and take part in a range of games including computer games, board, games, puzzles and quizzes alongside computer-based activities such as support with homework and further education. This would be a mixed age group session, allowing ease of access after school to ensure the barriers of transport and location are reduced. All games will be age specific and will focus on team working rather than an individual gaming experience. The gaming cafe will provide a space to discuss and support internet safety, friendships and school. Simple refreshments will be offered and older young people can take on volunteer roles to run the café element. Workshops will also be held on subjects such as CV writing, preparation for further education and preparation for work. There will be a considerable initial cost to equip the club with gaming and computer facilities and this would only be possible if the venue is suitable and has the IT infrastructure. However, it will provide a very new and exciting steer on a generic youth club, drawing on our ever-growing digital lifestyles, ensuring that young people are able to meet face to face in a safe environment whilst still being part of the growing online community.

#### **Option 2 – 6-week project-based sessions**

Similar to what has been offered in the past, during the winter months Groundwork will provide a variety of 6-week projects to young people covering the interests and topics highlighted in the survey such as cooking, sports, friendship and bullying. A location would be chosen dependent on the needs of the activity and could happen afterschool or later in the evening. Sessions would be split by age and bookable to ensure maximum engagement.

### **Summer Provision**

#### **Option 1 – Sports sessions and mini youth club**

During the summer months, Groundwork will offer a sport focussed youth provision based at the Pavilion to make full use of the green space during the good weather. Groundwork will organise a sports coach to deliver activities on the green each week. Alongside this, two youth workers would engage with any other young people in the area through outdoor games and simple activities. The pavilion itself would be open for toilet and kitchen use.

#### **Option 2 – Sports Tour**

Groundwork will offer a sport focussed youth provision as outlined above in a variety of different locations, so that every few weeks or each month Groundwork will visit a different village.

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