

To: Parish Clerk
Date: 1 May 2025
Subject: Melbourn Bus Sessions

Hi Abi

Our bus sessions in Melbourn are becoming particularly busy (47 on Tuesday) and we are dealing with some intense issues. [REDACTED]

Based on this we believe the session could do with an additional youth worker (assuming we can find one) bringing the team up to 4. This would allow better monitoring of those both on and off the bus (in pairs) and allow staff to deal more effectively with the one-to-one issues that surface.

Would the Parish Council be prepared to make a contribution to the cost of this additional youth worker of £20 per session, which would only be charged when four workers are present.

Many Thanks
[REDACTED]

Youth Services

There have been 8 sessions run this term, and we have seen 79 young people.

Age	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18+
Number Female		3	5	17	7	6		
Number Male		2		18	14	6	1	

Week Commencing	Number	Notes
05 Jan	15	Very cold and wet so stayed on bus more. Enjoyed games consoles, doing the quiz and chatting. Conversations about young person who had been drunk before Christmas who was not allowed to come tonight because serious issue with his drinking, also about school, Christmas and reminder about not using inappropriate language. YP with additional needs seemed to be enjoying session but then had falling out with parent and staff supported both in trying to alleviate tensions.
12 Jan	26	A busy evening with lots of drama between different groups needing to be monitored. But enjoyed biscuit decorating, listening to music and computers games. Conversations about relationships (some upset about being rejected), drinking alcohol at weekends (obtained from 15 year old in Cambridge!), inappropriate comments to each other, not having eaten because of broken oven.
19 Jan	23	Busy session with cheesy nachos and dips on offer! Lots of chats about the weekend (YP down rec drinking), trying to get drunk. One-to-one conversations about CAMHS assessment with potential diagnosis, bad relationship experience (possible safeguarding follow-up being reviewed).
26 Jan		cancelled, no driver
02 Feb		cancelled, no driver
09 Feb	26	busy session with wet weather. Enjoyed having waffles and using the usual equipment. Conversations about mock exams, relationships, food. One-to-one follow-up on relationship issue, no one in danger of harm. Also about psychosis diagnosis being downgraded to bad anxiety.
16 Feb		Half-term
23 Feb	42	busy session with a few new rowdier ones, had to monitor some behaviour but used all the usual activities and equipment. Some important one-to-ones tonight, follow-up on possible safeguarding concern regarding previous relationship (additional information given by YP meant referral to police) and concern over use of self-harm require contact with parent. Also another conversation about being bullied at school that will be followed up next time.
02 Mar	15	bus not operational last minute so staff visited and spoke to young people that arrived to explain. Good conversations about surprise that bus wasn't working, getting safely home, follow-up on issues from last week, spam texts, mock exam results and future plans.
09 Mar	45	a busy session with lots of conversations about school, relationships, mock results, vaping, piercings, activities with explorers, being controlling. One-to-one about referral regarding abuse (happy that police now aware but concerned about what might happen).
16 Mar	35	Nachos were thoroughly enjoyed! Bit of squabbling with larger group outside (staff attended and helped disperse). Most of time taken with this and then some one-to-ones about being mistreated by boys and situations have been

		reported to police. Also visit from CCC Youth Team surveying young people about activities for them in the area.
23 Mar	32	busy rowdy session with some issues around litter. Had to spend most of session helping to resolve relationships and friendship issues. Also conversations about appropriate language, respect for others, avoiding gossip.

Youth Services

There have been 14 sessions run this term, and we have seen 57 young people.

Age	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18+
Number Female	3	6	14	4	2			
Number Male	1	2	13	10	2			

Week Commencing	Number	Notes
01 Sep		No session – schools not back
08 Sep	14	Couple of new year 7s signed up. Nice atmosphere enjoying facilities. Chatted to some older ones outside to find out what they wanted to do in future weeks. Conversations about school, food, school subjects, teachers, holidays, sports and family visits.
15 Sep	26	YP were there waiting when we arrived. More interest in doing the quiz this week plus the usual use of computers and games consoles. Lovely atmosphere all evening with conversations about cooking activity for next week. Craft was very popular.
22 Sep	20	Toasties went down well with young people making their own including lessons in how to use a cheese grater! Lots of activity on PS5 and listening to music with conversations about school, subjects, caravans, homeless man. Good mix across age groups during cooking.
29 Sep	24	Warm evening with YP there waiting when bus arrived. Planned food activity for next week, enjoyed quiz on Space, listening to music, playing PS5. Conversations about music and appropriate lyrics, insects, Dubai chocolate.
06 Oct	27	Lively full session with popular pumpkin sewing craft. Conversations about relationships, bad influences, A couple of key one-to-one conversations about being in care and improvement with parents which will hopefully lead to moving back home, and the other about mental health issues, being discharged from CAMH, doesn't feel they can talk to parents so offered some options.
13 Oct	27	Few new members tonight. Most making use of games consoles, music and PCs. Not much interest in craft and quiz. Conversations about discharge from CAMHS (seemed more positive than last week), rubbish day at school, visiting potential colleges. Had to intervene over possible name calling.
20 Oct	23	A slow start but then built up. Enjoyed playing doughnut on a string game and chatted about ideas for food and activities for next term. Good conversations about school, crushes and Halloween.
27 Oct		Half-term
03 Nov	11	Quieter session but good chats about half term, TikTok, Halloween, injury from scooter accident, parties and visiting relatives. Enjoyed doing quiz but hot dogs not popular. One-to-one about returning to live with parents on staggered schedule (going well).
10 Nov	22	Good session with toastie wraps enjoyed by all. Lots of conversations in groups and individually about school, school dinners, cannabis (parental use), isolation at school today, punishments at home, having to stay at cousins.
17 Nov	22	slight delay due to traffic so YP very excited when bus arrived. A loud but good atmosphere, all in good spirits. Played tabletop games and football. Conversations about school, GCSE papers. Little bit of inappropriate language had to be challenged.

24 Nov	24	Very cold evening, but still enjoyed making milkshakes, playing cobbler, doing quiz and a bit of crafting. Conversations about school, Christmas, arguments with friends and fight, being wrongly blamed, concern for friend, mental health issues, self-harming incident witnessed at school.
01 Dec	15	Loaded hot chocolates available tonight, very popular. Much quieter atmosphere possibly a result of something that had happened at school. Bit of football played outside and good use of craft activity. Relationship issue came up which resulted in conversations about faithfulness, safe sex, legal ages and more.
08 Dec	21	great fun making gingerbread houses! Various conversations about school, football, mental health, importance of openness with parents, trial week moving back to parents.
15 Dec	25	Great last session of the term with party food, Christmas music and lots of chat. New member with additional needs attended and seemed to fit in well but normally clashes with football. Unfortunately, most of the evening was taken up with dealing with one YP who arrived very intoxicated, required first aid, water and trip to toilet. Staff had to provide lift home for his safety.