



Wendover Youth Centre 2022 – annual report

The Youth Centre in providing activities for young people and the community of Wendover. This report summarises what we have delivered during the past year.

WYC Summary 2022

Emerging from the Covid-19 pandemic the focus of the Youth Centre for 2022 was to continue to grow our engagement with young people.

- We continued to deliver youth work at the Centre and with our partners to provide a service to young people.
- We continued to work closely with local community projects; playing a central role in supporting the Chiltern Foodbank, raising awareness through charity fundraising and market stalls, and supporting the Wendover lights switch on.
- We continued to expand both in the number of young people taking part in our activities and the diversity of activities offered. This includes expanding our offer to the John Colet by providing twelve courses as well as one-to-one mentoring sessions for students with particular needs.
- Young people are progressively taking ownership of and developing activities, which meet their needs, under the guidance of the Youth Worker, staff and volunteers.
- Staff and volunteers - the full-time Youth Worker is complemented by three sessional workers and volunteers. The Centre benefits from a committed group of volunteers and is always seeking to expand the volunteer base. We have continued to run training for these volunteers and have recently provided first aid and safeguarding training. We also take on a number of young people who volunteer as part of the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme.
- In 2022, we successfully delivered the Project Engage summer programme, where we provided two youth festivals and workshops to engage young people aged 10-16 years old.



Youth Activities

- Over the last 12 months, we have continued to deliver a wide range of youth sessions for young people aged 9-18 years.
- These sessions include Youth Café, Arts & Crafts, Girls Group, Thursday Youth Club, Amazing Donkey Younger and Friday Night Youth Club. On top of this we also work closely with the John Colet delivering 12 courses focusing on local level mental health including self-esteem, resilience, exam stress and anxiety. We have also started to offer one to one mentoring with young people.
- In 2021 we had **2486** contacts with young people, with **71%** being girls and **29%** being boys and an average age of **12.54** years. In 2022 this has increased to **3785** contacts with young people, with **65%** being girls and **35%** being boys and an average age of **12.71** years. This shows that over the last year we have interacted with an increasing number of boys, the average age of young people has increased and that our overall contacts with young people have risen by **35%**.

WYC statistics for youth activities January – December 2022							
	Number of individuals	Number of contacts	Girls		Boys		Average age
			Number	%	Number	%	
January - February HT	135	433	344	79	89	21	12.58
February HT - Easter	117	482	363	75	119	25	12.83
Easter- May HT	140	481	349	73	132	27	12.67
May HT – end of school year	145	491	356	72	135	28	12.71
Project Engage - Summer	245	358	193	54	164	46	12.22
September - October HT	190	860	495	58	365	42	12.58
October HT- Christmas Break	203	680	380	56	300	44	12.71
Total	N/A	3785	2480	65	1304	35	12.61

HT – half-term

Our research shows us that we are attracting much larger numbers than other clubs in Buckinghamshire. From our perspective these numbers are significantly impacted by our long-term commitment to;

1. Keep the Centre open all day, every day – on a typical term-time day the Centre opens from 7.30 (when our partners Premier run their before-school Club) until 21.30; in the last two years we have also remained open for most of the summer school holiday,
2. Working in Partnership with others (including the John Colet Academy) which significantly enhances our reach and raises awareness of our services with Young People,
3. Employing a full-time lead Youth Worker



Project Engage

This summer Wendover Youth Centre ran Project Engage. The project was funded by The Wendover Community Board and aimed to engage with young people aged between 11 and 16-years old living in Wendover and the surrounding villages, by providing engaging activities and opportunities throughout the summer.

The project consisted of two youth festivals and summer workshops in art, baking, gardening, and music as well as football sessions. We partnered with several other organisations during this project to help deliver these workshops.

The youth festivals were a great success with over 100 young people attending each one at Castle Park. These festivals helped us to advertise the subsequent workshops we provided throughout the summer holidays. In total we ran 19 workshops for 119 young people aged between 11 and 16 years old. The workshops enabled young people to pursue their passions, spend time with friends as well as having something to do in the summer holidays.

After the project we had a significant increase in young people attending the youth activities at the Youth Centre.

Young people in the Community Projects

- **Foodbank Donation Weeks** – We ran two more foodbank donation weeks in April 2022 & October 2022. Young people and the local community provided donations of food to the foodbank to provide the items needed for food boxes for people in the community. Wendover Youth Centre, Churches Together in Wendover, the local schools, and Wendover Parish Council came together with the Chiltern Foodbank to coordinate these efforts, with WYC acting as the main collection hub. During these two weeks over 900kg of food was donated. This was a fantastic achievement by the community!
- **Market stall & Christmas lights switch on** – In December the Youth Centre provided four young people to volunteer as elves for Santa's grotto at the Wendover Christmas lights switch on organised by the parish council. We also ran a stall at the Christmas charity market where we sold cakes made by the young people to help raise awareness of what we do and to raise funds for the centre. As part of our stall young people helped with selling cakes. Any money raised will be used to buy equipment chosen by the young people who contributed towards the stall.



Plans for 2023

We hope that you will continue to support Wendover Youth Centre in the next year. Below we have outlined some of our plans for 2023 that this grant would enable us to deliver:

- **Continued delivery of Youth Centre weekly activities**

- We will continue our evening youth provision and to provide a wide range of sessions and opportunities for young people in the “safe space” of WYC e.g., sports, workshops, mentoring, courses and youth clubs. Alongside this we will focus on developing sessions and opportunities to support the needs of young people e.g., revision club. The grant will contribute towards the resources and equipment we need for these activities.

- **Youth Festivals & Summer BBQ**

- After the success of the Project Engage last summer and the importance summer activities play in keeping engagement with young people during the holidays. We are planning to run one youth festival this year at the start of the summer holidays. Due to the success of the festival, this is becoming an annual event which we will continue to provide and grow each year. We are not anticipating the same level of Community Board funding for the festival in 2023.

We are also planning to end the summer with a family BBQ at the youth centre.

- **Trips and residential opportunities**

- We will continue to provide young people the opportunity to go on trips. We do charge young people to attend the trips, but we never get them to pay the full cost and have a number of Young People where we cover the full cost because of their financial means. The grant would help to cover these costs and cover any young people who can't afford the cost due their circumstances.

Supporting Young people through outreach

- Provide support for local Young People who are alumni of the Centre and are now studying or working away from Wendover.
- Take our offer into the Community – go and meet Young People where they are and work with them to develop attractive outreach activities – in the parks, local cafes etc.
- Note: both aspirations have been in our vision for a few years – we are now keen to invest time and resources into these activities, which should significantly widen our reach and influence with Young People in the local community



Increasing our role as a local hub for information on important topics

- Expand our database of information (accessible via our website and social media) so that Young People see us as an important hub and discussion forum for topics of interest – including topics such as on-line safety, sexual-health, avoiding abusive and exploitative relationships.
- Note: we have only just started putting effort into this area. We see it as a key way of connecting with Young People and are seeking the resources to accelerate these efforts.

More information about Youth Centre can be found by following these links:

Website: [Youth Activities | Wendover Youth Centre | England](#)

Facebook: [Wendover Youth Centre \(facebook.com\)](#)

Instagram: [Wendover Youth Centre \(@wendoveryouthcentre\) • Instagram photos and videos](#)

Photos:

