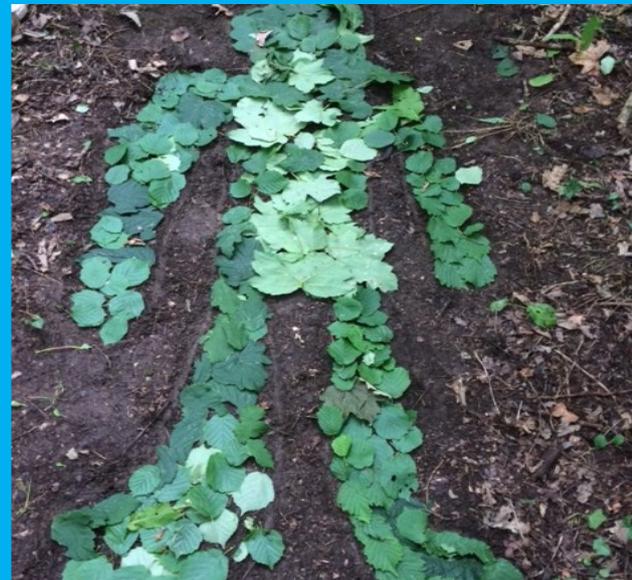


YOUTH CONNECT



PROVIDING POSITIVE ACTIVITIES, ADVICE AND SUPPORT TO YOUNG PEOPLE WHO NEED IT MOST

i IT'S ALL CHANGE

Youth Connect continues to provide excellent value to young people despite an uncertain future. Staff are hard at work developing different models for our new service, as well as working with Mutual Ventures on a feasibility study for a potential Youth Mutual.

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**Bath & North East
Somerset Council**

Youth Connect

IN THIS ISSUE...

SUMMER RESIDENTIALS: THE GOSSIP

YOUTH & COMMUNITY OUTREACH

YOUNG PEOPLE'S TESTIMONIALS

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WELCOME

**TO YOUTH CONNECT'S AUTUMN
2017 NEWS BULLETIN**

Youth Connect has enjoyed a stellar 2017 thus far, delivering exciting events and activities that enhance young people's lives. We also continue to work with those unemployed, speeding up their progression into education and work, and as part of the Early Help preventative services we provide a wide range of services to young people who need it most.

Youth Connect operates teams in Bath, Somer Valley and across the county (Countywide). Our Personal Advisers specialise in employment and training guidance, and are linked to schools and Bath College. We provide drop-in sessions and private support for unemployed young people in Bath, Somer Valley and Keynsham.

Our Targeted Youth Support Workers provide one-to-one support and group work programmes assisting those whose main issues don't involve advice or guidance.

All young people can attend open access youth work in Bath, Peasedown and Radstock, and we operate a Mobile Bus in hard-to-reach areas such as Paulton, Bishop Sutton, Chew Stoke and Timsbury. Youth hubs offer project nights, trips and residential experiences, and detached youth programmes now operate in Bath, Radstock and Westfield. These meet with local young people at destinations of their choice.

Have a look at the work we've done this summer!



BATH

ALL THE LATEST FROM BATH'S BUSTLING YOUTH HUBS

REACHING OUT



Tim and Kendal have launched outreach youth work in the centre of Bath a few evenings a week. There's a huge need for young people's space in the centre of Bath, so they've started small to turn this dream into reality - this summer opening a small gazebo in Pigeon Park, three times a week, from 2-5pm. The sessions boasted literature, games, chillout areas and information about our local support services.

It's already made a positive difference, in spite of the weather and lack of Wi-Fi! The amount of support from organisations in Bath wanting to get involved was incredible - including Project 28, Curo and The Care Forum. It was a pleasure to engage with young people from all different backgrounds, and their requirements for a comfortable space in the centre of Bath couldn't be clearer - it needs to be safe, non-judgemental and have a decent internet connection...

FAMILY AFFAIRS



Throughout the summer Southside staff hosted a family fun event every Wednesday, with dance, face painting, skittles and limbo being just a few activities on offer. A highlight was when DJ Andrew (a trainee from our café - see the largest cover photo) took the floor for musical statues, musical chairs and a disco dance competition. It all proved great fun and was so good to see parents and children relaxing together - a big thanks to Virgin Care café staff for the BBQ's and to the Bath team for rolling up their community work sleeves!

ROAD TRIP



Babs, Gary and Dave joined 10 Southside young people on an exciting trip to Skern Lodge - it's a bit twee, but a residential weekend feels as good as 6 months' regular youth work! The high-octane, life-loving and fun group pushed their skills to the limit in kayaking, raft building, assault courses and more - gaining confidence and teamworking skills in the process. Sleep deprivation aside it proved to be one of our favourite residentials - the late night conversations and blossoming of friendships being the highlights. There were two particularly inspiring moments - seeing one young person who is often an 'outsider' get involved with the group, and another reflecting on how much the trip had boosted his confidence. All in all, it was a thoroughly worthwhile experience for all involved.

BATH & SOMER VALLEY

MORE EXCITING EVENTS FROM ACROSS OUR SERVICE...

“Southside is the only place I’ve stayed in for education!”

So said a young person we worked with in 'informal education' this summer - a key service our Youth Hubs offer. Often directly contributing to formal education we engage those who have given up on school or college - or have been given up on! Whether it's penning 'stop and search' raps, exploring social inequality through Banksy's graffiti, or gaining confidence through positive activities, we believe young people want to learn given the right opportunities for them.

The challenge is to find the perfect medium to unlock that latent desire to grow and develop. It may seem old-school to talk about this most basic provision, but it's important that we celebrate this work and protect it - especially at a time when there is a risk that some (or many?) young people will not succeed in the current educational paradigm.

BATH

TAKES THE CAKE



The local Southside community rivalled Bake Off's skills, hosting an exciting Macmillan coffee morning on Friday 29th September. Members of the public and staff not only bought cakes and coffee, but also played cake bingo and guessed the height of a cake. The event raised £100 for MacMillan cancer care, alongside Southside raising £127 for Red Nose day earlier in the year.

POINTS WEST



The Westfield Outreach Project has now been running for a year and we've already benefitted a huge variety of young people.

After kicking things off with a huge open event last year, we've run all manner of sessions from DJing to careers advice – equipping young people for their futures and developing great local relationships. Retention of young people here has proven encouraging, and we've worked with new partner agencies to make helpful referrals. We've already become a familiar face in Westfield and long may this continue.

SOMER VALLEY



SOMER VALLEY

MORE SUCCESS STORIES FROM OUR SOMER VALLEY TEAM



WILD LIFE

In late July, 40 young people from across north east Somerset embarked with us on an adventure in Roundwood in Wiltshire. Pitching tents and setting up their semi-rough camp, the young people gained practical skills including starting cooking fires and preparing meals. An intensive four days followed, which included kayaking, rope courses, tree climbing and even spoon carving!

The rain (mostly) held off, so in the evenings the young people took advantage of the stunning woods to play games and chill out. Campfires, marshmallows and a singsong were all part of the experience - as were the late night antics which left us all exhausted...

Young people gained valuable life skills in the woods, both taking care of themselves and helping others. For some this was their first camping trip, or their first time cooking on a fire, or just their first time cooking for themselves.



THAT'S RAD(STOCK)

Our Radstock service has enjoyed a fantastic summer, with members surging from six to 40 in just a few weeks. This is, in part, due to our outreach programmes and summer open evening, where we met 20-25 local young people for the first time. We've also run a diverse range of trips ranging from summer camps to kayaking, where our young people demonstrated excellent leadership and team spirit.

A young person suffering from ADHD has worked with us over the summer to identify his triggers and stop his behaviour escalating. He's now been nominated for an award with the Bath Sports Foundation for the inspiring progress he's made with our support.

COUNTYWIDE

CHANGING LIVES ACROSS THE COUNTY

YOUTH BUS Offering rural young people crucial activities, information and support

The youth bus is a converted space offering communal space, a fridge, microwave, and side lights.

It offers a range of drop-in activities and information on a range of topics promoting healthy lifestyles for young people aged 13-17. The gorgeous summer weather has allowed for plenty of high-octane sports, including football, badminton and cricket - and alongside various art equipment, board games and much more.

Our main aim has been to offer a variety of activities, information and support, including:

- ◆ Providing a safe place for young people in rural areas such as Timsbury, Bishop Sutton and Paulton,
- ◆ Resolve and prevent anti-social behaviour,
- ◆ Providing a rolling program of support to villages and target areas with the most need.

Over the summer we've focused on drugs/alcohol awareness and mental health - making referrals to our PA services where necessary. We have also offered targeted support tailored to an area's specific needs.

The bus also runs a C-Card scheme for young people.



CLOUDY OUTLOOK



Our Temple Cloud service has delivered results for young people for quite some time—and popular activities we've delivered include First Aid training, sports training and issue-based work surrounding positive relationships. Over the summer a group from this area got involved with our summer camp which included a summer BBQ and even some kayaking.



CLOSING THOUGHTS

DON'T JUST TAKE OUR WORD FOR IT.
HERE'S WHAT THE LOCAL COMMUNITY HAS TO SAY...

“I’ve never stayed in education but I’ve enjoyed being at Southside for my learning”

“This service has changed my life ... It has given me direction, confidence, introduced me to employment and brought me several steps towards adulthood”

“My weekend away made me more confident, and I’ve made new friends too”



SEE YOU NEXT ISSUE!