

Introduction



This report has been written to inform PCA board of trustees and PPC councillors of all Pelton Youth Project's business, progress, and information. This October 2021 update reflects on the month of September 2021, reporting on the return of the youth provision following the summer break, recent improvements to the youth centre equipment, and upcoming projects and events. Should there be any questions around the content of this report, then please contact me (Tom) at tom_pelton@yahoo.co.uk.

Youth Provision Reopens

September 2021 represents the beginning of a new school year, and the commencing of the autumn term, which is traditionally a highly attended period for the youth project. We are back to delivering all our youth work sessions across the Chester-Le-Street area, and almost all these sessions are back to their pre-pandemic delivery models, many of them having been delivered online or using outreach youth work methods. It is great to have young people back in the youth centre more frequently, the sessions are booming.



Duke of Edinburgh's Award & Silver Expeditions – October 2021



Our Duke of Edinburgh's Award provision continues to be a beacon of good practice, with fifty-six young people currently signed up to the awards scheme with Pelton Youth Project. In the month of September 21, we welcomed seventeen new members to the group, beginning their DofE journey with the organisation at bronze level, which is incredible. As practically all young people who sign up with us progress all the way to gold

level, I am excited to see these young people thrive as part of the group. In addition to our highly attended DofE sessions on a Wednesday and Thursday evenings, we are also in the process of delivering a silver walking expedition in October 2021. The practice expedition took place in the Durham area, while the qualifying expedition will see young people challenge themselves over half term on a route along Hadrian's Wall in Northumberland. Best of luck to all our young people involved.



Junior Youth Clubs



Perhaps having endured the lengthiest time away from the youth centre, March 20 – September 21. It is no surprise to see that our Junior Youth Clubs are extremely busy. Throughout the pandemic, our young people and their families were wonderful at getting involved in the online sessions over Zoom, and The Little Snack and Activity Pack project, but nothing compares to having young people aged seven to twelve back

together in a group work setting. This is where young people will grow in confidence, develop friendships, and participate in meaningful activities. Throughout September, our Juniors' have attended in numbers over forty consistently, and have enjoyed participating in the wellbeing box buddies project, recycling sessions and a variety of arts, crafts, and games.

Senior Youth Clubs

The quieter of our youth sessions on our return would be our Senior Youth Club sessions, with around ten young people attending each session. Young people have been participating in What's Happening & #Diversity themed discussions and have enjoyed participating in ongoing activities such as pool, games consoles and music. Young people, in my experience, enjoy routine and consistency where their youth clubs are concerned. I am therefore confident that we will see our numbers grow once again in these clubs, as we continue to provide them throughout the winter months.



Activity Sessions



One of our two activity sessions, 'Kick On' is back. This allows young people to participate in a seven-a-side football session once per week at Powerleague in Gateshead. Young people can develop their football skills and participate in a physical activity improving their health. These physical activities are also important in supporting young people to maintain positive

mental health and wellbeing. We are also in the process of re-launching the second activity session 'Lets Bounce,' which will allow young people a second opportunity to participate in a physical activity on a weekly basis, which is likely to be boxing, working in partnership with the fantastic Birtley Boxing Club.

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Fencehouses Youth Sessions

There have been some developments within our sessions up in Fencehouses with the start of the activity session for young people. Initially, for a period of four weeks young people will be able to participate in a football activity at Park View School with youth workers. Following this trial, we will be developing other opportunities for young people, with their views and choices of activities taken into consideration. Youth workers also continue to contact good numbers of young people while on outreach in the community.

Grange Villa Youth Sessions

Young people in Grange Villa continue to have access to the two youth club sessions on a Wednesday and a Friday. These have been attended by fifteen young people on average in September 21, with young people participating in both art and sports activities as well as benefitting from the Positivity Packs which are distributed each week. The sessions will be attended by Heart Remind until December 21, who will deliver graffiti art and music workshops with young people.

One Youth Chester-Le-Street Interim Report

In September 2021, our interim report to the National Lottery Community Fund was due, in relation to our One Youth CLS project. On reading our report, funding officer Lynn

Stoddart said *"Excellent report, love the format, very interesting to read, love the pics which bring it all to life. So glad to hear things are going well. Please pass on my regards to everyone involved in the project and thank them for their hard work especially during the very strange times due to Covid"*. It was great to hear that our work with young people across Chester-Le-Street was well received by the National Lottery Community Fund, and we look forward to informing them of how the project has progressed come March 2022, for the final report on year one.



APT Youth Year One Report



In addition to our One Youth CLS interim report being accepted, we have also completed our first year of the APT Youth Project, which is funded through a BBC Children in Need main grant, financially supporting five of our youth work sessions each week. Northeast Regional Officer Chloe Tanner said *"Thank you so much for taking the time to complete this report, it was a really lovely read, and great to hear about some of the positive outcomes you achieved despite such a tough year. I really liked that you explained what 'progress' and 'significant progress' look like for these young people, and your case examples are a really lovely way to bring the project to life"*. We were delighted to have year one signed off, a grant year that lasted twenty-two months due to the pandemic hampering our delivery. We are very much looking forward positively to grant year two and making a difference for local young people.

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Room 14 Improvements



We reported last month that we are improving equipment in the youth centre, and those improvements continue. In September 21, we purchased a new high quality pool table, and a 65" TV for the kitchen area. In October 21, we will be improving the seating in our chillout area

and purchasing another TV for the same room. Ensuring the youth centre is attractive to young people is important, we have always had high standards in terms of equipment and resources, and these improvements maintain our quality space for young people.

Parish Council Community Event

On the Saturday 30th October 2021, Pelton Parish Council will be organising a community event, which will be held at Roseberry playing fields. Pelton Youth Project have agreed to support the event, and our youth workers will be organising a 'Wellbeing Box' to be distributed to young people on the day. This pack will include snacks, toys, and craft resources for young people to take away and enjoy. We will also have a graffiti artist with us from Heart Remind, who will be decorating the boxes with the young people's names as they are distributed.



Youth Worker Vacancies

Recruiting to our level three youth worker vacancy is proving a more difficult task than we anticipated, with the second recruitment drive due to end on Friday 08th October 2021. Having received no applicants during the first attempt, we hope the second will be different. I look forward to updating you all in our next report on the progress of recruitment.

Fundraising Update

September 2021 has been a quiet month in terms of grant income for Pelton Youth Project, with no new grants to report. We hope to see some grant income in October 21.

2021/2022 Attendance

Youth workers continue to use Views as a data management system for all youth work sessions and delivery. This increased efficiency and accuracy is allowing the team to report on the total number of young people supported across the youth project with ease. It also allows us to break these figures down according to the main funded projects that we have ongoing which are One Youth Chester-Le-Street, APT Youth & Junior Youth Clubs. We are thrilled with the number of young people we have supported so far this year and look forward to growing those participant numbers throughout the year.

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Pelton Youth Project Total 2021-2022 Attendance	877
One Youth Chester-Le-Street	516
APT Youth Project	277
Junior Youth Clubs	120

Closing Comment

To conclude, September 2021 has been a wonderful month, with a real feeling of normality growing within the youth project. I am pleased with our Junior and DofE participant numbers and look forward to the continued growth and development of senior youth clubs and Fencehouses youth provision over the next month. It has been wonderful to attract over eight hundred young people to our provision overall, and to have the backing of Pelton Parish Council, BBC Children in Need and the National Lottery is helping the organisation tremendously.