



Introduction



Welcome to Pelton Youth Project's October 2023 update. In this report we will reflect on two bronze DofE expeditions successfully delivered in September. The report will look at the progress of our youth work sessions since the beginning of the new term, and the start of a new school year. We will also highlight the youth projects plans for October half term, which includes opportunities for both senior and DofE members. More standard information relating to funding and monthly attendance can be found towards the end of the document. Our report is written to keep our trustees, funders, partners, parents, and young people informed of Pelton Youth Project's progress. Should there be any questions relating to the content of this report, then please contact me (Tom), Youth Project Manager at tom_pelton@yahoo.co.uk

DofE Bronze Expeditions 2023

Room 14 Duke of Edinburgh's award group has delivered two bronze expeditions over two separate weekends in September. These expeditions represent our DofE members first experience of the outdoors with our organisation, as part of the first level of DofE awards. Our fourteen young people all managed to pass this challenge, which included navigating a route from Lumley to Durham City. The expedition also involved members carrying their own camping equipment, food, and drink. Young people also prepared and cooked their own meals, in a camp they had set up themselves for one night. Well done to all these young people, and good luck as you continue towards completing your bronze award, and hopefully to progressing to silver level.



Carlton Lodge Residential October 2023

Thanks to our National Lottery Community Fund grant for One Youth CLS, youth workers are going to be able to take a group of senior age young people accessing Pelton Youth Project senior sessions on a residential. In October half term, a group of up to twenty-four young people, and four youth workers will visit our long-term residential centre partners at Carlton Lodge Outdoor Activity Centre, which is run by North Yorkshire Youth. This opportunity will involve young people participating in a variety of outdoor pursuit style activities, which will include kayaking, paddleboarding, raft building, high ropes, zip wire, climbing, and team building. Young people will grow in confidence, challenge themselves, and work as a team during this visit. Our young people will also support housekeeping elements, including making their own beds, washing dishes, setting the tables, and general cleaning throughout the residential centre.





DofE Blackpool Visit October 2023



In addition to our residential opportunity for senior members, young people attending our Duke of Edinburgh's award sessions, will be able to sign up for a free trip to Blackpool Pleasure Beach, which is also thanks to our National Lottery funding. It is anticipated that around forty young people will access the experience, which will allow young people to enjoy the attractions at the pleasure beach.

Sponsored Activity Nights in Room 14

In 2022, two groups of young people from our senior youth clubs and from our Duke of Edinburgh's award groups participated in sponsored activity evenings, to raise much needed funds for the youth project. In October and November 2023, more groups of young people will be taking part in sponsored activity nights. In October 2023, our DofE members will be staying awake for twelve hours, participating in activities including cookery, sports, games, karaoke, movies, and more. The young people will each raise their own sponsorship, contributing towards their future DofE expeditions. Then, in November 2023, members of our senior youth clubs will be doing the same, raising funding towards future residential and offsite activity programmes.



Cyber Safety Programme 2



Youth workers have begun the delivery of our second Cyber Safety Programme, utilising funding from the Police, Crime, and Victim Commissioners Chester-Le-Street Neighbourhood Policing Team Fund. To date, youth workers have delivered three sessions of a seven-week programme designed to tackle the issue of online safety and bullying, some of the most consistent issues our Policing teams deal with involving teenagers. This programme has supported thirteen young people and including our first programme twenty-four young

people have participated in total. We look forward to giving you further updates relating to the programme, including the Graffiti Art mural, which will finish the second programme, in partnership with Heart Remind cic, possible during our sponsored activity evening.

Games Console Upgrades

Thanks to a generous grant from The Rothley Trust of £1200.00, we have been able to upgrade and improve our games consoles for young people in Room 14, which is something we have wanted to do for some time. Young people now have a new PlayStation 5 and Xbox X consoles, together with new controllers and games for both new consoles. The youth work team have also ensured these new games consoles are wall mounted, to keep them safe, and ensure they are accessible for young people for years to come.





An Update on Sessions



Our Junior Youth Club sessions delivered from Room 14 have continued into the new school year as they were before the summer, extremely popular. Typically, these sessions for seven- to twelve-year-olds, can see between fifty and seventy young people attending on both a Tuesday and a Thursday. Normally, our young people participate in activities including arts, crafts, music, singing, sports, cookery, and games. We will also be welcoming back Re-F-use and Oases staff, to continue to support young people around growing food, and food waste, sessions our young people appreciate.

Senior Youth Clubs have also seen new members joining and returning members since we resumed following the summer break. Our Monday evening session has been quieter initially due to the temporary delivery of an offsite activity session on the same night. However, Tuesdays remain popular, with young people working on the cyber safety programmes, along with cookery, and youth social action project 'box buddies are back,' which involves our senior members making packs for our junior members that are then distributed on a Thursday junior youth club.



Our Duke Edinburgh's award group has started the new school year positively, attracting new members who have joined the awards at the bronze level. Our summer programme of expeditions has allowed fifty-one young people to complete expeditions across all award levels, which is fantastic. Presently, we have a total of sixty-three young people signed up to the DofE awards with Room 14 DofE group, and our weekly sessions allow those young people a space to meet, socialise, update their eDofE, and work towards various sections of the awards, including access to the community gym to work towards their physical section.

Our intermediate session for seven- to fourteen-year-olds at Grange Villa Community Enterprise continues to be delivered, with attendance often unpredictable. The new term began with a relatively well attended session with sixteen young people but has been up and down since. Due to this, the youth work team are going to be targeting the two primary schools local to Grange Villa, to ensure young people are aware of its availability. Young people can participate in cookery, sports, arts, crafts, games, and activities during this session.



Our brand-new session this term is our South Pelaw Youth Club (SPYC), which has been developed in partnership with Chester-Le-Street CofE Primary School, CLS AAP, and Cllr Tracie Smith. Also targeting the intermediate age range of seven to fourteen, the session is based in the school, and allows young people participate in sports, games, crafts, and projects. The first session began with thirty young people, and has been attended in the teens since, so we are hoping to build the access to this session as it becomes established in the community.

Finally, our weekly activity sessions to Inflate Space and Powerleague Football have been going very well since the beginning of the new term, with our more recent senior members signing up to participate from Bournmoor, Grange Villa, and Pelton. These sessions allow young people to stay physically active, having an impact on their mental health and wellbeing. The venues for these activities can be flexible, with young people often deciding on the activities.





Youth Print Durham Developments

Pelton Youth Project has already delivered two area meetings for Youth Print Durham, in both Chester-Le-Street and in Consett. This month, the anchor organisations will be getting together to discuss the direction of the collaboration before the anchors will organise their next area meetings. We are excited here at Pelton Youth Project, to be playing such an integral role in the development of this partnership and look forward to ensuring young people have a coordinated youth work offer in the North Durham area.

NE Youth - Projects with Pride Awards 2023

The youth work team will be attending NE Youth's Projects with Pride awards this year, for the first time, since affiliating for the first time earlier this year to the regional organisation. Our project has nominated a range of projects, young people, and staff, and look forward to being a part of a celebration of young people and youth work in the region.

Fundraising Update

September 2023 was a quiet month in comparison to July and August in terms of fundraising. Our only incoming grant this month was from the Rothley Trust supporting our small capital items and console developments. On a positive note, our Duke of Edinburgh's Award group are one of the charities in CLS Tesco Community Grants, which can be voted on in store using the blue tokens. We have also received a positive response from the Catherine Cookson Charitable Trust, that our application to support the youth centre garden has been approved, with a grant amount to be confirmed in the coming weeks. We look forward to hearing back from Durham County Council, on the outcome of our S106 application for the same project, so we can move the project forward.

Attendance September 2023

As of the end of September 2023, we are making continued progress in our ambitions to reach over one thousand young people in 2023-2024. To date, we have worked with 775 young people, an impressive increase of 20% in September 2023 alone. This figure includes 557 young people participating in One Youth CLS sessions funded by the National Lottery, which increased by 27% in September. The figures also include 40 young people who have joined our new youth club in South Pelaw.

Total 2022-2023 Attendance	775
One Youth Chester-Le-Street	557
R14 Senior Youth Clubs	212
R14 Junior Youth Clubs	210
R14 Sports & Activity Sessions	181
R14 Duke of Edinburgh's Award	71
School Holiday Programmes	205
Grange Villa Youth Clubs	101
Fencehouses & Bournmoor Sessions	76
South Pelaw Youth Club	40

Closing Comment

To conclude, it was great to see the final fourteen young people of the year completing expeditions last month. It has been a pleasure to support over fifty young people in 2023 complete expeditions, a massive thanks to my DofE team. We are looking forward to providing opportunities for young people in October half term, particularly our residential opportunity. We are also excited for young people to participate in their sponsored activity night, allowing them to fundraise for our charity and BBC Children in Need. I am pleased with session delivery across the board, including our education programmes for young people. We look forward to the continued development of Youth Print Durham, in our vital role as anchor organisation for North Durham.