

This past year we have seen growth in our engagement with young people within Belper Town. This report highlights the key areas of our delivery, including engagement, support services and themes explored. We have been able to work in partnership with a number of other agencies and professionals to offer some additional support for young people and to make sure that their voices are heard.

Over the last year we have seen and engaged with young people within the following locations within Belper:

- Belper Skate Park
- River Gardens
- Derwent Street
- Courtyard of the new library
- Kings Sreet
- Memorial Gardens (Kings Street)
- The “Three cornered Rec”
- Whitemoor Park
- Co-op Car Park (Whitemoor)
- Outside the Premier shop (Whitemoor)

Attendance and Engagement: Attendance, detached provision.

* Please note that the figures for these months were effected by COVID restrictions.

Month 2020	Male	Female	Overall	Month 2021	Male	Female	Overall
September	57	8	65	January*	6	3	9
October	25	14	39	February*	25	3	28
November	46	17	63	March*	21	8	29
December	37	12	49	April	80	32	112
				May	73	39	112
				June	58	18	76
				July	39	19	58
				August	38	17	55
				September	57	28	85

Engagement in Support Services: Structured Provision & Projects

Nature of Provision	Male	Female	Total	Outcomes Achieved (including Accreditation)
C-Card sexual health provision	41	6	47	All Blend staff are C Card trained, this means that young people can access free contraception and sexual health advice. The figures show the number of young people that engaged with this service
“Red Box” provision		2	2	The Red Box provision provides free sanitary products to young women. As a charity we are given donations of sanitary products that we can then offer to anyone that might need them.

Overview of Themes Explored with Young People:

Themes/Issue Explored	Assessment of Outcomes Achieved/Recorded
Mental Health	Young people engaged with staff and have been very open about talking about their mental emotional well-being. With young people openly sharing personal information around their experiences and being open to explore services they could access to receive support.
Self-Esteem	Through all conversations with young people, staff seek to raise the self-esteem and confidence by challenging negative comments and giving praise when it is appropriate.
COVID-19	As part of a larger consultation piece of work we were undertaking, we spoke with young people in Belper to seek their opinions of COVID, what coping mechanisms they used (good and bad), the impact they think it's had on them and what support they would want moving forward.
Conflict With Peers and Family	The theme of conflict is one that has been an ongoing feature in our delivery, including conflict with peers and conflict at home. With staff seeking advice and support from staff in helping them to come up with solutions to conflict that they are facing.
Substance Misuse	Young people engaged in activities relating to substance misuse, taking part in discussions and games that aid discussions around the topic. Young people also engaged well with a drug worker from the specialist service CGL.
Fire Safety	Work was undertaken with young people as a response to potentially dangerous behaviour observed by staff. Young people responded well to discussion with staff around dangers of playing with fire.
Knife Crime	Following conversations around weapons and personal safety, staff did a piece of work around knife crime. Encouraging young people to share their opinions and speak about the topic.
Anti-Social Behaviour	Young people have engaged well with staff, particularly around behaviour and when their actions have been challenged by staff. Young people enjoyed having two local PCSO's attend a session. They engaged well with the police, engaging in conversations with them and asking them questions.
"Black Lives Matter"	Young people wanted to gain a better understanding of this topic, asking staff a lot of questions around things they'd seen in the news or on social media. Staff observed learning around this, which included challenging each other's negative views.
Future Aspirations	Young people engaged with staff in sharing their future aspirations, discussing what they want to achieve when they finish school. Information was shared with young people about how to write a CV.

Sample Case Studies:

Young Person(s)	Details of the change(s) observed & discussed by the team.
Group of young men, aged 15 years of age	The group of young men will meet the team every Thursday after school. As the team have built relationships with them the young men have shared personal information with staff and have sought support in areas such as: sexual health, conflict at home and with peers, as well as seeking advice on how to improve their physical and mental wellbeing.

Two young men, aged 17 years of age	We met these young men on the skate park. After seeing them regularly over the course of a few months we have been able to build a positive relationship with them. During this time they have spoken to staff and sought support in looking for jobs, writing a CV, and support when a relationship ended.
On young lady, aged 16 years of age	This young lady was wary of the team when she first met them, giving a fake name and not wanting to engage. Over time, she has accessed C Card, Red Box project and has talked through difficulties she has been having with staff. When she received her GCSE results, she messaged us via our social media account to let us know how she did and that she had secured her college place. This young lady also took great delight in teaching Heather how to skateboard.

Partnership working:

Belper SNT: PCSO's attended a session to speak to young people and build relationships with them
CGL: A drugs worker joined the Blend team for a session
Fire Service: Contact has been made with the local fire service, who are willing to come along to a session to speak to young people about staying safe
Kevin Fagen (Community play dev: Attended a session to hear young people's opinions of their local community and to engage them in the process of developing a community play.
Local authority meeting: We attend quarterly meeting for Amber Valley Local Children's Partnership meeting, as well as Amber Valley Peer Support meeting, with representatives of local Primary and Secondary Schools.

In the next year we want to build on this foundation we've created. Consulting with young people around what they would want from a youth provision and working with the Town Council to move this forward. We will continue to offer support and guidance to young people, signposting and working with other agencies when needed.

We want young people to have their voices heard and be an active part of the community that they live in.