

SAYS Summer Update

Over the summer holidays many of our volunteers and staff take annual leave or go on holiday, as well as many of the young people. As a result youth clubs have closed during the summer holidays however this has not meant that youth activities have stopped. – Below is a summary of some of these activities.

Thorpe Park

Shortly after the end of term on the 29th of July we took a group of young people from the Steyning area on a trip to Thorpe Park with young people from Horsham Town. All young people had a great time on this often requested trip.

Mobile Skate Park

For the first 3 Thursday evenings of August we had planned mobile skate sessions in the MUGA in Upper Beeding – unfortunately due to the unseasoned weather we were only able to run on the first week, as the provision cannot be used whilst wet. 17 young people attended the skate session with lots of positive feedback from both them and parents. The community youth work team in Horsham are currently planning a skate jam in September and a number of local young people would like to attend – provisions for this are being looked into.

NCS

During the Skate park sessions that took place we invited the team from the National Citizen Service to join us and talk with young people aged between 16 and 17 about signing up to the program. This includes staying away at an Outdoors Activity Centre, learning life skills such as cooking, budgeting, CV writing etc. and completing a social action project in their local community. 5 young people have registered an interest and we are currently working on more signing up for this great opportunity.

Detached

Over the Summer Maria and Emma went out on Monday and Thursday evenings to engage with local young people on the streets, in parks etc. The average engagement was with around 20 young people each night. We spoke about local provision and the things they might like to see in the future.

Youth survey

At the end of the school term two young people worked hard using the existing Neighborhood survey as inspiration to create their own youth survey. The young people chose the areas, which they believed, were important as well as would be useful. They helped to publicise the survey sending it out to all students at Steyning Grammar school from those going into school year 9 to sixth form as well as to their friends and peers over Facebook and other social media platforms. So far 178 young people have taken part in the survey and Emma will be working with the young people to look at the results in order to share some of the findings.

PGL camp

At the end of August we took 35 young people from across the district (16 from Steyning area) to PGL Activity Centre for 3 days and 2 nights. We took part in activities such as abseiling, raft building, rifle shooting, archery, and trapeze to name just a few. All young people really enjoyed the trip and are keen for us to repeat this next year. Thanks to Henfield and Steyning rotary for funding one of these spaces for a local young person.

New activities

We are currently in the planning stages for new activities as well as keeping up the activities we are already providing. Current new plans include looking for new options for youth provision in Upper Beeding, establishing a youth council/focus group for the local community and starting a new 10 week relationship course for young people looking at how to have positive relationships covering topics such as sex and sexual health, appropriate boundaries in a digital age, values, parenting etc. the course will include a weekend away for the young people who attend.