



Connect Berwickshire Youth Project CLG

23rd January 2023

Notice of Closure of Coldstream After-School Club as of 31st January 2023

To all interested parties

It is with regret that the board of trustees of Connect Berwickshire Youth Project have had to conclude that despite ongoing efforts to secure sufficient funding, we are faced with no alternative but to close the Coldstream After-School Club (ASC) permanently on the 31st January 2023.

The After School Club is one of the activities provided by Connect Berwickshire Youth Project CLG (Connect).

As disclosed in prior notices, the board of trustees of Connect and the management team of the ASC have concluded a thorough analysis of the current financial viability of the ASC. We have determined that given our current knowledge and expected level of ongoing usage, the ASC is no longer financially viable. The current level of usage and fee structure for the ASC only contributes 20% of the total running costs and in order to achieve financial sustainability without substantial grant funding, our fees would need to increase to a minimum of £15 per session with an increase in average attendance from around 6 children to the maximum of 15 children for every session at this increased fee level. All feedback received to date indicates that the increase in fees required alongside such a substantial change in levels of attendance is not achievable or sustainable.

Over recent years, we have been successful in securing various grants from funders, however, even with this very considerable support from funders, the ASC continued to run at a significant loss. These charitable grants will not reoccur in future years and given the very challenging times we all face, the availability of other funds has significantly reduced and there is huge competition amongst other charities for an ever dwindling pool of remaining funds.

The board has reached out to all the major stakeholders amongst the Council, local politicians and Youth service providers, including Coldstream's councillors Donald Moffatt & John Greenwell, John Lamont MP, Rachael Hamilton MSP, South of Scotland Enterprise, Scottish Out of School Childcare Network and directly with the School Age Childcare team within the Scottish Government amongst many other contacts. Despite these extensive discussions, no substantial or sufficient funding has been identified.

Therefore, it is with great regret that, after providing the After-School Club for twenty years, The ASC will close as of 31st January 2023. Once again, we would like to apologise for any inconvenience and distress caused by this closure.

Although this closure is regrettable, taking this difficult decision now will allow us to continue to deliver our youth work services in Coldstream, Duns and Eyemouth (Youth Groups, Drop ins, 1:2:1s, Stepping Stones project, Summer Programme etc.) and our web pages and social media will continue to keep people notified of upcoming activities.

<https://bypconnect.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/bypconnect/>

<https://www.instagram.com/bypconnect/>

The council provides a web page with some guidance for Childcare services including support to access funding for childcare and contact details for the Early Learning Team or Childminders at :

https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/info/20054/children_and_families/593/childcare

<https://www.childminding.org/find-a-childminder>

If you would like to learn more about potential support for Childcare and other potential support available, Citizens Advice can be contact via their web pages at:

<https://www.cas.org.uk/>

We would like to thank all of our families – the children and their parents and the staff and volunteers who have delivered fun and safe after school care in Coldstream over the many years the After School Club was able to operate in Coldstream. Thank you for your support. We would also like to thank the many different funders who have helped us over the years of operation.

For and on behalf of the board of Trustees and Management of Connect & Coldstream ASC

Stuart Nixon

Chairperson

Email: trustees@bypconnect.com