

WE HAVE BEEN TAKING SMALL STEPS FOR A...



# BIG IMPACT

## The Awards For All Grant Has Supported Us To:

1

The Difference The Award Made:

2

By using a whole system approach, we co-designed our whole service with young people to ensure our individual weekly drop-in sessions complemented new projects, making the entire service we deliver both needs led and responsive on a grassroots level.

3

Used a multi service diversionary approach to supporting young people to help them feel more empowered and confident in supporting their own wellbeing and development, benefitting not only the young people we have supported, but the wider community too.

4

Created lasting community connections with young people, families, partnership services, and the wider community!

5

And most importantly, we have supported young people to understand and build confidence in knowing and using their RIGHTS to support their wellbeing!



## The Difference The Award Made:

Oor Space Youthy is an entirely grassroots youth service that has been built from the bottom up. What began as a Saturday Night Drop-In Service quickly became the foundation for something much more than we could have predicted. When we opened Oor Space Youthy in October 2021, we could never have envisioned how popular and well received, and needed the service would be. Part of the reason for this is that there is a sizeable group of young people who felt left behind, and our drop-in sessions provide one of the routes required to support young people to express their voice, take control of their own future, and broaden their perspectives through new experiences and thinking, and as a result, demonstrate their own social commitment. Our weekly sessions are not single projects that co-exist, they are integrated and complement one another, making the service we deliver a dynamic and needs led service. This resulted in us providing 86 hours of universal youth work, and over 400 hours of voluntary targeted youth work due to local needs outweigh our available resources.

Our successful Award has allowed us to use an asset-based approach by working alongside young people through encouraging them to take a lead in shaping our service to suit their needs. The Saturday Night Drop-In has allowed us to build lasting relationships with young people and the community by developing further opportunities and sessions within and outwith Oor Space Youthy, from personal development to service capacity building and community wide project delivery, with the aim of facilitating youth participation to maximise the positive impact we have. Throughout 2023, we have built up a network of partnership working with key organisations within Peebleshire, ensuring that our service delivery reflects the Scottish Borders Health & Wellbeing Strategy while prioritising young people at a grassroots level.

**2** By using a whole system approach, we co-designed our whole service with young people to ensure our individual weekly drop-in sessions complemented new projects, making the entire service we deliver both needs led and responsive on a grassroots level.

As a direct result of using an assist based approach and creating leadership opportunities within OorSpace, we have created a service to strengthen the following actions we have contributed to supporting our outcome of improving awareness within the community of how we can all stay well and help ourselves and others:

Specific services and activities which we provide include:

- Free Juniors and Seniors Drop-in sessions on Friday and Saturday evenings respectively, the subject of this application.
- Twice weekly S1 to S6 youth café sessions.
- Partnership with R-Evolve, delivering creative art workshops for young people.
- 1:1 support for vulnerable young people struggling to access full time education.
- Partnership with Branching Upwards, delivering forest school sessions to secondary school pupils at Peebles High School.
- Provision of a parent & carer support service, supporting young people and their families at Multi-Agency meetings with school, social work, ASB Unit, police, CLD, SBHA as well as providing advocacy support, worked in partnership with Education, Social Work, CLD, Women's Aid, WhoCares Scotland, The Children and Young People's Centre for Justice, Peeblesshire Youth Trust, Branching Upwards, local Councillors, and many other incredible services to improve the health and wellbeing for the young people we support using a whole system approach.
- Partnership with Peebles Youth Trust to support the transition from Primary to High School.

3

Used a multi service diversionary approach to supporting young people to help them feel more empowered and confident in supporting their own wellbeing and development, benefitting not only the young people we have supported, but the wider community too:

- Attended multiple MAC meetings with families to support young people and their parents carers to feel respected, heard, and like valued members of the planning team.
- We have supported young people and their families with their ongoing threats of homelessness, from attending meetings with SBHA, CAB, Councillors, and supporting them to access support and legal advice from Shelter Scotland.
- We have supported care experienced young people looked after away from home to use their rights, access information, and have their voice heard during discussions about them.
- We have supported several young people and their families with building confidence in understanding youth justice situations, to risk taking behaviour, mental health support, issues at school, and feeling disconnected with the community. Our support has helped young people and their families to build their own connections and support network, empowering them to feel more confident to not only help themselves but in helping their others too.
- We have worked in partnership with Education, Social Services, Healthcare, CLD, SBC, Local Councillors, WhoCares Scotland, Women's Aid, Police Scotland, And the CYCJ in seeking information, guidance, and support for local identified children, young people and families to improve both individual wellbeing, but to improve our communities understanding too. .
- But most importantly, we have supported young people to understand and build confidence in knowing and using their RIGHTS, alongside the responsibility of ensuring others rights are upheld too.

4

How do we know that we have created lasting community connections with young people, families, partnership services, and the wider community?

When providing a support service, it is always difficult to have gather key performance indicators, which truly tell the story of the impact and effectiveness of the work without exposing personal and identifiable information. However, we have still measured our success, and it is because of the clear success of the project to date that we are so firm in the belief that it needs to continue. Examples of successes to date include:

- 86 hours of direct youth support, and at least 400 hours of voluntary targeted youth work due to needs outweighing our available resources.
- Awareness of changed lives Within the community.
- Feedback from young people.
- Feedback from families.
- Development of partnerships with multiple organisations supporting children, young people and families.
- Some young people accessing our service have already come into contact with the police, and several have had police warnings, some have been charged, and many are at risk of further isolation. By using a youth justice rights-based approach, we are supporting several young people and their families by using inclusion as a preventative measure of further arrests and possible future harm. willing to engage. They shared that now when things had reached its peak, that everyone wanted to remind them of their social responsibility, and collectively blame them for the results. They said our service has been life changing.

5

And most importantly, we have supported young people to understand and build confidence in knowing and using their RIGHTS to support their wellbeing!

We asked our young people why they come to Oor Space?  
Check out TikTok to hear what they told us:

<https://vm.tiktok.com/ZGe6qeQMR/>

<https://vm.tiktok.com/ZGe6V37NV/>

<https://vm.tiktok.com/ZGe6Vgv2p/>

<https://vm.tiktok.com/ZGe6V7xYG/>

<https://vm.tiktok.com/ZGe6qRx96/>

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