



Western Area Committee Youth Provision Report May 2023

Provision started at the beginning of November 2022 and ended May 2023, led by Adam McKinely, (Community Safety Warden and Vibe Detached Youth Worker), with a team of Vibe Youth Workers.

The team worked in pairs for 6 hours a week, spread over 2 or 3 evenings. They have trialled different times to target young people as they get home from school and as they are out in the evening with friends.

The team have taken the Vibe youth van to as many areas as possible including The Meads (Sonora Fields), Iwade (Heron Field & Play Area), Newington (Recreational Ground), Upchurch, Hartlip (Play Area, Muns Lane), Borden (Youth Shelter), Lower Halstow, Bredgar & Tunstall (King George Playing Field), Rodmersham (Park nr Hall), Milstead (Village Hall & Church), Bobbing and Bapchild.

These meet ups have been focused on recording and reporting the opinions and feedback of young people in these areas. The general feedback from young people is that they feel overlooked or isolated as they live in villages and are unable to attend youth provision in Sittingbourne. They want somewhere for older young people to hang out, and the provision of older youth clubs. Two of the team attended the Iwade Parish council meeting on request to represent the voice of the young person and youth provision in the village, and were able to provide this feedback. Further information on youth feedback is provided overleaf.

Most recently we have attended Meads, Iwade, Hartlip, Borden Bredgar/Tunstall and Newington on Wednesday evening and have engaged with their Parish Councils and Community Halls. We were discussing potential youth provision in these areas and how it could look. Newington will give us access to their Village Hall in the winter, if needed. However, The Meads is more about finding funding for use of the Hall.

We found our presence in The Meads (Sonora Fields) was noticed quickly, so we proceeded to set up regular activities to engage with the 10-15 young people who attended. This has been so successful that the young people asked if we could do a picnic and street games at the last session.

Feedback on Sonora Fields:

To whom it may concern, I would just like to take this opportunity to thank you and your team that have attended Sonora fields on Wednesdays that sadly came to an end yesterday. Having nothing like this locally, it was great to see many young children participating and some parents attending to supervise too. It was something my 2 children looked forward to every week. They bonded with the youth team and really enjoyed chatting to them and participating in the activities they set up... the youth van really gave them a sense of freedom and somewhere safe to go and interact. I see many other children

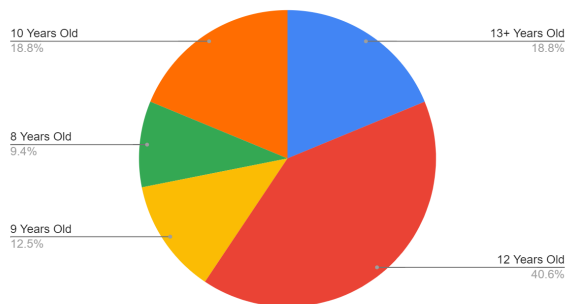


attending alone and eager to get involved. It would be a real shame if we didn't get any funding to continue this as I feel it is really engaging and offers the children on Sonora fields something which they haven't had before. I think the Vibe youth van gives our new generation of youngsters a trouble free start and gets them engaging with youth teams as opposed to the current youths going around causing trouble. Thank you to your team; Adam, Tina .. who have given many children great memories over the past few months. I would be keen to know if this will continue and how I may help approach anyone for further funding. Thank you so much. Parent of 2 young people

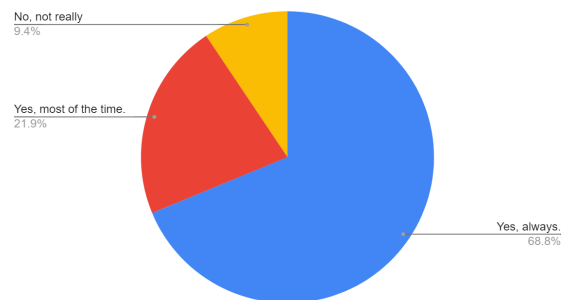
Thursdays have focused on Bapchild, Milstead and Rodmersham. We have visited numerous areas where young people are said to hang out, however we struggled to engage with many. In Teynham it's a different story, we have a group of 20+ who meet us on a weekly basis, and another 15-20 regularly using the facilities at the Recreational Ground - this is funded by KCC.

As you can see from the charts below, the general consensus among the area's young people is that YES they do feel safe, however, they are bored. They simply want more places to play. Either by improving the local equipment at Parks, or with Youth Clubs. Young people can often feel overlooked when it comes to their local town/village as investment often goes elsewhere. They are crying out for more places to play and hang out. If there aren't 'designated' areas, they will just hang out wherever is convenient. This data was collected by using a QR code survey, and verbal questionnaires.

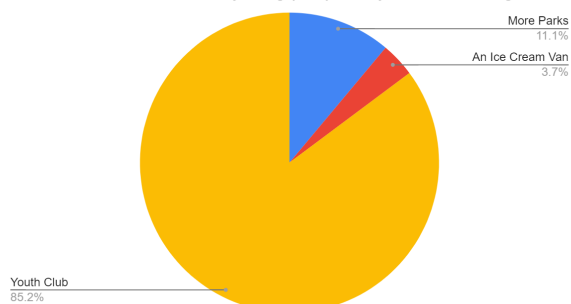
Age of YP



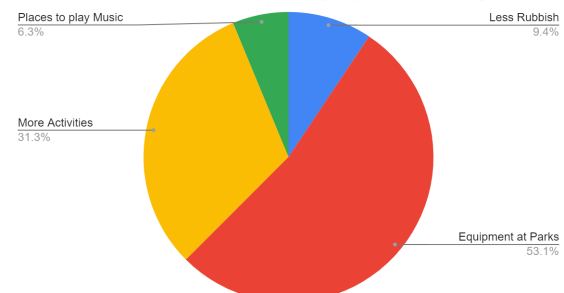
Do you feel safe in your town/village?



What would YOU like for young people in your town/village?



What do YOU think needs improving in your town/village?





Images from Sonora Fields on the last day.

**Blurred: Due to the nature of detached work, many young people are not with parents, as such we do not have permission to share their images.*