



Organisation Name	Community Youth Ventures CIC
Project Name	Mobile Outreach Unit
Funding Stream	Community Area Priorities
Total Cost of project	£21,026.81
Amount of Match Funding	£6,000.00
Amount being applied for	£15,026.81
Amount suggested	<b>£15,026.81</b>

## Project Summary

[Community Youth Ventures](#) (CYV) are a community interest company that focus on inspiring young lives through innovative and diversionary activities. Their aim is to empower young people to make positive choices, enhance their opportunities and widen their horizons, including the impact and support within the community around them.

CYV provides strategic oversight and expertise as well as direct youth engagement through a range of youth programmes and projects. Changes to the youth sector for both statutory and voluntary areas along with the rise in exclusions from education and the development of destructive habits young people have lost faith in the possibilities that await them.

Covid-19 has meant that 2020 has been a tremendously stressful and demanding time for everyone, for young people the amount of inconsistency and change has been dramatic. Lack of routine, a reduction in places open that they can access independently, absence of educational structure and a greater void left by services unable to offer the amount of support required. CYV are therefore seeking for funding towards a Youth Outreach Unit for Aylesbury as a robust movement towards stronger intervention, support, engagement and access for young people. It will provide a safe place they can meet, have fun and develop new skills without restriction of needing a venue or to travel far from home.

During ongoing Covid-19 restrictions, CYV can offer outreach work in communities offering projects focusing on mental health, sport, healthy eating, music and arts to young people to express themselves at this difficult time whilst building relationships and championing inclusion. It would support families by offering parents respite by giving their children positive activities in their spare time reducing family conflict, breakdown and isolation.

The Aylesbury Community Board Area is the largest and most up built area of North Bucks, combining old and new estates with the town centre. This lends itself to providing a diverse selection of areas that be reached with this project. The mobile Outreach Unit will be assigned to three key hotspot areas across Aylesbury – Bedgrove, Walton Court and Buckingham Park. Identified by a need analysis conducted through statements from services in the Aylesbury area, local data reports and national statistics. Using the bus in targeted areas of need due to high crime and negative behaviours; working with Thames Valley Police (TVP) around safeguarding issues in local communities from all types of backgrounds. Combined with providing a

unique engagement tool in areas of deprivation, lack of provision or youth engagement. There is also the added benefit of the community impact, a tool for cohesion and a chance to reduce isolation. Bringing a positive presence to areas common for street crime, drug lines or people involved in Anti-Social Behaviour. Validating the need for communities to feel valued, included and appreciated by local government within the services they receive.

The mobile Unit will provide regular visits to parts of the area where there is little or no youth provision in the evenings or across the weekend. The provision will offer young people a safe place to go where they can share their worries in a calm settled environment with professionally trained staff. The mobile Unit will complement existing youth/ community provision in the area, from specialist services to uniformed or sports groups. With the ability to work alongside schools requiring extra facilities or in more rural settings with restricted public transport. For CYV, part of the reasoning for getting the mobile Youth Outreach Unit will be to establish the demand for youth facilities in the more isolated parts of the county once the pilot phase is completed, giving thought to the need of more permanent centres or provision. Young people will see the Youth Outreach Unit as their space, giving them something to identify with, something to do and the chance to meet other young people; including for those deemed as most vulnerable.

The mobile unit will provide a space for:

- Cooking, health and nutrition
- Targeted youth projects (gender specific groups, issue based, employability or training)
- Positive Activities for Young People
- Driving course simulator or similar online courses
- Information point near the entrance full of leaflets covering everything from local events, to booklets on where to go for help for foodbanks to alcohol use.
- A list of confidential helplines will also be displayed.
- Music training schemes
- Craft projects
- Games and competitions
- Peer advice sessions
- Youth participation projects
- Access to help, support and guidance with professional workers providing ket role models
- Alternative education facility

The need for this intervention has been highlighted through numerous channels:

1. Local crime statistics published by Thames Valley Police
2. Areas of poverty within Aylesbury highlighted by the Department for Work and Pensions
3. Area data looking at Crime, Child Poverty and Mental Health Heart of Bucks- Buckinghamshire Uncovered Report
4. Search results for existing youth provision in Aylesbury on <https://www.bucksfamilyinfo.org/>
5. Discussions with workers from CAMHS trailblazers, TVP, YOS, VAHT Buckinghamshire Council Family Support Community Youth Development Manager.
6. Sport England (July 2020) reported on the results of the unprecedented disruption and behaviour changes felt by 7-16 years across England. 31% were less active as normal through lockdown, only 16% met or exceeded the recommended 60 mins of activity per day.
7. Barnardo's- Mental Health and Covid19 'In our own words report' highlights "Too many children and young people are having to meet crisis point before they access support - children and young people said they wanted to be supported with their mental health and wellbeing at the earliest possible stage, before their needs escalate."

**Other partners involved in this project:**

The Youth Outreach Unit is able to be used to support other services work within Aylesbury: for example, SWITCH or CAMHS Trailblazers could attend sessions offering bespoke support to young people on topics such as drugs and alcohol awareness or anger management to bereavement. The Unit can be used as a 'hook' for active sessions, music tutorials, cooking events, fitness sessions or other activity days in collaboration with Active in Communities CIC, Fitness Garden or Leap. With other uses as an outreach tool for the Healthy Living Centre, Aylesbury Town Council Youth Council or as a meeting point for environmental projects with Chiltern Rangers.

**Who in the community will benefit?**

- Children & young people
- Families
- Carers
- TVP/ Community Safety
- Schools and teachers
- Town and Parish councils
- Support Services (statutory)
- Local Community members
- Local businesses, e.g. young people not hanging out by supermarkets etc

**How does the project address local priorities?**

**Health & Wellbeing, Enhancing the Lives of our Young People, Community Safety:** The Aylesbury Public Health Community Board Profile 2020 demonstrates that Aylesbury has a higher proportion of children living in income deprived households or poverty (19.1%) compared with the County average (12.1%), but similar to the England average (18.2%). Aylesbury has a higher proportion of overweight or obese Year 6 children (37.2%) compared with the County average (29.4%). Aylesbury ranks amongst the highest for emergency admissions to hospital overall, for both adults and children compared with the other Community Boards. Aylesbury has 13,481 residents living in households at higher risk of food poverty – 16.9% of the County total. It also has a higher rate of domestic abuse related incidents and crime than the County average. With these statistics in mind, as well as the rise in mental health concerns for young people themselves, but also those impacted by the mental health of someone in their household or family, the need for young people to have an outlet and support is paramount.

As in January 2020 mental health statistics for England: prevalence, services and funding noted one in six people aged 16+ reported having symptoms of a common mental disorder in the week before being surveyed. Emotional wellbeing has been defined as: "A positive state of mind and body, feeling safe and able to cope, with a sense of connection with people, communities and the wider environment." (World Health Organization. 2007). Although any child can experience mental health problems, those at greater risk are children who have one or a number of risk factors in the following domains:

- from low-income households; families where parents are unemployed or families where parents have low educational attainment.
- who are looked after by the local authority.
- with disabilities (including learning disabilities.)
- from black and other ethnic minority groups.
- who are lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT)

- who are in or have family members involved the criminal justice system.
- who have a parent with a mental health problem.
- who are misusing substances.
- who are refugees or asylum seekers.
- in gypsy and traveller communities.
- who are being or at risk of abuse or witness abuse within the home.

The negative impacts for young people -particularly in the last 6 months- has escalated by the closure of places and venues young people normally attend to be active, including any extracurricular activities they may have been involved in and outside school. There is also heightened anxiety and worry about mixing with others outside the home or not being allowed to participate in activities or socialisation by parents or guardians. There is reduced capacity of support services able to meet with young people face to face and reduced services opening their doors at all or over the evenings or weekends. Meaning the support, the friendly face and listening ear may not be as common as CYV would like.

A Youth Outreach Unit allows interaction to take place safely, in a place that is accessible; somewhere that is 'their space' and give them a chance to work with professionals in a circumstance-based service, access advice and guidance as well as participate in positive activities, develop new skills, relax and have fun.

#### How does the project align with the values, objectives and corporate priorities of Buckinghamshire Council?

The project is supported by Buckinghamshire Council's (BC) Early Help Support Service who have a key priority to 'develop a responsive offer to VCS youth organisations to meet local needs.' This includes a partnership approach. Historically, Buckinghamshire Council had a Youth Service Mobile and Detached Team who had a mobile outreach that delivered a number of positive community projects across Bucks to address local needs in relation to youth Anti-Social Behaviour in particular- CYV's project would fill this void.

The former Youth Service is now part of the Family Support Service and the main focus of the service is around targeted 1-1 support for the most vulnerable individuals and families. However, it recognises the need for community, detached and outreach work, so partnership working with VCS partners is absolutely crucial.

CYV's project also compliments the key priorities from the BC Early Help Strategy to build and maintain the Early Help partnership to increase opportunities to allocate relevant support to families & children and to ensure that partnerships are developed with Early Help organisations as listed in the Early Help strategy.

The project would also support Buckinghamshire Council's Safer Bucks Plan to address issues with Serious Youth Violence including though: Identifying and mapping community assets that can support delivery of safeguarding, diversionary activities; Identifying neighbourhoods and settings at most risk of serious violence and develop engagement activities to build resilience to crime and the factors which may draw young people towards crime; Utilising youth workers within the community to identify opportunities to deliver outreach youth work in "hotspot" areas.

#### How does the project achieve value for money?

The project achieves value for money through providing additional value to Buckinghamshire Council services. CYV have delivered successful projects in Buckinghamshire in the past 2 years and are an

appropriate funder for this type of project. The total value of this scheme is £21,086.81 and the Community Board is asked to allocate £15,086.81. £6,000 in match funding is being provided to this project- £4,000 has been confirmed from the Thames Valley Police Neighbourhood, Safeguarding & Problem-Solving team and CYV will be providing £2,000 from their reserves. The Community Board funding would be allocated as follows:

£7,800: Contribution towards mobile Youth Outreach Unit (inc. renovations and branding, insurance, equipment). CYV are planning to purchase a second-hand vehicle and have provided indicative quotes.

The project will include a minimum of 120 hours mobile unit use alongside face to face delivery:

£2,100: Southcourt/Walton Court- 40 hours of face to face time- 10 sessions with 2 youth workers, including 1 hour of set up/down, 1 hour of travel.

£2,100: Bedgrove- 40 hours of face to face time- 10 sessions with 2 youth workers, including 1 hour of set up/down, 1 hour of travel.

£2100: Buckingham Park- 40 hours of face to face time- 10 sessions with 2 youth workers, including 1 hour of set up/down, 1 hour of travel

£500: Planning/Preparation (calls/meetings with local partners including schools, site visits, H&S checks

£60: Artwork for fliers & x3 hours of design work (in house design team)

£66.81: Printing of fliers (250 for each area)

£100: Promotion- social media x 5 hours @ £20 p/h

£200: PAT testing of electrical appliances to meet Health & Safety requirements

CYV will be required to provide financial evidence to show that the funding has been spent as agreed.

#### Community Board Coordinator comments

This project is supported by Buckinghamshire Council's (BC) Early Help Support Service. A project overview was presented at the Aylesbury Community Board's Health & Wellbeing subgroup, and the Enhancing the Lives of our Youth subgroup, where it was agreed that the aims of the project did meet the priorities of the group. The above therefore provides an indicative view that this project should be funded.

This report has been reviewed by Buckinghamshire Council's Unitary Members and the majority have voted in favour of allocating £15,026.81 of community board funding to towards this project.

The project has therefore been agreed, and the decision will be formally ratified at the Aylesbury Community Board meeting on 17/11/20.

Funding is conditional on CYV providing a Covid-19 risk assessment that details how the project will be delivered in line with national lockdown restrictions and any subsequent localised tiered restrictions that are put in place for Buckinghamshire. The start date of this project may need to be delayed but it is still currently viable to be delivered and completed before 31 March 2022.

**The applicant will be required to agree to terms and conditions, which include a monitoring agreement, as discussed with the Community Board Coordinator before the fund will be formally awarded.**