



Report on the delivery of youth work February 2020 to current online provision

Provision

Between February 20th 2020 and March 16th 2020 Livewire ran open access sessions on Monday and Thursday evenings for 13 to 21 year olds and on Wednesday evenings for school year six to school year 8, and our Tuesday evening closed access wellbeing sessions have continued with youth work staff, musicians, counsellors and a therapy dog.

Statistics from open access sessions

Number of open access evening youth work sessions during this period: 11, February 20th to end 4, March up until 16th (our last open access session) 7
Our first online session was on Thursday 19th March and we started our online wellbeing session on Tuesday 24th March

Provision continued

Our dementia project stopped in February as news of the pandemic started to spread and our after school group also ended a week early. We feel responsible to give the young people not only hope for the future but to be there for them this we have managed so far with the following:

Online sessions for the safety of the young people we have had to make these sessions closed access but we have not had to turn any young person away who has expressed a desire to come and take part. We are currently working with between `100 and 150 young people a week through these sessions which are held on Monday Wednesday and Thursday evenings our Wednesday sessions are no longer junior sessions as the age limit to have a Facebook account is higher than that of our junior group. That is not to say that some of them don't have accounts and there are a few whose parents have contacted us to say they would like to continue with their music lessons and we have allowed them to use their parent's accounts for that purpose.

Our Tuesday wellbeing sessions also now online have continued to be an invaluable time for the young people taking part and we are even seeing some of those young people access online provision on other nights too this is because they are often unable to attend open access sessions because of their anxieties so with them now being online they feel able to access the support. During our online sessions on Monday, Tuesday (wellbeing group) Wednesday and Thursday we have youth workers present along with wellbeing volunteers, counsellors and our mental health lead and we also have 2 or 3 musicians giving online music lessons, sometimes group sessions with our musicians going live and sometimes giving one to one lessons. The youth work staff, wellbeing volunteers and counsellors including mental health lead is there to offer one to one and group support as needed.

Daytime provision

Up until March our daytimes were extremely busy at livewire and we were working with two students from Saltash community school 5 days a week and we also had 2 young people referred by social services one of them for 5 days a week and one of them 3 days a week. We also had 2 young people taking part in the ambitions programme and they were accessing support through livewire for that. There was counselling taking place 5 days a week. We also still had the recording sessions taking place on Saturdays.

Since we stopped our open access sessions however all of the above provision also stopped so we now have a very different daytime provision as follows:

Every week day between 10 and 12 there is telephone support being offered on Monday, Wednesday and Friday a youth worker is available to talk to young people on Tuesday and Thursday our mental health lead is available to talk to young people on a different number. We also have a text phone whereby young people can send a text at any time and someone either a youth worker or counsellor will get back to them also on the text phone they can ask for a specific person to contact them. Some of our counsellors have phones (we bought a number of pay as you go phones to accommodate this when we were working out how best to offer ongoing support to young people) and offer ongoing counselling on the phone to young people they were working with before and although we are taking new referrals and counsellors are offering the support ethically we cannot call it counselling because they are unable to get together to sign contracts which need to be in place for counselling to take place so it is support we are offering and we are getting more and more referrals for that support as time goes on.

In fact we have been sadly proven right on our thoughts that we would not be overly busy to begin with but as time went on the need for support would grow. We are most concerned about the state of mental health amongst our local young people when we should be getting back to some form of normality once this pandemic is over.

Young people's development group.

This has been on hold as we have begun to deal with the online support but now we are mastering Zoom during our sessions we will be able to hold meetings again with the group on Zoom once there is more to discuss. We are currently working with a group from Plymouth university to put together some form of app to expand the services and support we can offer and will be involving the development group quite intensely in that.

Single issue programmes

During this period we have not been running single issue programmes as such although there has been a lot of discussion around online safety. Mental health, wellbeing and self care.