



# Impact Report

2022-2023



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# 1 Introduction

Welcome to our latest Impact Report. This is our opportunity to share with you some of the ways we have been working to change the lives of children and young people.

The biggest difference and toughest challenge we face is to change the experience and expectation of “someone from round here.” This has required us to be more than a youth centre. The addition of an art room and artist, a professionally fitted commercial standard kitchen has revealed hidden talents and interests. It shows young people have an appetite for, and are prepared to tackle, something different. This has shown itself particularly in the raised interest in food preparation. Young people who are ambitious to become chefs. The creation of a workshop designed to support young people exploring working in the mechanical, electrical or plumbing trades has already seen young people aiming for a place in college. This work aims to inspire young people to look for and explore different horizons. We have also invited people who share our ambitions to share our premises. These include Young Carers supported by Carers Resource, the West Yorkshire Police working with young people as Police Cadets linked to the Duke of Edinburgh’s, Bradford City Community Foundation and the Yorkshire Academy of Creative Arts and Dance. Our review of our work shows young people see

the centre as a “safe place to go” and an opportunity to “get better friends”. They also see the centre as somewhere that could help them to “get better grades, get a good job and live a good life”. We are trusted. We work in partnership with other local organisations and have a mentoring relationship with another Youth Charity.

We have funding in place to support our Youth Workers, and a rental income stream. The Trustees and team of adult volunteers are ambitious and we have the support of people living around us. Our challenges for the next twelve months are to increase the reach of our services and projects, to further develop our education theme particularly our work with Bradford College, increase the voice of Springfield and reduce our reliance on ‘lay’ volunteers through the recruitment of project leaders.

# 2

# Our Mission

## OUR MISSION

Our mission is to provide the space and opportunity for inclusive recreational, educational, cultural, work readiness, sporting programmes and services. The focus of this work is to improve the physical, mental and emotional health and well-being of children and young people living in and around the BD10/2 areas of Bradford. We work with others to create opportunities to support children and young people whose lives may be impacted by poverty, low aspiration and criminal activity. We work with young people from all walks of life, understanding that many of the barriers that they face are out of their control, and supporting them to overcome them. The delivery of our mission relies on the hard work and dedication of staff, our Trustees and team of volunteers and supporters. To you we offer our thanks and respect.



**“We work with young people from all walks of life, understanding that many of the barriers that they face are out of their control, and supporting them to overcome them.”**

# 3 Our Themes

**Play and movement** is our physical literacy programme.

To help children and young people to be physically competent across a range of activities such as; balance and movement, story and movement, active play, weekly physical challenges, yoga and forest school.

## LEARN

is our educational literacy programme.

To help children to be educationally literate through homework clubs, a centre-based library with book club and loans.

## Think and Feel

is our emotional literacy programme.

To help children and young people develop emotional awareness of themselves and others, to apply those emotions to thinking and problem-solving and thirdly to regulate their own emotions and to develop the ability to cheer up or calm down another person.

## LIVE AND LEAD

is our social literacy programme. To help children and young people develop personal and interpersonal skills such as responsibility, collaboration, leadership, communication and being part of a family, club, group, community and place.

## EXPLORE

is our cultural literacy programme.

To help children and young people broaden their horizons, understand, work with and experience customs and culture and explore their own cultural roots.

# 4 Facts & Statistics

3453

Attendances from  
young people  
between 2022-2023

360

Sessions held between  
2022-2023

202

Different young  
people attended  
sessions between  
2022-2023

7216

Individual contact  
hours with young  
people between  
2022-2023

# 5

# Our Projects

## Springfield Youth Work

Our Springfield Youth Programme is designed to provide opportunities for young people to engage with meaningful activities in their free time, supported by trained Youth Workers in our incredible facility and based on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. This programme of work is also supported by E:Merge in their 'Growing Youth Work' project.

## Open Access Youth Clubs

Our Open Access Youth Clubs are split into the age categories of 8-11 and 11-16. During these sessions, young people are able to decide what activities they would like to engage with, whether this is cooking, crafts, sports, or general conversation. Our Youth Workers engage in meaningful but informal conversations around safety, responsibility, and aspirations. Throughout our open access sessions, we treat young people with Unconditional Positive Regard, allowing them a safe space to understand boundaries and develop their identity.

## Open Access Sport Sessions

Our Open Access Sport sessions are designed to allow young people to engage with a wide variety of sports. Work with young people on physical activity has been found to reduce offending by 52 per cent, significantly reducing violent crime. We deliver sessions on dance, football, teamwork and resilience, understanding that sport can be a powerful vehicle for work with young people.

## Fit Girls Programme

We have been conducting work with a core group of young girls aged between 8-13 to understand what barriers are in place for them to engage with sport sessions. The findings of this consultation revealed that young girls needed sessions to take place regularly, at a time that was accessible to parents, and without the pressure of organised team sports. From this consultation, we are in the process of exploring how to meet the needs of this group with our offer.

## Art Club

We have an established Art Club that takes place each Monday evening for a group of young people who enjoy art, some of whom have aspirations for a career in the arts. These sessions cover typical art mediums such as painting and drawing, while also exploring other imaginative art forms like stop motion animation, textiles, sculpting and spray painting. We believe that there is a vast amount of unrecognised talent in our community, and the purpose of the Art Club is to identify and nurture it.

## Cycling

With funding from JU:MP, we are in the process of developing a Bike Park on the land behind The Springfield Centre, which, when completed, will provide young people with safe opportunities to develop their cycling ability and understanding of personal safety.

1. Bozarth JD. [Unconditional positive regard](#). The Handbook of Person-Centred Psychotherapy & Counselling. 2013:180-192. doi:10.1007/978-1-137-32900-4\_12.

2. Youth Endowment Fund, 2021. ["Sports Programmes: Toolkit technical report"](#)

# 5

# Our Projects

## Springfield Education

Our Springfield Education Programme is designed to support young people with their academic and skills-based development. We aim to compliment the work that is completed within formal education by providing opportunities for informal education. This includes the following schemes of work:

### Step Up

Our Step Up programme is targeted at young people who are in the process of transitioning from primary to secondary school. Sessions primarily take place throughout the Summer holidays, and offer consistent support with topics such as timekeeping, peer relationships, bullying, and self care. By doing this, we support young people through a time in their life that can be filled with uncertainty, providing them with support from trusted adults and meaningful sessions.

### Step On - Springfield Cooks

Using our state of the art kitchen, Springfield Cooks is a joint project between the Springfield Youth Team, InnChurches, Airedale Group, Lincat and the Rooftop Café, supported initially with Kickstart funding from the Springfield Trustees. This project aims to support young people to develop their catering skills within a semi-commercial kitchen and under the supervision of trained staff. Young people gain practical experience of working routines and equipment usage in a commercial kitchen alongside skills of preparing, cooking and serving food.

The Springfield Cooks programme currently runs three 8-week cooking courses per year with support from InnChurches, which allows young people to develop their skills and work towards qualifications such as Food Safety.

### Step On - Workshop Skills

With support from Building Futures Together, we provide three 8-week courses for young people with an interest in trades such as electricals, plumbing, and mechanics. These courses are working towards being accredited, and the young people who take part are supported in learning practical skills that will support them when they enter the world of work. Through these courses, we identify and support young people who decide they want a career in these industries.

### Step On - Youth Work Assistants

Alongside our open access youth sessions, we work with a number of committed young volunteers aged 14-21 who support the sessions that we run on a weekly, and sometimes daily basis. During their engagement, we support these young people to develop an awareness of safeguarding, managing groups, and responsibility. Reflection plays an integral role in this project, with our staff team promoting opportunities for learning in a way that is bespoke to the young people involved. Moving forward, we aim to offer formal accreditation for this project, ensuring that young people are able to gain qualifications that will support their future aspirations.



“  
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”

# 6 Our Impact

Through consistent and meaningful engagement with young people, we know that our work will continue to have an impact throughout the course of their lives, in ways that are both intentional and unexpected. This long-term impact will be demonstrated within the Case Studies included in the next chapter.

Our more immediate impact is demonstrated in the work we conduct with young people. Within our Art Club, we not only teach young people how to be creative, we also give them the space to redesign elements of the centre, increasing their ownership over our space and their sense of responsibility.

During our sports sessions, we establish boundaries that ensure that young people are safe, supported and able to participate in physical activity in an atmosphere that is not intimidating for them. Through these activities, young people develop their physical wellbeing alongside interpersonal relationships and skills such as good sportsmanship and emotional regulation. Research has also demonstrated a clear link between providing opportunities for physical activity and reducing the rate of young offending.

In our Step Up and Step On projects, young people are supported by our youth workers for the next steps in their lives, whether this is moving to secondary school, college, or the world of work. Feedback from these programmes has demonstrated the impact this has, with young people stating that the Springfield Centre is ‘a safe place to go, to get better grades, to make better friends, to get a good job, and live a good life’.

# 7 Case Study

## Youth Work Assistant

Jacob has been attending the Springfield Centre since 2021, initially as a participant before he expressed an interest in becoming a volunteer. After he became a volunteer, Jacob has worked consistently with the centre, being proactive in sharing his thoughts and feedback as to how we can improve the services we offer.

Through volunteering with us, Jacob has stated that he wants a future career as a Youth Worker, and is able to articulate that the support he has received from the Youth Workers here has been instrumental in deciding his future career path. We regularly provide Jacob with opportunities to reflect on what he has learnt in relation to youth work practice, alongside practical opportunities for development such as taking a lead role in delivering sessions.

Following conversations with Jacob, we are now exploring options to enroll him onto a Level 2 qualification for youth work, which will ensure he has the qualifications to progress further within the youth work field.

During his time with us, Jacob has developed his ability to engage with young people and his peers, manage different group dynamics, create and maintain boundaries, and has developed his self-awareness. These are all vital skills, not only for youth work but for his own personal development.



# 7 Case Study

## Catering Assistant

Thomas has been volunteering with us for X years, and during this time has supported us with sports work, open access youth work, and more frequently, supporting us with the work we do in the kitchen. Over Summer holidays, Thomas supports with the delivery of our HAF programme, ensuring that young people are fed.

Thomas also supports the work we do with InnChurches, in the form of our Young Chefs programme, which supports young people to develop culinary skills and support their future independence. Thomas has supported these sessions, managing group dynamics and developing his skills within the kitchen. From this, Thomas successfully passed his Foundation Level Food Safety Course, which has enabled him to pursue a career in catering and hospitality.

We supported Thomas in developing not only his culinary skills, but in the development of key personal and social skills, using the kitchen as a powerful tool to teach time management, the ability to delegate, and how to work as part of a team.

Thomas is now in a strong position to continue in the catering industry, he already has a part time job within the business and we will continue to support him so that he has access to even more opportunities.

The Springfield Kitchen has been invaluable to young people like Thomas, who would usually struggle to gain meaningful experience using the equipment we have here. Coupling practical work experience with the support of trained youth workers is an incredibly powerful way of working with young people to raise aspirations, as demonstrated by how far Thomas has come.



# 8 What's Next?

## Project Work

We're making a move to project-based work with young people in order to meet the needs of those we serve. Gaps in local provision have been highlighted by young people and other organisations, and because of this we are developing projects under the themes of arts, sports, leadership, work experience and identity. By establishing these projects, we will be working towards our charitable aims of raising aspirations for young people, ensuring that young people have a place to go to discover their talents in a supportive environment.

## Bike Park

We're in the process of establishing our own Bike Park at the rear of the Springfield Centre in partnership with JU:MP, which, when completed, will allow young people the space to develop their cycling ability alongside their understanding of personal safety.

In addition to this, the space will provide young people with an enriching place to go in their free time, reducing boredom, increasing fitness, and contributing to the wellbeing of the young people who live in Thorpe Edge and beyond.

## External Recognition

We've started the process of working towards the National Youth Agency's Quality Mark, which, when achieved, will provide external recognition for the work we do with young people.

By completing this process, we will be able to demonstrate how the work we do fits the National Occupation Standards for Youth Work, and will support the development of the work we complete with young people in the future.

## Partnership with Bradford College

In September the Trustees signed an agreement with Bradford College to host part of the College's offer to young people aged 14-16 (Year 10 & 11) to access an alternative education programme. The provision is offered alongside the College's own city centre site and focuses on a nurtured approach to engaging learners in their education.

There is an onsite team of staff who specialise in the pastoral, intervention, safeguarding and well-being support of all learners who access the provision to support their personal development and well-being alongside their studies.

# Acknowledgements

The Springfield Centre would like to acknowledge the following groups of people for supporting the work that we do:

Morrisons PLC, Sovereign Health, HAF, Bradford Council, Join Us Move Play.

Special thanks go to:

The Airedale Kitchen Group and Lincat for their support to install a fully professional kitchen and ongoing their support with training and development of young people and staff to use and maintain the kitchen.

Inn Churches Cooking Hub and Jamie Olivers Ministry of Food for making cooking fun and supporting our food journey.

Building Futures Together for sharing their special skills and helping to set up our workshop.

E:Merge, for supporting the development of our Youth Work programme as part of their 'Growing Youth Work' offer.



We thank you for your continued support.

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