

### **Eden Project Funding Feedback**

Firstly I'd like to say thank you very much for supporting, encouraging and trusting us, it means a lot.

Secondly I'm going to tell you a few things we did with the money.

#### **Placement**

The first thing we did was to take on a young girl who had been volunteering with us for a few months. She was the girlfriend of one of the young people we had talked about for years at the ward meetings. I don't think you have since we took her on ;) She had been to one of the residentials you had helped us with 2 years before in Wales and was nearly sent home on several occasions. We had seen something in her and just felt with a little more investment we could take her far enough away from her negative surroundings. So we took her on with £1000 of your money and got local donors to personally support her with the other £1000 we needed for the 8 months. She has now been with us for 7 months and we have seen her grow from strength to strength. She is an important part of our team and we look forward what her next chapter will hold. She finishes with us at the end of August 2017 and we are hoping she will go to college and take on an apprenticeship.

\*As an aside her boyfriend saw how well she was doing with us and that she was moving forward and he took our advice and support to take on an apprenticeship at Villages Housing. We have heard nothing but good reports from his employees over the last 6 months and this is all from the positive movement of his girlfriend. Thanks for being a part of that.

#### **Junior Youth Club**

The next thing we did was set up a junior youth club and ran it Tuesday night. Tuesday was the main time when the younger ones were causing trouble. So we did some detached and told them about the new youth club we are setting up for them. We bought a load of crafts and board games and spend a lot of time together playing fun games and building relationships ...The group we initially aimed at unfortunately didn't engage. We have just lowered the age of this club to 8 years as we felt that the younger group could be kept away from ASB and possibly feed them into the older youth club at the right time.

\*Another aside there was a particular volunteer that helps at Junior youth club that had a really hard past but she has really come on and only just today, a staff member at Villages housing commented on her saying “She had come such a long way since being introduced to The Brew.” We have trained and developed 2 other new local volunteers through Junior youth club.

### **Extra equipment for Older Youth Club**

We also bought an Xbox 1 and a few extra pads, games etc. This has been really useful to have on our 100 inch projector and both older and younger youth club have enjoyed using it.

### **Summer youth trip**

A lot of the older ones have begun to move away due to age, college, partners, jobs, cars etc and we wanted to take the young people on a trip to the cinema and Nando’s in preparation for their exit from the groups. We recieved a donation from a volunteer who sadly passed away and left us £300 for the older youth club as she volunteered there. This is now planned in over the Summer holidays. The remainder of the money will go towards this.

### **Men’s Group**

Another thing is one of the male volunteers opened the café at 4:30-8pm on a Wednesday as a Men’s group and this has done amazingly. I offered him £200 of the money you gave us and he has already taken a lot of hard to reach men bowling, had a film night, got them involved as volunteers at Fitton Hill community day and had lots of laughs and support along the way. There are currently around 12 men attending this group and we are getting a lot of positive feedback.

### **Conclusion;**

Our first call was to tackle the ASB issues on the estate regarding the youth. We felt that taking someone on an 8 month placement would help in the work that we do and from that we began to set up the junior youth club to tackle the younger ones that were involved in ASB.

We felt that this would tackle two things.

1. It would give young people an alternative to spending time on the streets.
2. We could offer those already involved in ASB some diversionary provision.

The 2 groups that we aimed to work with to reduce ASB have not engaged as well as we would have liked but they know that we have provided them with additional provision. We have however engaged with a new group and hope to steer them clear of future involvement with ASB and build positive relationships with them over the coming years.

Finally I have added a testimony from the placement we had.

### **Placements testimony**

I have been working with the The Brew since October and have enjoyed every bit of it, my confidence has increased so much and working here has helped with my self esteem. It has helped me to realise what I want to do in the future and made me understand about communities and what community work is. I have particularly enjoyed running the baby boogies and mucky monkeys sessions, at first I didn't really understand the reason behind the groups and just thought they were groups for kids, but the way we try to engage parents who may be isolated and lonely is amazing and really makes them feel good and also helps me feel good as I am helping them. I have met so many amazing people while I have worked here and some lovely friends. When I was at school I didn't really know what I wanted to do but now I know I defiantly want to help people. I really feel like someone has given me a chance to succeed and I want to give that to someone else, I don't 100% know what I will do when I finish but I hope it will be with people as good as I have been with, I still want to Volunteer when I leave and would love a job in this kind of work. I have not found it all easy some of the work has been challenging, when I first started I struggled a bit with some of the issues that people come to you with but as time has gone on I have learned how to deal with things better.

Thanks

Tim and the team