

Monthly Summary Report

August 2026



August – Youth Activity Week!

August has been a particularly busy and productive month for the Joint Parish Youth Provision, culminating in our Youth Activity Week from 17–21 August.

The week provided a strong mixture of physical activity, new experiences, excursions, creativity and community contribution, giving young people opportunities to try things they may not ordinarily have access to.

Across the week, we engaged with 33 young people, with a number of new young people joining the provision as a direct result of Activity Week. We have also received 9 responses to our feedback request so far, with the full results being incorporated into this report once analysis is complete.

The week generated almost £1,000 in participant fees, although this figure should be considered alongside the significant costs associated with trips, activities and transport. Two of the Activity Week days were supported through our PCC funding, which helped us to keep the programme accessible.

The week was a considerable piece of work behind the scenes, involving detailed risk assessments, session planning, insurance arrangements, parental information, consent and waiver forms, lost-child procedures, transport arrangements and communication with a number of external organisations and volunteers.

I am particularly pleased that, despite a number of challenges and changes to arrangements along the way, the week was ultimately a strong success!

Vicky

Lead Youth Worker



Wood carving at Steyning Downland Scheme

Skateboarding Workshop Brighton Girls Skate Club



We began the week with a skateboarding workshop delivered in partnership with Brighton Girls Skate Club at the Upper Beeding MUGA.

The session was led by two female skateboarders, providing some great female representation and positive role models for the young people taking part. It was a valuable opportunity to challenge traditional perceptions around skateboarding and demonstrate that the sport is accessible to everyone.

The workshop gave young people the opportunity to try a new physical activity in a supportive environment, with an emphasis on building confidence, developing skills and having fun.

It was a positive start to the week and fitted well with our aim of providing young people with opportunities to try something new, build confidence and see positive role models outside of their usual routines.



'I was not hankering after a screen and had fun, to me this exactly what youth club is about, also moving keeping active without realising its exercise.'

Parent feedback

Trips to Brighton and Chessington!



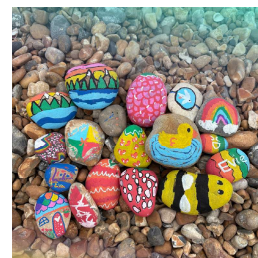
Tuesday saw us run two separate excursions, with young people travelling to Chessington World of Adventures and Brighton. Both trips provided valuable opportunities for young people to develop independence, confidence, social skills and positive relationships with peers and youth workers outside of the usual youth club environment.

Being in a different setting also encouraged young people to make choices, manage themselves in a public environment, navigate new experiences and develop greater confidence away from their familiar routines.

For some young people, particularly those who may find new environments challenging, taking part in an organised trip can also be an important opportunity to build resilience and experience success in a different setting.

From a youth work perspective, trips such as these provide an opportunity for staff to strengthen relationships with young people and understand them in different contexts, while creating shared experiences that can help build trust and a stronger sense of belonging within the wider youth provision.

Both days were great fun!



Wood carving at Steyning Downland Scheme

Wood carving was a particular highlight of the week.

The original provider unfortunately had to withdraw, leaving us needing to find an alternative at very short notice. At the eleventh hour, we were supported by two volunteer amateur wood carvers from Horsham and Shipley Community Project, who stepped in to make the day possible.

Their support went far beyond simply delivering the activity. They used their own personal wood supplies and resources to ensure the young people had everything they needed. We are reimbursing them for the materials used and they have simply asked that we make a donation to their project.

The young people produced some fantastic wood carvings and the level of concentration and focus throughout the day was genuinely impressive.

This was particularly notable because we had young people with ADHD and autism participating. Their ability to remain engaged and focused for such a long period was a real achievement.

One young person described themselves as having 'locked in', which became a phrase we used positively when recognising their incredible focus.

The day demonstrated the value of offering young people practical, creative and hands-on experiences that allow them to work at their own pace and produce something tangible.



Giving back to the community: Our Upper Beeding allotment project

Thursday was our trickiest day of the week, with some young people being reluctant to participate in the allotment activities.

This has raised an important question for us about how we communicate Activity Week opportunities to families and young people, particularly around the balance between young people having a voice in what they participate in and the value of introducing them to activities which benefit the wider community.

Our family feedback survey specifically asked parents about the importance of their child having a say in the activities they take part in, and we will use the results to help inform our future Activity Week planning.

Despite the challenges, the day produced some excellent outcomes!

The young people created an amazing bug hotel with the support of our Countryside Ranger, as well as a wheelchair-accessible planter.

The support from the allotment holders was particularly heartwarming. They came together to agree that they would help water the planter until the youth club is able to establish a regular routine of visiting the plot.

Thursday was our trickiest day of the week, with some young people being reluctant to participate in the allotment activities.

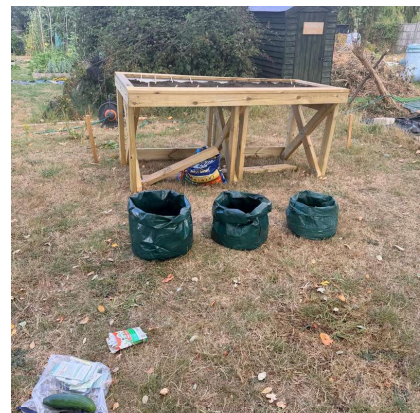
This has raised an important question for us about how we communicate Activity Week opportunities to families and young people, particularly around the balance between young people having a voice in what they participate in and the value of introducing them to activities which benefit the wider community.

Our family feedback survey specifically asked parents about the importance of their child having a say in the activities they take part in, and we will use the results to help inform our future Activity Week planning.

Despite the challenges, the day produced some excellent outcomes and support from allotment plot holders was absolutely amazing.

A huge thank you is also due to John, the Upper Beeding PC Maintenance Manager, for his support with the day, including marking out the plot and helping with equipment.

The project reinforced the importance of community connections and giving young people opportunities to contribute to their local area, even if the activity itself requires a little more encouragement than a traditional recreational session.



Minibus trip to Gatwick Aviation Museum

The week finished with a trip to Gatwick Aviation Museum – an idea that came directly from conversations with young people during our regular youth club sessions.

We had enjoyed hearing them talk about their passion for planes, aircraft and aviation, and the trip developed from those conversations.

This was a great example of youth-led activity, with young people's interests and ideas helping to shape what we offered during Youth Activity Week. The day provided an opportunity for those with an existing interest in aviation and engineering to explore that passion further, while also giving others the chance to discover something completely new.

The feedback from the day has been very positive, particularly from young people who already have a strong interest in aviation. It was fantastic to be able to respond to their interests and provide an experience that could potentially inspire future aspirations and careers. Who knows – perhaps among those who attended are some future engineers, pilots or aviation enthusiasts!

Staffing, Volunteers & Partnerships

We were extremely grateful for the support of our Wardens throughout Activity Week.

Warden John drove our minibuses on a number of occasions and went above and beyond to help us resolve transport issues.

One of our minibuses developed a fault just 48 hours before the Chessington trip, and John's efforts to help resolve this ensured that the trip could still go ahead.

We were also supported by the Steyning minibus service.

Across Activity Week, three Youth Workers, myself and a Warden provided staffing across the different activities.

We also welcomed visits and support from Southwater Youth Project and a Family Support Practitioner from Family Support Work. We are developing this relationship with a view to future referrals and collaborative support for young people and families.

The week demonstrated the importance of building a network of community partners and volunteers around the youth provision.

Young Volunteering

Our Young Volunteer has continued to make progress with his volunteering journey.

During August he:

- Received and signed his volunteer Code of Conduct and safeguarding arrangements.
- Completed his induction.
- Supported a session during Youth Activity Week.
- Received his GCSE results during the same week.
- Is now preparing to join us more regularly at youth club sessions from September.

We are continuing to work through the process of obtaining his Enhanced DBS and ensuring that the appropriate safeguarding arrangements are in place while this is being progressed.

He will also complete further safeguarding training as part of his development as a Young Volunteer.

It is really positive to see a young person moving from being a participant in the community to taking on a volunteering role within the provision.

Future Development

Dungeons and Dragons Sessions

Our first Dungeons & Dragons session is planned for 12 September.

This will be jointly delivered by the Youth Project, the Family Worker at Steyning Parish Church and Warden John.

The session will provide an opportunity to explore creativity, teamwork, communication, problem-solving and social interaction through a structured role-playing game.

SAFeR – CPR & AED Sessions

We are also pleased to have SAFeR, delivering CPR and AED demonstrations at our youth clubs on:

- 11 September – Teens Club
- 25 September – Primary Club

This will provide young people with practical first-aid and emergency-response knowledge which could potentially be invaluable in the future.

Teens Trip – Worthing Games Café

On 18 September, we are planning an evening trip for our Teens group to a games café in Worthing, travelling by minibus.

The evening will give young people opportunities to develop social skills, communication, teamwork, decision-making, managing money, ordering food, appropriate behaviour in a public setting and increasing independence.





Following Activity Week, our regular youth club sessions will restart in the second week of September.

We have deliberately allowed young people the first week back at school to settle into new routines before returning to youth club. This is particularly relevant for young people who are transitioning to new schools or new year groups.

A number of our young people will also be transitioning from the Towers site to Shooting Field / Steyning Grammar School, so we will be mindful of the additional changes and anxieties that can accompany this.

We will also be reconnecting with the school and planning our first piece of detached youth work for the new term.