



Meeting	Community Committee
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Briefing Item	8. IN THE MIX YOUTH DELIVERY
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1. Context

Summary covering Wellington youth provision from October 25 – March 26, including Oct half term and Christmas holidays. The Wellington Youth Project is a community-based youth work provision that supports young people aged 11–19 through voluntary, inclusive, and young person–led engagement. It is rooted in the core principles of youth work: building trusted relationships, empowering young people’s voices, and providing safe spaces for personal, social, and emotional development.

The project aims to increase confidence, resilience, and self-esteem while helping young people build meaningful connections within their community. It supports outcomes such as improved engagement in education, development of life skills, making positive choices, and strengthening youth voice and participation. Regular evaluation, reflective practice, and reporting ensure the project remains responsive and impactful.

2. Briefing

Delivery overview

Between October 2025 and March 2026, youth provision in Wellington focused on establishing and growing open-access youth work opportunities for young people aged 11–19. Delivery has primarily taken place at the Kings Arms Community Hub, supported by outreach, partnership working and holiday provision. Youth work sessions typically include a mixture of creative activities, cooking, games, music and social space, alongside opportunities for young people to share concerns or discuss issues affecting them.

The programme has been delivered by trained youth workers through the In The Mix Project, focusing on informal education, safe spaces and youth-led activities. Sessions have included regular youth club provision, holiday programmes and planning for wellbeing initiatives such as the “Spill the Beans” youth counselling pilot.

The Friday evening Wellington Youth Club (7–9pm) has become the core term-time provision, offering young people a safe and welcoming space to socialise, take part in activities and access informal support from youth workers. Activities are shaped by young people's interests and consultation, ensuring provision remains responsive to their needs.

Participation & reach

Participation has been supported through school promotion, social media, community outreach and word-of-mouth. Schools and community organisations have played an important role in signposting young people to activities.

Term-time youth club sessions regularly attracted 15–23 young people per session, with several sessions welcoming multiple new participants. 23 young people attending with 8 new contacts at the first session of 2026.

Oct holiday club 33 participant places.

Winter holiday club 12 participant places.

There are currently 70x young people registered with Welly Youth Club.

Early youth feedback suggests a strong demand for:

- social spaces
- cooking and food-based activities
- gaming and technology
- sports and crafts
- opportunities to attend with friends

Young people are also involved in programme consultation, including discussions around potential additional weekly youth club sessions. Feedback has included:

- "It was fun."
- "Amazing."
- "When I got here my anxiety was here, but now it's all the way down here"
- "5-stars – really fun!"
- "The drumming was excellent."
- "Really the future of childhood in Wellington"
- "It was a nice environment to be in."
- "One highlight for us was to visit the new Community Hub and be shown round by In the Mix's Nick Harvey. We were very impressed with not only the facilities, but also the structured way Nick and colleague Emma are running Friday evenings." - Mike Czerniak – Wellington Street Pastors.
- "Young people should go. It's a great place" – community member.
- "My lil man has come this last 2 weeks with his friends and has loved it – Thankyou" – parent of attendee.
- "I just wanted to say a big thank you to yourself ,Emma ,Molly and team for organising a brilliant residential night away. Noah came home knackered but Buzzing and telling us everything he did there! " – parent of YP who attended Avon Tyrrell residential.
- "In The Mix Project is professional, inclusive and provide a 5-star service for young people. Fantastic partnership working and would 100% recommend them". Staff were warm, friendly and knowledgeable. They go above and beyond and provide a wide range of activities for young people. - Kelly Enfield – KACH Centre Manager.

Multiple parents also reported positive impacts, with one noting that their child had been feeling lonely and benefitted from having youth provision available locally.

Provision is also reaching young people experiencing barriers such as:

- rural transport limitations
- low-income households
- poor mental health
- special educational needs.

Activities delivered

Activities during this period were designed to combine informal education, wellbeing support and social opportunities.

Regular youth club sessions included:

- DJ workshops
- cooking activities (e.g. fajitas, pancakes, mug cakes, milkshake and smoothie making)
- crafts and creative activities (vision boards, colouring, henna)
- movie nights
- gaming sessions (including Roblox)
- board games, air hockey, pool, table football, and chess
- social activities and group discussions.

Food is a key part of sessions, with snacks, toast, fruit and hot drinks provided. Evaluation notes suggest that young people make significant use of this food offer, highlighting potential cost-of-living pressures among participants.

Headline impact

Evaluation evidence highlights a range of positive outcomes for young people. Youth workers reported that new young people quickly felt comfortable in the setting, confidently engaging with staff and asking questions. Young people developed new friendships and felt comfortable socialising in the youth space.

The provision creates a safe space where young people can:

- relax with friends
- talk to youth workers
- explore creative activities and new interests.

Sessions support development of skills including:

- teamwork and cooperation
- communication and confidence
- creative expression
- problem solving

Youth club sessions support relationship building between young people from different schools and backgrounds. Activities and informal discussions help build trust and respect within the group. An example of this was our residential trip to Avon Tyrrel with young people from Wellington, Taunton and Wiveliscombe who have since become friends, have visited each other's youth clubs, and met up outside of youth work sessions.

Case Studies

AP, female aged 12

A lives in Wellington, with parents and a younger brother. Her first contact with ITMP, was during one of the open evening sessions at The Kings Arms Community Hub. A was engaged and confident from the initial meeting. She enthusiastically participates in all activities and has expressed repeatedly to youth workers that she enjoys the ITMP provision and wants to continue attending whenever possible. A particularly enjoys craft-based activities. In Wellington she was one of the young people, who painted canvases to be hung up in the centre during a drop in event. This helped increase A enjoyment, and their connection to the setting, and a feeling of ownership and belonging.

In this tranche specifically, A attended the Making Day in Wiveliscombe. This session was another example of her love of crafts, as she spent significant time making an autumn wreath, decorating it themed for her upcoming birthday. Due to the lower age limit (Wellington centre-based sessions are 11 and above, Wiveliscombe are 8 and above), A younger brother K was also able to attend the Making Day. A engaged confidently with staff and other YP and supported K so he could do the same.

In a small group activity, she waited until there was space for both her and K to provide K reassurance and help ensure his first experience of ITMP provision was highly positive. A is demonstrably comfortable in the setting and feels safe and secure with staff. During the session the group played a light-hearted joke on the organisation Manager making AI created images. A took a key role in this and offered both ideas and practical help. A is willing and able to take on a leadership role, and support and guide her peers. To further ongoing engagement she would be an ideal member of Core Network. This group is suited to her both for content, but also ability to offer a hybrid online delivery to remove transport as a barrier to participation.

T, male aged 14

T lives in Wellington with his mother. T first contact with ITMP was the music themed day in Wellington at The Kings Arms Community Hub. Prior to the session, staff had received information from his parent outlining several additional needs. As his booking was made very close to the session, a staff member dedicated time to sit with T and fully explain the day's activities and discuss any concerns or questions he may have to support his integration.

During the morning T was comfortable with staff and the setting but chose to stay in a quieter area playing chess with another YP. Staff reassured him that he could join the main group with planned activities, if he chose, at any point during the day. A positive first experience was prioritised over him completing the planned session activities. By the afternoon, T's confidence had increased to the point where he was able to join the group for a music activity. He completed the full drumming workshop, and following this, gave a session rating of 4/5 in the young person's evaluation.

During this session, T also challenged a youth worker to an arm wrestle and won. This demonstrates the safe and inclusive environment ITMP build and reinforce in all sessions, encouraging all young people to approach them openly for any reason. While T's additional needs would be well served by attending the HIVE monthly group, he is also capable of continued engagement in open access sessions, such as the upcoming Wellington Youth Club.

Holiday provision

Holiday provision remains a developing strand of youth engagement in Wellington.

Across the October and Winter programmes the provision delivered:

- structured holiday activities
- enrichment trips
- cooking and creative sessions
- access to healthy meals
- social opportunities during school holidays.

Young people took part in new experiences such as songwriting, cooking meals from scratch and participating in group music sessions. Sessions supported the development of teamwork, communication, leadership and problem-solving skills.

Holiday provision also included:

- cooking sessions such as pizza making, homemade KFC, and baking
- arts and crafts (snow globes, slime, Xmas decorations)
- sports and physical activities
- outdoor learning activities such as fire lighting
- enrichment trips including a visit to Wellington Monument and Bristol

Additional support was provided to families through food provision and take-home meal kits to help address cost-of-living pressures. These programmes help address issues such as social isolation and the lack of affordable activities available to young people during holiday periods.

Partnership working

Youth provision in Wellington has been strengthened through collaboration with a range of local partners. Key partners include:

- Wellington Town Council
- Kings Arms Community Hub
- Somerset Activity and Sports Partnership
- local schools
- community organisations and volunteers
- Wellington Street Pastors
- Somerset Community Counselling

The programme has also hosted external visitors supporting wider youth services.

For example:

- representatives from the Spill the Beans project attended youth club sessions to introduce mental health support opportunities and begin building relationships with young people.
- Wellington Street Pastors visited sessions and expressed positive feedback about the youth activities taking place.

We are also looking at developing collaborations with local businesses (Green Dragon / Waitrose) around fundraising as well as Welly Sports Centre and Transition Town around activities and events for young people.

Challenges & learning

Some sessions required increased supervision due to energetic behaviour, particularly among younger participants. Staff have introduced clearer boundaries and behaviour expectations to address this. Sessions work best with three staff members or volunteers, allowing activities to run effectively alongside safeguarding and behaviour management.

Several young people have arrived at sessions without completed consent forms, requiring staff to contact parents during sessions. Improved communication with families is being implemented. Some sessions were affected by space constraints, noise levels or equipment availability, highlighting the importance of continued development of facilities and activity resources.

Wellington sessions are newer than those in neighbouring areas, meaning attendance levels are still growing. Technical issues with the HAF booking system created barriers for some families trying to register young people onto holiday clubs in Dec. The holiday offer in Wellington is in very early days, the first delivery for this was October half term. Therefore, there are currently lower numbers at this setting, than Wiveliscombe. However, all participants had a positive experience, and rated sessions highly in evaluations. As an organisation we will continue to promote our offer widely and grow the participation. Due to group size, systems for capturing consistent feedback and participation data are still developing.

Headline financial overview

Youth provision has been funded through a combination of funding streams including:

- Holiday Activities and Food (DfE)
- Wellington Town Council
- charitable funding streams
- ITMP in kind contributions

These funds support staffing, activity resources, transport, food provision and venue costs. ITMP are looking at other external sources of funding to support the project.

3. Background Papers

[Instagram](#) post – Avon Tyrrell residential

[Instagram](#) post – Mix of activities at WYC

[\(1\) Facebook](#) post – youth club disco / DJ session

