

## Shelford & Stapleford Youth Initiative (SSYI) Update – 2024

**SSYI is a community charity set up and run by local Christians that has been supporting young people in our local area for over 25 years. We now work with over 270 young people in Great and Little Shelford, Stapleford, Sawston and Duxford. Our aim is to provide safe spaces, quality youth work and support for local 10 to 18-year-olds. Particularly focusing on those who are marginalised, isolated, at-risk or not accessing other provision. By building positive relationships with young people, running youth clubs, schools work and other activities we enable them to overcome challenges, learn and succeed. We have a dedicated Youth Centre in Great Shelford where we run 6 youth clubs a week, as well as 4 weekly youth clubs in Sawston, and a weekly club in the Community Centre in Duxford.**

Despite the cold and wet weather these last few months have continued to be very busy with our team of 4 youth workers often seeing a weekly attendance of over 130 young people at our youth clubs. 40 young people come along every Friday for our year 6+7 session in Shelford, with most of the year 6 class at Shelford Primary school there, alongside many Year 7's from SVC, St Bede's and other secondary schools. Before Christmas we ran 6 Christmas parties, 4 Christmas meals and an Ice-Skating Trip in Cambridge. Over the February half-term, we had 2 film nights, a retro gaming evening and a couple of other sessions in the community.



Mentoring and 1:1s are a big part of our work and we are now meeting with 16 young people a week in this way, mostly in Sawston Village College but we also run sessions in the community, often meeting young people for some food or a walk in a public space. This allows us to work more closely with each one, building relationship, understanding their needs, and journeying alongside them through difficulties they may be experiencing with their mental wellbeing, education, emotions, family, or the struggles they face due to deprivation.

In the last year we have been able to purchase a minibus, an outdoor football cage and trailer to transport it. Together these assets enable more trips and provide a mobile facility for active sessions in multiple locations.



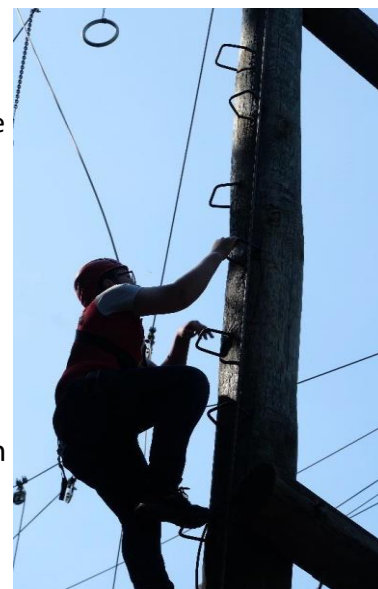
As the needs amongst the young people of our area have increased, it is becoming increasingly challenging to secure and grow the resources needed...

## Can you help us?

**By Volunteering** - Our work couldn't happen without our fantastic volunteers; **we are currently looking for more people to join the team.** If you are seeking a great opportunity to support local young people whether that's helping in youth clubs or joining as a Trustee, we would love to hear from you.

Youth work is so rewarding, and you don't have to be young or 'cool' to get involved, just a willingness to get stuck in and listen to, and chat with young people. A DBS check will be required to help out and training will be provided.

**By Giving** - As a charity we are very dependent on donations and are in need of some more regular givers to continue to offer the support we do. If this is something that you may be able to consider, head to [www.justgiving.com/theshelfordandstaplefordyouthinitiative](http://www.justgiving.com/theshelfordandstaplefordyouthinitiative)



## Outcome Statistics

We carry our regular outcome assessments with inputs from the young people. In the last year we have seen:

Outcomes	Result
Young people expressing an improvement in confidence.	76%
Young people expressing an improvement in their ability to overcome challenges.	80%
Young people expressing an improvement in their ability to get on with others.	84%
Young people expressing an improvement in hope for the future.	80%
Rating of SSYI sessions out of 10.	9.52

## Quotes

*"SSYI has been really supporting and kind to me. They were very welcoming on my first day and have been since."*

*"Because it is so fun to meet your friends after school and they have helped me not worry about stuff at home"*

*"It has made me more confident when facing challenges"*

*"Helped me in school with not getting in trouble"*

*"It is a great place to have fun and be yourself"*

*"Helped me overcome addiction"*

We are so grateful for all the support we receive from the parish councils, churches, organisations, and individuals. Thank you. For more information on what we do or to enquire about how you can help, get in contact with our Lead Youth Worker Zac Britton on 07599 024210, Email [zac.britton@ssyi.club](mailto:zac.britton@ssyi.club), or Treasurer and Trustee John Greaves on 07771 930938, Email [treasurer@ssyi.club](mailto:treasurer@ssyi.club)

**Our website can be found at [www.ssyi.club](http://www.ssyi.club) or use @ssyiyouth to access our Facebook and Instagram pages. Thanks for reading!**