

Buckfastleigh Youth Strategy 2020-23

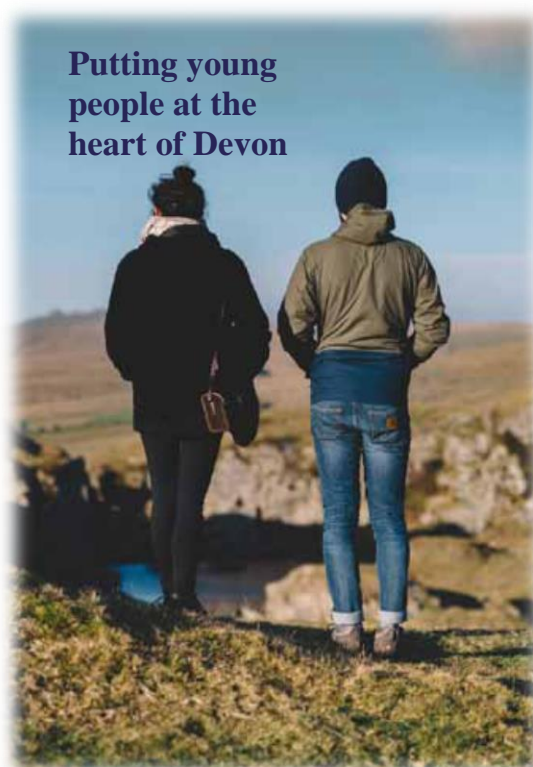
Working together for the young people of Buckfastleigh



Bold Beautiful
Buckfastleigh

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Why have a Youth Strategy?

This report has been developed by Young Devon; a Youth Organisation that has supported young people for over 70 years in Devon, with the support and commitment Buckfastleigh Town Council.

We recognise that meeting the needs and wants of young people requires agencies to work together and actively engage with young people, their families and the wider communities.

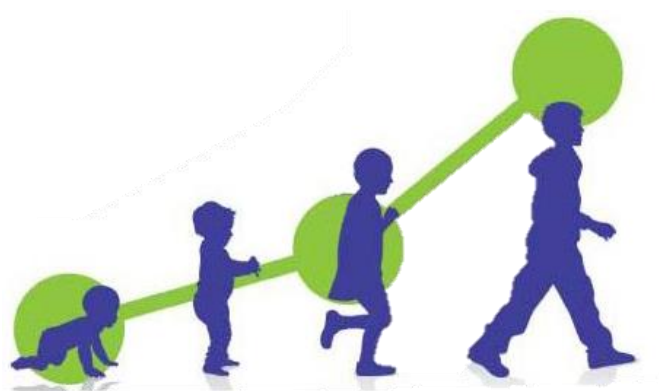
Over the years there has been an increase in issues that our young people are facing such as mental health problems, lack of job prospects, community unrest, an increase in the cost of living, difficulty with transport and social isolation due to rural living.

By working together to identify these issues and finding creative solutions to fill the gaps we can work towards a more productive and beneficial community and support a new generation that feels a part of that community and works together to solve these problems.

Buckfastleigh Town council and its community want to support the views and aspirations of young people and make sure that they are heard and responded to.

By having collective information, forward thinking goals and long term aims in one document, this supports a clear line of communication and multi-agency working that can make living in Buckfastleigh a positive experience for young people whatever their social-economic scale or the current political climate.

It explains how organisations can help young people achieve their ambitions by providing support and challenge along the way.



What is included in this strategy?

In this strategy the information includes feedback from:

- *Local Primary school age children*
- *Local Secondary/college school age children*
- *Local Youth groups*
- *Sports groups*
- *Local Families*
- *Personal development groups such as guides/brownies*
- *Community members*

This information was gathered through a selection of means:

- *Community consultation events*
- *Paper surveys*
- *Online surveys*
- *Outreach work with young people-focused within the Victoria park, football pitch, Barn park, orchard millennium green, Buckfast and other areas on the streets of the town.*
- *Professional responses*

A selection of information was gathered such as:

- *What are the needs of young people in Buckfastleigh*
- *What youth provision is missing*
- *What is the best thing about living in Buckfastleigh*
- *What is the worst thing about living in Buckfastleigh*
- *A demographic profile of the area*
- *An audit of existing provision*



Overview of findings

POSITIVES

Top 3 areas when asked 'What is good in BFL'

- 1-Friends and family
- 2-Bungalow 3- Victoria Park

Quote- "The best thing about living in Buckfastleigh is that it is quite small and cosy and everyone there is very nice and friendly"

INTERESTS

There is a clear interest in sports but money should be spent on upskilling existing leaders rather than new facilities

When asked what the top interests for YP were

Sports, Animals and Tech

When asked what things are missing in BFL

1. A warm and safe place
2. Place to learn new skills
3. Gaming and tech clubs

Values, Thoughts and Beliefs

**Approx. 90% of Yp believe
it is important to learn
new skills in a youth
provision**

**When asked what a youth provision should
be.**

**1-Place to meet up and chill 2-Place to make new
friends 3-A safe space to talk about feelings**

Areas for improvement

**When asked what the top 3 worse
things are in BFL**

**1-ASB and bullying 2-Nothing to do 3-
Drugs and alcohol**

**When asked what the Top
issues YP faced were.**

**1- Bullying 2-School stress
3-Mental health issues**

A more detailed analysis of the findings can be found in appendix 1

Aims and Priorities

The aims we have identified here have arisen from research shown throughout a selection of methods from October 2018 to August 2019.

Young people's voice is paramount and as such the following aims have been identified for the future of Buckfastleigh's youth provision. This will be the foundation for an agreed code of practice for youth provisions in the area, working together for the benefit of all young people as well as a starting point for a due diligence document for any future service to adhere to before support and funding can be looked at.

Info on number of YP and breakdowns on profiles can be found in appendix 1

Aim 1

A quality and robust youth provision were YP can meet, make positive relationships and improve personal and social skills

Aim 2

Build a more cohesive community with a common goal to support young people

Aim 3

Reduce ASB and raise aspirations in YP and their families

We believe by working towards these three simple aims the impact in the community will be that **Young People in Buckfastleigh can maintain a variety of support links through existing and new provision that enables them to feel a part of their community and have better long term prospects**

These aims have been converted into a charter that is to be used across the community as a bench mark of standard for youth provisions. We are eager to support current provisions to work towards this and encourage new providers to agree to this charter as a value base of work. This charter acts as a goals setting tool for the council and the local youth provision providers to work together, it is also recognised that some aspects of this charter will not fit for all services but the values and culture of team work is what is agreed with and taken away.

Full charter can be found in appendix 2

How will we achieve this?

Through conjoined work with other agencies and professionals as well as utilising the skills already in the community.

Aim 1

- * The town council to have a clear due diligence template for services wishing to gain financial support.
- * Working with existing provisions to improve and maintain a high standard of youth work and work with young people.
- * Working with the local community in the delivery of a youth café, a safe place where young people can go that is not a traditional youth centre. Whether this is an existing café that wants to diversify or a new project created within the community.
- * By encouraging the creation of a wellbeing service that is local or at the very least promoting existing *nearby* services as well as signposting parents and carers to transport support links to these services.
- * By supporting local existing providers and groups to deliver free support services such as C-card scheme and the red box project to offer personal support to teens.
- * The creation of a centralised point of information for services, accessible by the community both online and as a hard copy

Aim 2

- * By supporting the community and working with partner organisations to increase the support locally for children with SEND to access education, opportunity and play.
- * Making a commitment to work effectively with local businesses and provisions rather than investing in external services

Aim 3

- * Encourage and support a provision that works as a detached programme to target young people that cannot or will not access open access youth work.
- * Promoting skills based sessions run by local groups to deliver 21st century skills such as technology based workshops i.e. coding
- * Supporting the school and the community to offer peer support for parents in the local area

Examples of Activities and Provision	Support Links to include	Medium term outcomes	Long term outcomes	Impact
Youth café- <i>Similar to Bovey Tracey model,</i> upskilling YP via things such as AQA	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Open Access e.g. Bungalow and youth clubs• Schools and education settings• Local authorities e.g. TC, Teignbridge and DCC• Voluntary sector groups e.g. scouts, guides and sports clubs• Community members and families• Local police and support services• YP peer groups	YP learn new entrepreneurial skills	A quality and robust youth provision where YP can meet, make positive relationships and improve personal and social skills	Young people in Buckfastleigh can maintain a variety of support links through existing and new provision that enables them to feel a part of their community and have better long term prospects
Mental Health Drop in service- links to above		YP build and are better able to maintain positive relationships		
Clear advertising of all services- using online and hard versions		Community and YP are more aware of services and existing provisions		
Support the development and future funding of existing leaders rather than creating new facilities				
Promote support such as C-card scheme and Red Box project for girls		Standard of existing services are enhanced	Build a more cohesive community with a common goal to support YP	
Offer SEND support club		YP are able to access and achieve educational success		
Technology clubs- <i>this should link to future careers</i>		YP have raised aspirations and awareness of new careers paths	Reduce ASB and raise aspiration in YP and families	
Outreach project- <i>targeting those that do not or will not attend open access youth club</i>				
Funding options for existing provisions-based on criteria and due diligence listing provided		YP can access support within their own locality		
Family support- <i>themed parent support sessions</i>		Services take a family first approach		

What happens next

The layout and overall structure of this document has been developed by Young Devon in Partnership with the Buckfastleigh Town Council. This document was completed in Nov 2019 and will next be discussed and considered by the full council, with a view to launching in 2020 as a partnership working document between the local community, local youth provisions and the Town Council.

The Town Council are committed to supporting and encouraging multi agency work across the Buckfastleigh parish.

Wherever possible both Buckfastleigh Town Council and Young Devon would like to promote youth voice within this process and are eager to use local young people to promote and develop the ideas within this document.

