



Best  
Summer  
Yet

YOUTH  
PROJECT  
ACOCKS GREEN

# IMPACT REPORT SUMMER '22

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Our Story So Far
- 3 Our 2022 Project
- 4 Bring it on Brum
- 5 Inspire 2022
- 6 Duke of Edinburgh Award
- 7 Added Value
- 8 Our Summer in Numbers
- 9 Our Summer in Pictures



# INTRODUCTION

**An impact report is a way for organizations to communicate the issues they are trying to improve, as well as their strategy on how they facilitated change.**

Our summer programme is now in it's fourth year of running, with this year being our biggest yet. Whilst previous years have seen us deliver against a backdrop of uncertainty, this year is unlike any other.

With families facing challenges around the cost of living crisis, inflation at record high, unemployment in Birmingham double the national average and the economic after-effects of Covid-19 still very much in the limelight, the anticipated need for our services was a concern.

With all areas of economic uncertainty, it's the most vulnerable in society that feel the effects worse. With that in mind our team have worked diligently and creatively to develop a programme that was unique, supportive and bigger than before.

Going in this period, our staff and volunteer team explored what children, young people and families most needed to develop a programme that met the needs of the communities we served.

This led to a summer with the broadest range of support packages for families, with the most amount of sessions planned and the most diverse range of families supported.



Group of young people enjoying a Trampoline Park as a part of their HAF programme.

It's well reported how time spent over the school holidays can significantly impact on an individual's schooling. From nutrition, to socialising with others and chances to exercise and move more, a missed summer can lead to a child being 6-8 weeks behind their peers.

Armed with this information, our staff and volunteer team went about creating a programme that held three clear values:

- **Somewhere to go (safe space)**
- **Someone to know (connection)**
- **Something to do (varied and vibrant)**

With pressures on family finances increasing the cost to provide opportunities for children and young people over the summer can be an added stress. With the daily cost to send a child to day provision across the summer ranging from £19-£55 per day, we've worked hard to ensure that we keep the costs to families as low as possible.

With staff and volunteers raising money all year around to make this happen, the summer has been a real labour of love for many people involved. With that, we're extremely proud of the work we've done, and we excitingly present this report to ensure that outlines all we've achieved.

**Kynton Swingle**  
Community Development Manager

# OUR STORY SO FAR

## WHO WE ARE

Youth Project Acocks Green is the children and youth work section to Fox Hollies Community Association CIO (reg. charity number 1174330). Fox Hollies Community Association has served the community of Acocks Green and surrounding areas for over 30 years, and works across all ages, backgrounds and needs.

Youth Project Acocks Green started in January 2018 as a response to the lack of provision in Acocks Green for children and young people.

Since then we've gone from strength to strength, delivering a range of activities for ages 7-18 from youth clubs, in school provision, holiday programmes and community volunteering projects.

In June 2020, Fox Hollies Community Association CIO proudly received the Queens Award for Voluntary Service.



**Our HAF programme for young people celebrating at Colourfest 2022.**

## OUR PURPOSE

After extensive consultation with children, young people and families there were several over-riding themes that informed our work, that they all wanted accessible safe spaces, where they can make friends and create lifelong memories.

With that in mind we've worked to ensure that we provide accessible, inclusive and vibrant spaces that really add value to the lives of children and young people.

**5000+**  
**INTERACTIONS WITH**  
**CHILDREN AND**  
**YOUNG PEOPLE ACROSS**  
**2022**  
**(AS OF SEPTEMBER 2022)**

# OUR 2022 PROJECTS

This summer we ran a variety of projects for children, young people and families.



Our HAF programme for children out on a trip to Umberslade Adventure Park.

PROJECTS	DETAILS	OUTCOME
	Delivered a children's and youth summer programme targeted around providing cooked meals and activities.	2856 meals 144 individuals attended 250 hours of activity 38 sessions delivered
	Involved in delivering the Commonwealth Games linked Social Action project to young people.	4 young leaders went through the programme and designed a community sports day.
	Organised and delivered our first Duke of Edinburgh Award expedition.	13 young people completed their Bronze award
	Delivered our first cohort of Inspire 2022 participants to develop their own Social Action Project.	Took 3 groups to pitch their ideas to the community, and successfully bid for money for their projects.
	Organised and delivered community Commonwealth Games days.	Delivered a range of community activities based on CWG sports including basketball, badminton, cricket and rugby.

# BRING IT ON BRUM

## HOLIDAY ACTIVITY AND FOOD PROGRAMME (HAF)



**This summer saw our fourth year of delivering HAF programmes out of our centre at Fox Hollies Forum, and our biggest yet.**

Our HAF programme was targeted at families whose children are in receipt of free school meals with the aim of providing a cooked dinner, a range of activities and opportunities to socialise over the school holidays.

Through funding from the Department of Education and supported by Streetgames, we were able to deliver 4 weeks of funded activities across to programme groups, our Juniors (7-11 years) and Youth (11-16 years).

Whilst the funding provided is limited to 4 weeks and 16 sessions, and strictly for those on Free School Meals, it did mean that there were many families who did not qualify for funding. Add that local day care for children in the holidays averaged between £19-£55 per day, something needed to be done.



**Our HAF programme for children out on a trip to Telford Country Park.**

Through the outstanding efforts of our partners, volunteers and supporters we were able to self fund an additional week of provision as well as provide subsidised places to families who did not qualify through our main funding.

Across the summer we were supported excellently by a host of partners to make a summer like no other. From Morrisons Acocks Green donating food and coming in to do face-painting, Redpoint Climbing for bringing their mobile wall to our centre, and Birmingham Irish Association staff for delivering family support and emotional support workshops.

Across the summer we were able to ensure that the families most in need were supported this summer.

# INSPIRE 2022

## CREATING A GENERATION OF COMMUNITY CHANGEMAKERS



We've been delighted to partner with UK Youth to deliver the Inspire 2022 programme to young people.

Taking inspiration from the tenth anniversary of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games, Inspire 2022 is youth-led events-based social action programme which will use national events as a springboard for young people to design positive activities for their own communities, bridging community divides and giving young people a voice in a year of national celebration.

With grant funding, young people are supported to work with their community to research, plan, organise, promote and deliver events which respond to community needs and leave a legacy of skills and knowledge for future social action.

This summer saw our first three groups of young people design and pitch their ideas to a community panel.



One of the groups with the Judging Panel.

With groups pitching ideas around female and non-binary access to sport, mental health support in schools and LGBTQ+ education groups developed social action events to address these issues.

Aimed at supporting young people aged between 11-21, the Inspire 2022 programme not only supports the development of a project, but develops public speaking skills, teamwork, project management and budgeting.

The Inspire 2022 programme is a 12 month project, with 2 more intakes of young people coming soon.

# DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD

## BRIDGING THE GAP PROJECT



**The summer saw our first intake of Duke of Edinburgh participants complete their expedition to finish their Bronze award.**

Through funding from the Duke of Edinburgh Award charity, we've been fortunate enough to take part in the Bridging the Gap programme. The programme make the DoFE award accessible for young people in communities that may not usually have access to take part.

This year we have supported 22 young people to engage in their Bronze award, at no cost to them or their families.

Throughout the year they've completed their volunteering in a range of community settings, develop a skill as well as take part in physical activities.

This all resulted in the groups undertaking their expedition over 2 days and 1 night, self navigating through Worcestershire.



Our Bronze DoFE group enjoying some food at camp.

Developing skills around leadership, teamwork, negotiation as well as more practical skills including map reading, cooking and camp craft, the expedition presented a great way to get young people out of their comfort zone.

A huge thank you must go towards both Chase Training Solutions who designed and supported the expedition for our young people.

The project has been a great addition to our wider offer and we look forward to more young people joining us on both the Bronze and Silver awards for the year going forward.

# ADDED VALUE

1

## Free School Uniforms

With family finances stretched to the max, this year we delivered our largest school uniform swap shop yet. With pre-loved and donated school uniforms checked by staff and volunteers, we were able to support 75 families with accessing free school uniforms for their children.

This gathered us some local media coverage with interviews on both BBC Midlands Today and BBC Radio WM.

3

## Emotional & Family Support

Throughout the summer we've been able to work extensively with our partners to provide both family and emotional support sessions for those that have needed it. Throughout the summer we've delivered weekly Coffee and Chat mornings with families, provided space for family support workers to meet with children or directly delivered emotional support workshops or mentoring sessions to children and young people.

Whilst direct delivery to children and young people was top of our priorities, a real important part of our work was adding value to the families we worked with.

Whether it was through funded spaces, activities to take home or further enrichment activities we worked to ensure a wrap around service.

2

## Healthy Eating at Home

With a large proportion of our work geared around healthy eating and food, we also wanted to extend this to outside of our setting. To do that we were also able to distribute home activity booklets with games, activities and recipes to try on a budget.

Over the course of the summer we were also able to distribute over 150 home activity booklets to families.

4

## Commonwealth Games 2022

With the largest sporting event in Birmingham's history taking place on our doorstep, we worked to ensure young people in the communities we work had the opportunity to engage.

Through both our Gen22 social action group, through to accessing free tickets for events for young people we were able to ensure 40 young people accessed the Games first hand at no cost to themselves.

# OUR SUMMER IN NUMBERS

80%

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE  
ATTENDING WERE IN RECEIPT  
OF FREE SCHOOL MEALS

2856

MEALS PROVIDED TO  
CHILDREN AND  
YOUNG PEOPLE

250

HOURS OF ACTIVITY  
PROVIDED

1081

HOURS VOLUNTEERED BY OUR  
YOUNG VOLUNTEERS

75 FAMILIES SUPPORTED  
WITH FREE SCHOOL  
UNIFORMS

2

REGIONAL MEDIA  
APPEARANCES

# OUR SUMMER IN PICTURES



**"I LOVED COMING  
BECAUSE I GOT TO  
TRY FOOD I'VE NEVER  
HAD BEFORE."**

**PARTICIPANT AT HAF, AGED 11**



# OUR PARTNERS



**WE THANK YOU  
FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT IN  
OUR WORK**

# GET IN TOUCH

We're always looking to strengthen our network of supporters and partners. If you want to support our work, reach out. We'd love to hear from you.

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