

CLEVEDON YMCA

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Annual Report

2019-2020

Clevedon YMCA – Chairman’s Annual Report 2019-2020



At St Martin’s in the Field, 175 Service June 2019. (L to R)
Mike Allison, Juley, Diana, Laila and Ashlee.

Overall Clevedon YMCA has had a good year. While local priorities and the welfare of the young people in our area remain our primary concern, we have also looked outwards, co-operating with YMCA (England and Wales) and with our neighbouring YMCAs, in particular, the Dulverton Group (formerly Somerset Coast) and YMCA Bath Group. We have aimed to expand and diversify the services we provide within the limits of the resources we have available, overcoming significant financial challenges and, finally, meeting the challenge posed by the unexpected Coronavirus pandemic.

Our success this year has been made possible by the staff that we are fortunate enough to have in place who, over the year, have grown to form a great team under the leadership of our Centre Manager, Juley Howard, and our full time Youth Services Co-ordinator, Ashlee Carter, who have been well supported by our team of part time youth workers and our network of

volunteers. We have also been able to employ an apprentice. I would like to thank all of them for their efforts encouraging and developing our young people this year.

During the year, we have supported the changes to the YMCA membership Agreement. This means that, in due course, we will adopt the required NCVO (National Council for Voluntary Organisations) Trusted Charity Standard (Level 1). Also, several of our staff and Trustees attended the YMCA 175th Anniversary Service of Celebration at St Martin-in-the-Fields in London and, subsequently, our young leaders group took part in the celebrations at the Excel Conference Centre alongside 3,000 delegates from around the world.

In addition, we celebrated the 90th anniversary of our hall in Marson Road, inviting many local people, supporters and donors to listen to presentations of our work and view the plans for our buildings. This was a very successful event at which we launched our buildings fund.

Our regular activities i.e. our After School Café, our Y-Wednesday Club for people with learning disabilities, and our Y-Friday Youth Club have all continued with steady, if not slightly increasing numbers. Particular thanks are due to Sam Boulton for his co-ordination of the vital and very popular activities for those with learning disabilities. Our new work providing mental health lessons for students at Clevedon School is an important development. Also, we are continuing to build good relations with other local institutions and service providers.

Concerning our finances, the loss of the tenant at our shop in Old Church Road, has been difficult and, although a further tenant for the ground floor has been found, the new tenancy is delayed due to the present Coronavirus crisis. We are considering plans to convert the first floor of the building to accommodation for young people. But, planning permission will be required from the local authority.

The unexpected Coronavirus crisis has meant that during March 2020, we have had to close down activities at our Marson Road hall, although our youth workers are using social media creatively to maintain contact with our young people. Again, the loss of income from the hall has affected our finances but we are pro-actively following the available government and other grants to sustain us through the crisis until easing of restrictions permits more normal activities to be resumed.

Of course, none of the above would be possible without the support of our volunteers, donors and funders and, on behalf of the Trustees, I would like to thank all of them for their continued very generous support.

Mike Allison, April 2020

Youth Work 2019-2020

The youth service at Clevedon YMCA has continued to support young people in Clevedon over the past year; introducing new services and groups in response to young people's needs and offering our most ambitious summer programme yet. As well as Ashlee Carter our Youth Services Co-ordinator we have been assisted by Danielle Curtis Senior Youth Worker who runs the weekly Girls' Group, Laila Rizvi, Will Alvarez, Boys' Group leader and our Apprentice Jordan Henley-Smith.

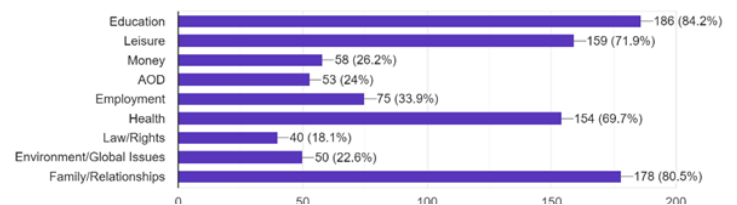


ASC & Y-Friday

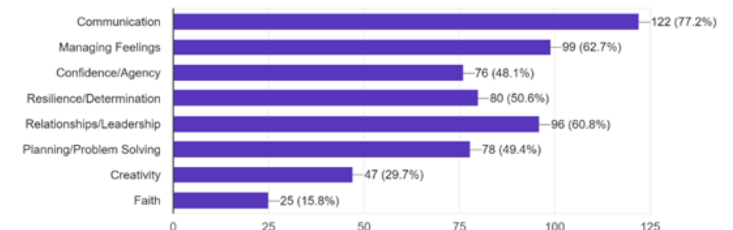
After School Café and Y-Friday have continuously run each week with a core group of young people and significant numbers of visitors. The young people have had opportunities to engage in various sports, arts and crafts, music, gaming and other activities, supported by our Youth Workers. From September last year, we began using an online recording system, allowing our staff to see clearly what young people are talking about and what skills the activities are engaging them in. By demonstrating this we were able to make funders and the team aware of what young people's priorities were, and able to reflect upon what skills were being developed over a period of time or through particular activities.

Recording of young peoples' concerns and skills developed in youth work sessions, April 2019-March 2020.

Themes of Conversation
221 responses



Framework of Outcomes
158 responses



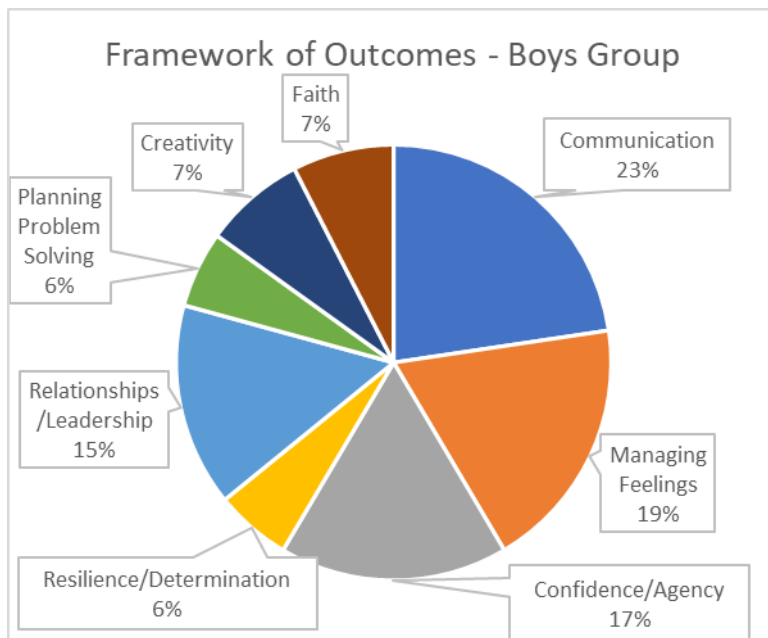
Youth Work Numbers

As our positive Mental Health work has reached all the pupils at Clevedon School and the new year's intake in September 2019 we can say that the youth work has reached 1,580 young people 2019-2020. The number of young people who have attended our youth sessions at Marson Road for the year is 103, with average attendance varying between 10 and 15 young people each evening and almost always more at our late evening session, Y Friday. We offer mentoring to young people either directly or through Clevedon School, with up to 8 young people being offered one to one sessions at one time. The Student Voice Mental Health Groups had 32 members, 212 Sixth Formers benefited from our lunch clubs and we provided lunch time activities for around 30 10-11 year olds in Junior Schools.

Boys' Group

Will Alvarez has led the Boys' Group since we received funding for these sessions in March 2019. Through 2019-20 our apprentice Jordan has increasingly taken on responsibility for planning sessions and helping Will. This has been particularly beneficial for the young people in the group, with many young people now looking up to Jordan's transformation which has inspired them to express interest in becoming youth workers.

Our boys group has generally consisted of 15-45 minutes of discussion or activity, before engaging in a sporting activity. Topics that were discussed throughout the year included communication, managing relationships, taking responsibility and self worth. Jordan facilitated sessions relating to healthy relationships. As well as this, they worked through Bible based materials looking how we can apply the bible to our lives today. This has included the story of Esau and Jacob, seeing how delaying gratification may help young people to succeed in life.



The boys regularly visited the seafront, and explored Bristol over the holidays. These activities have allowed the boys to bond together and develop a sense of community. Five of the boys were intending to travel to Scotland in April 2020, to spend three days in Edinburgh, demonstrating the skills of budgeting, travelling in a group and managing relationships in a new place. Unfortunately, this was cancelled due to COVID-19. The young people regularly share the impact YMCA has on their life, but one particular young person remarked "YMCA is like my family", showing how a young person who was initially invited to a YMCA trip has now developed a deep group bond with YMCA workers and other young people here.

Girls' Group

Running alongside the boys group each week, the girls created a space where they could explore wellbeing, healthy relationships, the connection between art and mental health, and create resources to support themselves outside of the group, such as wellbeing bags. The young people in this group have taken opportunities to also lead the group themselves, with 3 young women leading the group as part of the school-based work experience, with one continuing to run the group occasionally with the support of Danielle. The girls planned a trip to Cardiff in the summer holidays, identifying what they wanted to do as a group and how they would spend the time. For one young person, it was their first time going on a train, going to Wales, and going to the theatre!



The Girls' Group setting off on their trip to Cardiff August 2019.

'I think the Wednesdays group is useful because it helps me connect with my peers, we get to share experiences and learn from each other' – Girls Group Participant

YMCA 175

In August, five young people from the boys' (2) and girls' (3) groups were able to participate in the YMCA 175th Anniversary Celebrations in London. They participated in various activities with 3000 people associated with the YMCA around the world, and attended workshops and talks on subjects such as poverty, climate change, daily devotions and youth mental health. The 3 girls that participated shared that their experience allowed them to be mature and to appreciate the responsibility and maturity required of exploring London and interacting with the YMCA on a large scale and all of the young people were able to develop a greater friendship between them and build relationships with other young people from YMCAs around the country and across the world.



Clevedon YMCA at the International YMCA celebrations in London, August 2019.

Summer and Sofa Surfing



Decorated sofa, August 2019.

Our summer holiday project was funded this year by Quartet Foundation, Churches Together, Clevedon Lions and the Police and Crime Commissioner's Community Action Fund. We saw our outreach teams back out in the evenings, our back garden had a facelift with the support of the Mills Family and groups of young people painting our wall. We not only wanted people to have a fun summer, but also a safe summer. With extra help from Changing Lives, we were able to bring sofas to the sea-front to highlight the hidden issue of sofa surfing in North Somerset, making it very visible by inviting the public to spray paint them. Many people commented that they had not thought of this as a form of homelessness and that young people became aware of what is happening in their own community.

School

Mentoring

Youth workers mentor young people on a one-to-one basis at both the YMCA and in schools. Mentoring in schools has focussed on helping students with the transition between primary and secondary school whilst mentoring at the YMCA has focused upon individuals' mental health and wellbeing.

Mental Health Groups

We were pleased to receive a grant through the Quartet Foundation's Young People Emerging Needs Fund to work together with Clevedon School to run Mental Health Groups throughout the year. This was based on our previous work running workshops during Mental Health Awareness Week and the need to gain the young people's voice in the school. Each year level's group discussed themes such as stress, supporting others, loneliness, health relationships and habits. The young people decided the themes that they wanted to be discussed with each year group, with the aim to run a 40 minute lesson during May 2020. The groups used these discussions to develop a card game called 'Christmas Conversations', to encourage different and focused conversation topics over the Christmas period. These were used in groups at the YMCA, Clevedon School and across some church youth groups in the lead up to Christmas.



Would you offer someone a place to stay at Christmas if they were in need?



Card game developed by young people at Clevedon School.

Outreach

We continued our outreach three lunchtimes a week, amongst the Soul Café (Christian Union), sixth form and general lunchtimes. Over the year we have seen groups change and develop, getting to know different core groups from these settings. In the Sixth Form, this outreach has continued into supporting them to tend their allotment and developing a form of forest school with the young people.

Other Events

Throughout the year our young people have participated in several one-off events. Working together with the Baptist Church and Christchurch, we hosted a Halloween alternative 'Light Night' which saw a football cage erected in the town square and young people engaging in conversations about Jesus as the light in the darkness. We saw young people and youth workers engage in fundraisers for Clevedon Food Bank, hosting cake and quiz nights at Y-Wednesday.

A group of young people attended our 90th anniversary, a great celebration of everything that has gone and will come before us. So many young people have volunteered their time with us whether through a school or college placement, or out of their own desire, and it is great to see so many young people give back to the YMCA.

Looking Forward

After our busiest Y-Friday session all year, within days we had to close all youth sessions at Marson Road. We are currently amidst the COVID-19 crisis and the effects that this is having on our community. We have risen to the challenge, adapting our youth work to engage young people online through social media, gaming, and other forms of contact. When we return to a new 'normal', we hope to carry a form of this on and adapt our services appropriately to continue responding to the ever-changing needs of young people in Clevedon.

Y Wednesday

Y Wednesday carried on until the coronavirus outbreak with the full range of activities run by Sam and supported by our volunteers Ken, Trevor, Ann, Liz, Sarah, George, Scotty, Diana, Jordan and Elaine. The aim of the weekly club is to provide a supported and safe space where members can take part in activities and socialize with their friends. We have a range of activities on offer each week including board games, pool and the chance to have a chat in a corner as well as larger group sessions in the hall such as keep fit, line dancing, art and craft and discos.



Y Wednesday Barbecue June 2019

People with learning difficulties can get very isolated, many activities are not accessible. Although the front entrance to Clevedon YMCA is not accessible (yet) we do have a wheelchair accessible entrance, adapted toilet and a ramp to the coffee lounge.



Games Night at Y Wednesday, March 2020

With the change in the way that we can do things we have decided to do some online content live on the YMCA Clevedon Facebook page for the Y Wednesday Club. We started a live quiz after Easter and had over 100 views and many of the regular Y Wednesday attendees taking part in the quiz. We had different quiz rounds including general knowledge, disney, music and identifying different flags, logos and pictures. We are also hosting a live line dancing class, sports and arts and crafts in the next few weeks all through the Facebook page.

90th Anniversary Event

In 1929 our forebearers raised the money and laid the foundation stones of the YMCA building on Marson Road. Previously the YMCA had moved from 1, Kenn Road, occupying four sites across Clevedon and settling at 17, Old Church Road before the trustees took the steps to move into our current accommodation. In November 2019 to celebrate all that the YMCA has been in Clevedon during those 90 years and to launch our buildings fund we held an event attended by over a hundred people. We were pleased that the Police and Crime Commissioner Sue Mountstevens and that the Venerable Adrian Youngs, Arch Deacon of Bath were able to join us.



Many thanks to all those who helped on the night, and to Clevedon Town Council for their grant to help celebrate this historic anniversary. The cake was delicious and the company was great.



Grants and Donations 2019-2020

Clevedon YMCA would like to thank everyone who has helped us financially over the past year. A small but growing number of individuals make a regular donation to the YMCA, either monthly or quarterly. With the fundraising drive launched at our 90th Anniversary event in November we have received an unprecedented number of generous individual donations and will be able to reclaim over £3,000 in gift aid in 2020-2021 as a result.

Clevedon Lions—support for summer youth work—£1,000	Clevedon Town Council—regular grant for youth work and special grant towards 90th Anniversary event—£11,500
South West YMCA Trust—support for apprentice’s training—£1,500	Dulverton Group YMCA—donation towards capacity building—£10,000
St Andrew’s Church — annual and art event donations—£951.45	The Quartet Foundation Express Fund—summer activities, health and safety equipment and positive mental health work
Clevedon Family Church—Christmas collection—£1,315.21	Portishead Nautical Trust - boys’ group -£2,800
Clevedon BID—support for Y Friday Youth Club -£450	Police and Crime Commissioner’s Community Action Fund—summer activities—£2,900
Clevedon Religious Society of Friends collection—£196.25	Movement Trust Fund—entrance and travel to YMCA 175—£3,670
Groundwork UK—funds to help unemployed young people—£912.50	Churches Together in Clevedon—support for events throughout the year—£561.81
Weston College—equipment grant -£750	North Somerset Community Partnership—support for boys’ group—£1,500

Grants from the Tampon Tax Fund and North Somerset Community Fund received in 2018-2019 also continued to fund the boys’ and girls’ groups into 2019-2020.

Clevedon YMCA Summary of Accounts for 2019-2020**

INCOME

1. Voluntary Income	71,121.77
2. Trading Activities	4,645.07
3. Assets	7,911.21
4. Hall Hire Fees	
- One off hirers	1,361.00
- Regular Hirers	9,131.72
5. Staff	3,545.56
6. Other Income	588.75
<u>TOTAL INCOME</u>	<u>£98,834.99</u>

EXPENSES

21. Direct Charitable Expenditure	14,952.90
22. Other Expenditure	5,084.04
23. Staff	75,108.27
24. Programme	11,565.46
25. Funded Projects (Restricted)	542.10

TOTAL EXPENDITURE **£107,252.77**

Deficit £8,947.69

Account Balances 31st March 2020

Bank Accounts	59,305.11
Total Cash Account	130.04

Overall Total £59,435.15

** Clevedon YMCA has a reserves policy of holding six months’ running costs.