



## IMPACT Report 2022

Impact is a youth project that engages with groups of young people on the streets and the play areas in Carlton Colville. The aim of the project is to give information, advice and guidance to young people aged between 13 and 24. The things we can advise on include (but are not limited to) education and training providers, drug and alcohol misuse, homelessness, sexual health and staying safe. We can also provide C cards, issue condoms and chlamydia kits, and we can refer young people to more specialised agencies if needs be.

From April 2021 this year, it started off with another lockdown, and we haven't been able to go out as much as we would have normally liked because of the weather, but Impact continue to visit the local parks and open areas in Carlton Colville.

I would like to take this opportunity just to let those who are not aware, know that Impact only charge for the sessions we actually do, therefore if the weather stops us going out, we do not class this as a session. However if we physically go out and maybe do not see any young people, unfortunately we do have to class that as a session.

Whilst we are visiting the young people, we have discussions about different things, whilst some of the young people who don't know us are guarded, other young people who have seen us over the years are more open. It appears also that the drinks and snacks we offer periodically really help to get the conversation going.

This year in the report, I have tried to reflect on the good work that Impact does, I know that we have definitely helped a young lad who was not in education to restart his education, and he has just signed up for a mechanics course. All the conversations we have with the groups of young people as we walk around the parks, those difficult conversations around drugs and alcohol, sex and sexual health, I feel they absorb more information from us, as we are not their parents or friends we are just giving them the relevant facts, I believe they trust us to give them the right information, in the right context. We deliver it in a way that they don't feel that we are preaching at them, it's very relaxed atmosphere and we are on their turf, they are full of bravado, they laugh and joke with us, but I feel they still take it all in.

When I first started doing detached youth work someone said to me that you "can't quantify what you do, you can't measure the impact you have on a young person" However, it may be years down the line something you said or did might resonate with a young person, it might be enough to change their lives and although you will never know, does it matter as long as the outcome is positive?

We are still continuing with our efforts to get young people on board with the Carlton Colville Youth Council, unfortunately we haven't found any young people who are interested at the moment,

Kind regards

The Impact Team

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