

Providing opportunities for 7-25 year-olds in Persnore

Together we can show Persnore's young people that they matter and give them skills & hope for the future

- Youth work activities & fun in a safe, supportive environment.
- Changing lives through personal development, life skills & food!
- Centre costs £70k/year: funded by Council contracts, events, lettings, grants, donations from local groups, individuals & company sponsors.
- In the Pandemic, support for vulnerable young people was declared an essential service & Youth Leaders classed as key workers. Staff provided crucial on-site face-to-face support for 15 young people & 4 SEND families in crisis, as well as providing online options for young people in lockdown. On-site, the decking & marquee were invaluable.
- Now, 120 young people use the Centre each week for our 3 youth clubs, career advice, counselling and 1:1 drop-in support. 15 SEND young people enjoy Sunday Club, new mums socialise at Baby Club, young carers & parent/carers enjoy freedom from responsibilities.
- 50 young people aged 9-13, from 34 families, enjoyed the Summer Activity Programme = 357 attendances over 14 days. 62% funded by the Marcus Rashford Foundation to ensure all local children have the chance to learn, be active, eat well and thrive.
- A multi-generational community resource: 17 independent clubs regularly hire rooms for attendees aged 0-90!
- Venue hire makes a significant contribution to our budget, as well as to the wider community's support for our work.

The Centre's facilities provide an opportunity to help teenagers feel competent, motivated & of value. Involvement in recent redecoration has helped and seeing other groups from Persnore using 'their' space is positive. If teenagers feel more accepted, this raises their self-esteem, helps them to feel more engaged with the town, and bodes well for future studies & employment.

Key issues for young people in Pershore

- 1. Covid-19 has increased teenage mental health issues & school disruption has decreased motivation.** Other vulnerable local people needing support are young parents, SEND families & older people living alone. A very tough time for low-income & vulnerable families.
- 2. In Pershore & surrounding schools 400 children receive free school meals,** an predictor of lower academic achievement & earning potential (20% lower than wealthier families). A high proportion of our youth group members are in this category.
- 3. Based on free schools as an indicator of deprivation, Wychavon is a “Social Mobility Cold Spot”** ranked 321 of 324 local authorities in England: “Areas that provides little opportunity for disadvantaged young people to acquire the education & skills they need to achieve good outcomes as an adult, and even if they are able to overcome this, a weak labour market and/or high housing costs make it difficult to secure good outcomes in adult life.” (2020 Social Mobility Index).

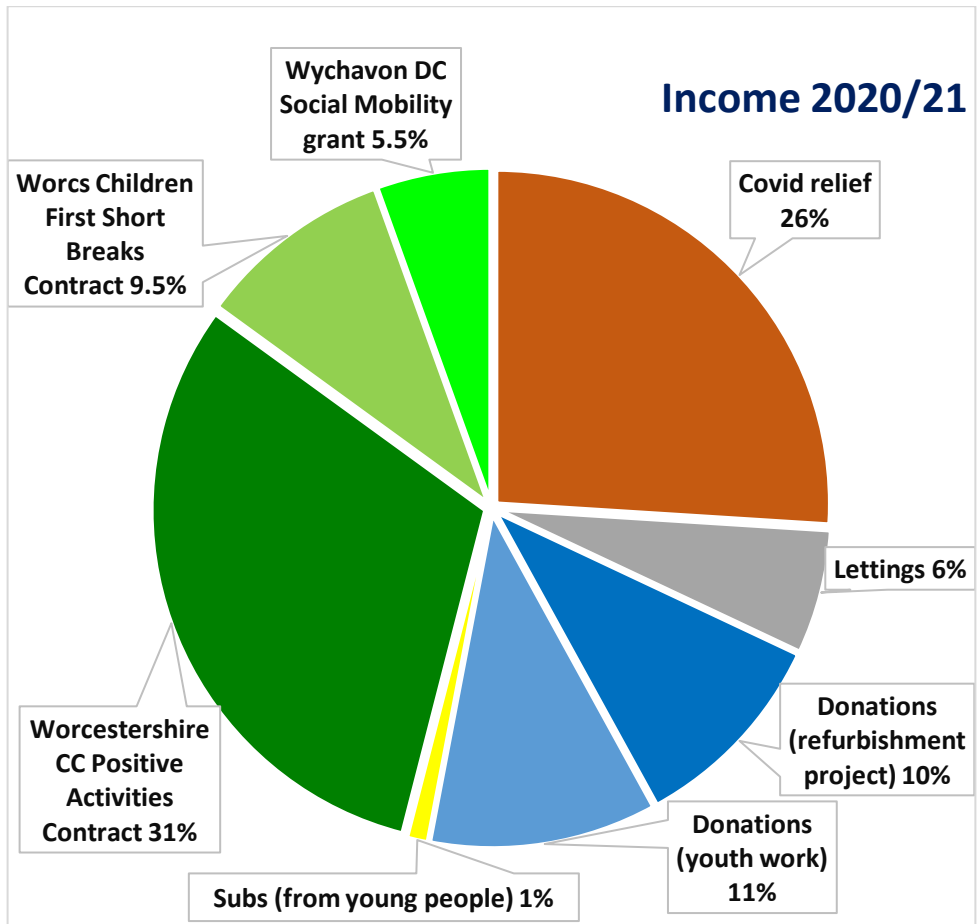
Well-funded youth work improves social mobility

“Youth workers provide essential support to the most vulnerable young people, working alongside schools and statutory services to meet the needs of young people.” National Youth Agency.

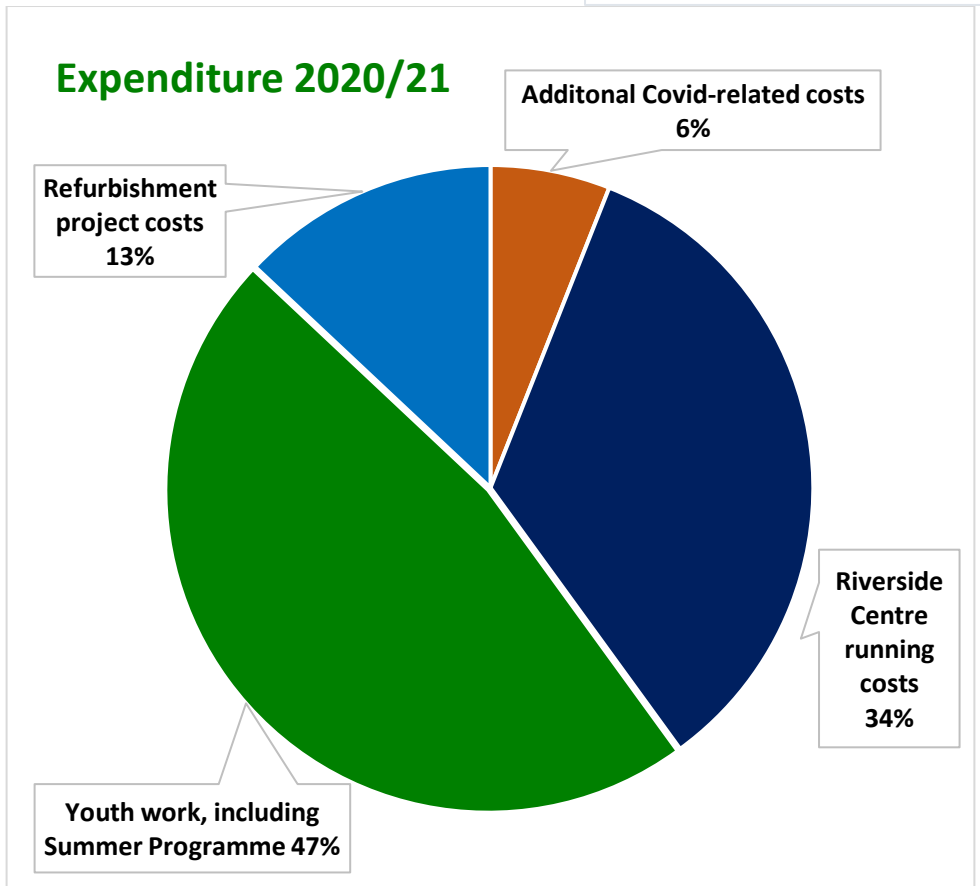
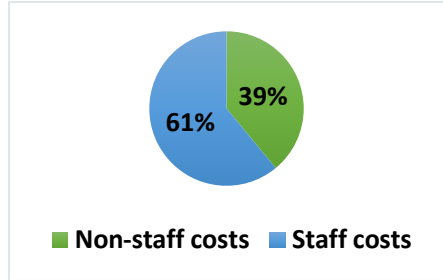
2020 Social Mobility Index: “Youth workers encourage disadvantaged white British young people to believe they can achieve things, take advantage of opportunities, widen their horizons, and get the qualifications they need to succeed in life. Putting in more effort can increase their chance of gaining qualifications and converting them into a job and a decent standard of living.” For greater life choices, young people need motivation, self-belief, academic support, personal development opportunities and positive role models. This needs to start pre-teenage years to be significant and long lasting. The Summer Activity Programme and Monday Club are particularly significant interventions.

We change lives for £10/youth worker intervention

The quality of youth work at Pershore Riverside Centre has been recognised by Worcestershire Children First, Worcestershire Families First, teenage mental health service CAMHS, other West Midlands youth centres, local authorities, & many community groups. **Attendance at youth clubs & other activities amount to Attendance at youth clubs & other activities amount to well over 7,000 opportunities for people to benefit from youth worker support.**



“Youth Centres provide accessible hubs for young people to seek help and build resilience”



Youth sessions are fun: Very positive feedback!

“My daughter really does love going to **Monday Club**. Thank you so much for the time and effort that you and your team put in – it is very much appreciated!”

Katharine Simmonds

“**Sunday Club** is FABULOUS - **the opportunity for the children is priceless**. The Club’s consistency, routine and familiarity mean such a lot for families of children with additional needs. Its success comes from Terri and her dedicated team who understand the children who, with support build up bonds and friendships. Sam goes every week and absolutely loves it and so do many of his friends. The team members also build up trust, rapport and confidence with parents and other family members, which means **we feel able to leave our child in safe hands and benefit from a regular, much-needed short break.**” *Karen Wright*

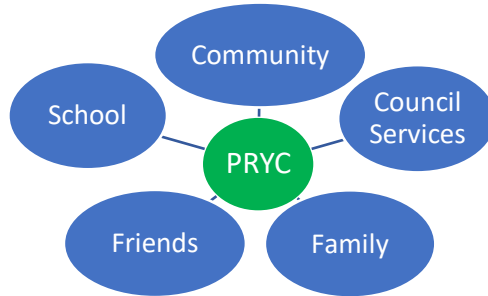
“I struggle at home and need to get out. Here I can play pool, which makes me feel good and is some normality. **Being here at Youth Club gives my Mum some space too, and I cope better when I get back home.**” *Youth Club attendee, age 17*. “I come here for help to work out what to do next. **Today Ryan helped me apply for an Apprenticeship. Last week I applied for college.** I couldn’t have done this without the youth workers.” *NEET, age 16*.

Summer Activities Programme feedback from parents:

“My 11-year-old son had a fantastic time. He thoroughly enjoyed the wide range of activities including sports, art, T-shirt making, cooking and, of course, the water activities. The staff were amazing, professional but also very caring and welcoming”. **“Just to say a massive thank you to you all for giving my daughter some super memories over the summer! She really has loved every session so thank you, Hannah”**. “Thank you so much, my son loved it & now can’t wait until Monday Club starts in September!” *Emma Haines*.

From 2020: “I’m a local keyworker this Summer it was very difficult to find childcare due to Covid 19. It was wonderful that you managed to pack in so many great activities, whilst keeping the children safe and healthy within all the guidelines. We’re lucky to have such a great facility on our doorstep in Persnore. I look forward to supporting the club in the future.” *Edie Anderson*.

With local support, young people have a great future



Through 2020/21, individuals and organisations in Persnore significantly helped local young people in need, through donations, grants and increased understanding of the impact of the Pandemic on their lives. **Thanks to you, we've been able to offer new services for young people to meet emerging issues, and refurbish the Centre, which brightened everyone's mood, and reduced running costs!** The highlight is the new room funded by the Persnore Community for the whole Persnore Community. We really appreciate this support, Thank you.

However, we are aware that the need for our service is increasing as the local population grows, services and opportunities reduce, and the poverty gap widens - with increasing youth worker time required to meet this need. The future of statutory funding is less certain and the emphasis of national funding bodies has shifted away from our client group, which reduces our options.



Artwork in the Hall, chosen & created by young people in 2021 Summer Programme to represent the Youth Centre community within the wider community.