

SSYI Work Update – Sawston Parish Council 11/10/22

There has been a lot going on at SSYI since we last updated you earlier in the year, we ran our highly successful Sawston Summer Sessions on Thursday evenings on Mill Lane over the summer term and summer holidays. We took 15 young people away on a 4-day residential to Skreens Park in Chelmsford and over 3 quarters of them were from Sawston, this trip was highly subsidised through the generosity of the local community. Charlie is back from maternity leave, but we have been able to keep Tilly who was covering her on for the foreseeable future, which is fantastic news, so we now have a team of 5 youth workers. Our work continues to grow particularly in Sawston, both in terms of young people and work within the village college. We are continuing to partner very closely with Romsey Mill to deliver our work to a professional standard.

Over 180 young people have been involved in our work since April and over 64% of them live in Sawston. We ran assemblies with years 7-9 last week to continue to raise awareness of our work and to ensure that local young people know how to access support from us.

This new term has seen us refocus our work slightly, increasing our detached work in the community and village college and providing more 1:1 support. Particularly focusing on those facing the most significant challenge in their lives, encouraging those who might be behaving anti-socially in the villages to refocus their energy and find their passions. We are now running 9 weekly youth clubs, 3 of which are held in Sawston and of course all of them are open to Sawston residents. We are running weekly 1:1s in the village college with 7 pupils, all of whom are Sawston residents. Some of these are funded by the school. We are meeting 3 young people for 1:1s in the community weekly, plus regular one-off sessions with young people in need. And we are now running 3 community detached sessions a week, 2 of which are in Sawston and 2-3 sessions in the village college a week.

We are so grateful for the support of Sawston Parish Council, allowing us to work in the village, hiring out buildings and sports facilities to us and supporting us financially. As the work continues to grow so does the cost and John Greaves our treasurer has been doing a great job of fundraising and applying for grants to enable us to keep supporting local young people.

He has put together a document showing a rough outline of the budget for this year broken down into our different projects and areas. Including a breakdown of our financial request to the parish council this year highlighted in yellow. We expect our work to cost over £100k this year, reflecting our continued growth. We are asking for a contribution towards our core activities, including staff salaries, training and insurance costs. Our sporting activities which are mostly Sawston based and of course towards our Sawston specific work, including detached work, targeted groups, 1:1s and open access sessions. You will be able to see from this document some of our other funding sources as well.

As mentioned earlier SSYI are so grateful for all the support of the Parish Council and its members, and any contribution to our work will be massively appreciated. We know that we are making positive changes in the lives of many local young people, and your continued support makes this possible.