

## Notes on SSYI for Sawston APM – May 2024

Introductory VIDEO – 1 minute SSYI

### Summary:

SSYI works with over 300 young people between 10 and 18 yrs old, including 120+ Sawston residents. We provide a safe space and constructive activities to build social skills and confidence. This prepares the young people for positive roles in the community and at work, and helps to reduce Anti Social Behaviours

We hold 11 regular weekly sessions (open + targeted eg sports, skating, transition to college, mental health, girls, cooking ...) + trips, residentials, 1:1's, and detached work. Much of our work is based at our dedicated Youth Centre in Great Shelford, as well as at the Mill Lane Pavilion and recreation ground and the Lynton Way recreation ground. We also have a regular weekly session in the Duxford Community Centre.

In 2023 we bought a minibus, trailer, and football cage to broaden what we can offer. We have 4 professional youth workers (2 live in Sawston) + 10 volunteers + young leaders

3 of our weekly sessions are in **Sawston**. along with 10 1:1 individual mentoring links referred from the Village College, lunchtime availability in the playground and detached work once or twice per week around the village. The main, and sadly increasing, **challenges** we face amongst the young people currently are those of mental health (post-COVID); growing drink and drugs issues; isolation; abuse (online & domestic); deprivation. The balance of our provision has shifted from large open access sessions to more targeted work, and the use of more venues and methods – including on-line – to meet where youngsters are at.

### Our Impact – quotes:

**Young Person 1** - *SSYI keeps me out of trouble, I have a big mouth and if someone is getting lairy with me I'll knock them out, but SSYI gives me somewhere to hang out with friends & chill for the evening. it's really cool.*

**Young Person 2** - *SSYI has helps me stay calm as I have a lot going on at home and school and struggle to make friends who don't cause trouble and who will listen to me. I can come to SSYI and vent to staff about how bad my week has been, and they listen, offer advice, and help distract me from being sad or upset. I also understand things better as staff can explain things in a way that I can understand as I don't always understand why people act or behave in a certain way.*

**Parent** - *Both of my children regularly attend youth club and always come back smiling. They feel comfortable with the team and I know they are letting off steam with their friends in a safe place. I always recommend this club to other parents!*

### Our plans for 2024

Note: Additional funding is needed to deliver 2024 plans. We really appreciate the generous support of councils, churches, other community groups and individuals, but the overall level of income is significantly less than that needed for current levels of SSYI provision for the young people)

We would love to continue all our current activities. We are looking to .....

- Encourage more volunteers to join us to help deliver the work and at events
- Encourage other groups to use our minibus (and football cage)
- Increase partnerships with local businesses and other providers eg Duxford; village facilities; specialist providers (martial arts, dancing, sexual health...)
- Take on specifically contracted activities such as with the Ukrainian community and other villages in the area

Together this will enable us to reach the many young people in this area who really need support.

Find out more about SSYI and our work, including sessions in Sawston, via our website:

<https://www.ssyi.club/>

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