



YMCA NORFOLK

Project Title:

**Mattishall Junior Club**

Stage of Report:

**End of Year Report 22-23**



**Funded by: Mattishall Parish Council**

**Date: 19/4/2023**

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**Summary of what has been achieved to date**

YMCA Norfolk offer youth clubs across Norfolk to ensure that young people have access to a safe environment where they can learn new skills, build on their communication and to ultimately have fun whilst interacting with others. Over this past year at Mattishall Junior Club, we believe that young people have been able to access this whilst having a voice on what they would like to get involved with and what they would like to see at their youth club in the future.

We were excited by having a Junior Club at Mattishall, as we heard from parents and carers the need for something for the younger age group and also could see the benefit of having a space for young people to start with and then have a further youth club they could go onto once they had hit the age limit.

Initially the pilot period of the youth club allowed both Mattishall Parish Council and YMCA Norfolk to understand whether this would be a success in the area and also what direction the club would take. Through the trial period we had a mixture of attendance with the highest being 19 and the lowest of 5. This was also through the summer period which can also bring the challenges of summer holidays and plans with families/friends.

In this trial period we were able to further relationships with parents/carers and also the young people that were attending, getting to know one another whilst also understanding the types of activities that the young people were interested in. To ensure that youth clubs run successfully, YMCA Norfolk strives to hear the young persons voice and to feed this through the activities available.

After the trial period, the youth club started to run from November 2022, with figures of attendance staying at an average of 11 young people. This shows that the Junior Group is running to the right capacity of staff to the need of the community and continues to provide a safe environment for those in attendance. By also having the Junior Group in the same space as the Senior Group there is a positive move on between the groups and allows families with children across the age group, the opportunity to drop off and pick up with little to no hassle.

As a team, we identify key dates and events that can then shape activities that are available to the young people to participate in. Activities that have been available have been themed around Firework Night, Road Safety and Christmas based activities to name a few.

By offering themed activities along with the usual activities such as arts and crafts, board games, physical activity, we can see an increase in team cohesion and communication across the group.

## Highlights of Project Delivery and Next Steps

We are very happy that we are able to offer this provision to young people in Mattishall and at a time that is suitable for the younger age group whilst also not impacting the Senior delivery.

We have been able to see the improvement in social skills among the group and also the desire and respect for those in the youth club along with the resources available.

Going forward, we would like to involve the young people more in shaping the activities that are available to them. We will do this through a consultation process, in which the young people get to vote for activities that they wish to get involved with along with choosing what is available to them at 'tuck'. We will also extend this to the parents/carers of those who attend the group to understand from their view, as to whether they have seen a positive impact of their young person attending the youth club and any feedback that they may going forward. This is really important to us at YMCA Norfolk as we hope this positive relationship can create further opportunities such as volunteering at the youth club.

We want the youth club to also be inviting, so we will be asking the young people to make a 'sign' for youth club. This will then be used to show the group is running and will work on this with the Senior Group also to show the merge between the clubs.

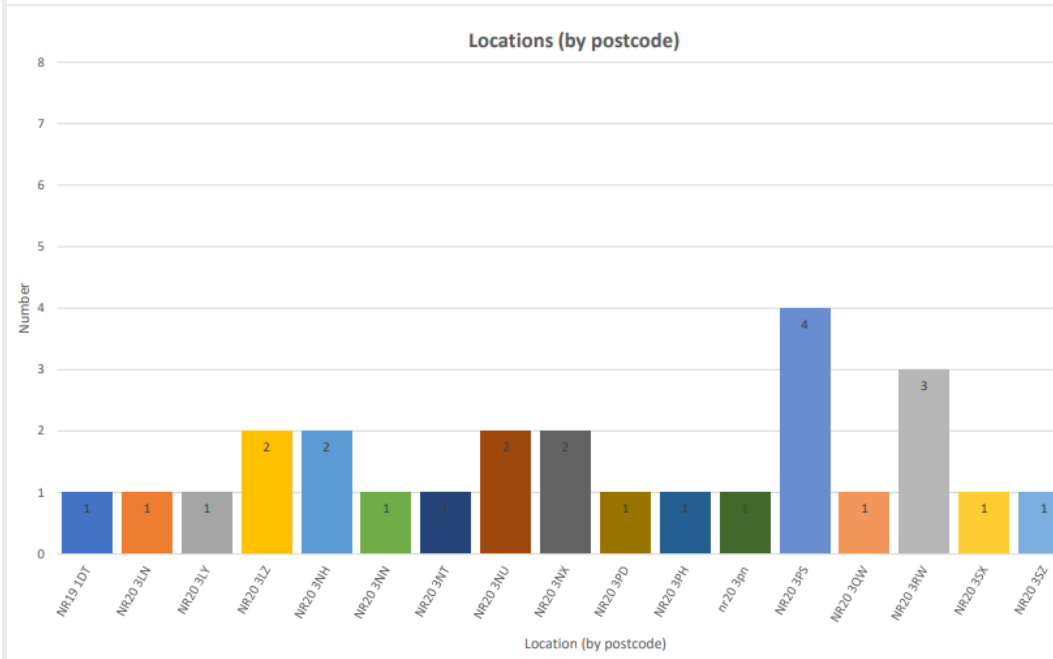
As with the Senior group we would also like to incorporate learning but in a fun manner and will start to work with the young people on managing their own tuck shop, ensuring the change is given correctly and when we may need to reorder items. This further cementing the thought of pride in their youth club.

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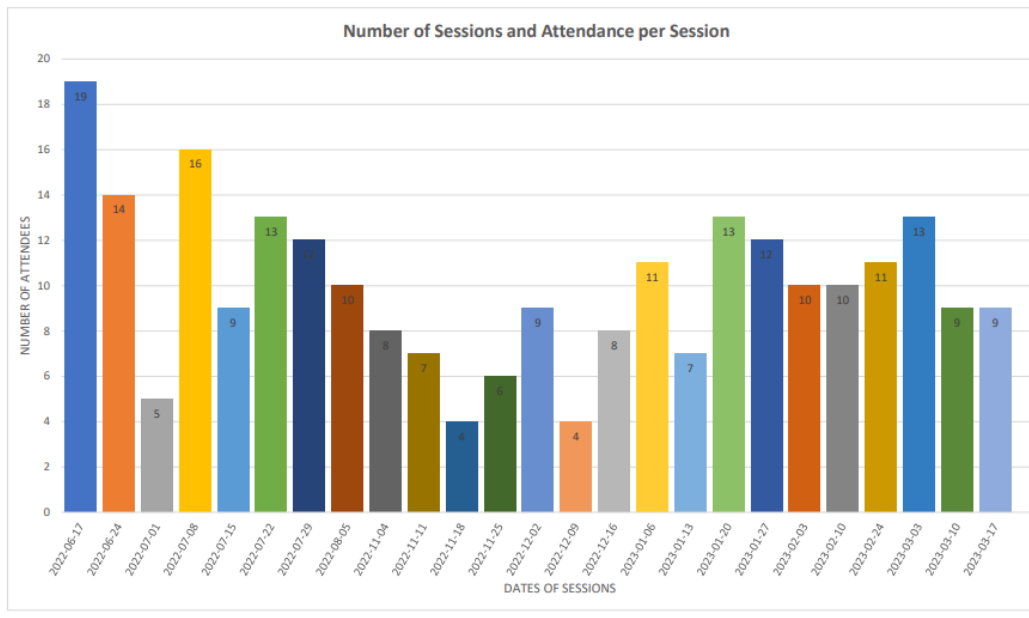
## Additional Information

Pictures/Diagrams of details relating to delivery

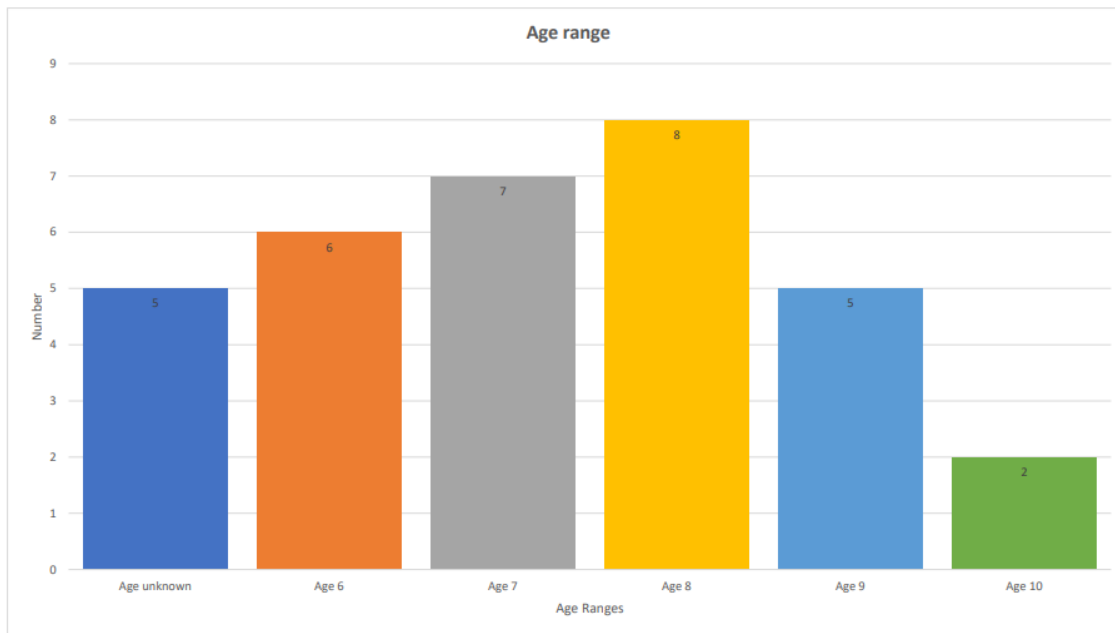
# Postcodes of attendees



# Session Attendance



# Age of attendees



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### Further comments/feedback for funder

Use the space below to add any further comments/feedback for the funder that highlights the success of the project.

Mattishall Junior Club was originally a pilot after many parents expressing the need for a setting for their younger family members. Listening to the local community has been the positive driving force of this youth club and has also allowed for a smooth transition from one group to another.

We have seen the strength of Mattishall Junior Club and have seen the potential for transition from Junior to Senior group as young people increase in age.

We hope that going forward we can reduce the divide between the clubs and create a Mentoring system in the Senior group, where they have the opportunity to attend training and volunteer at the Junior Club.

Thank you so much for supporting YMCA Norfolk and our mission of transforming young lives. Your contribution is hugely appreciated by our young people, staff and trustees.

**Kind Regards,**

Name: Charlie Smith

Job title: Community Partnership Manager

**On behalf of YMCA Norfolk**