

All about....

North Mymms Youth Project

Information for Parents and Carers

What is your mission statement?

To promote the personal and social development of local young people, in a safe environment, and to help equip them to make a positive contribution to their communities. We will do this by providing an enjoyable social and educational setting where young people will be encouraged to develop their skills, take responsibility, meet new challenges and contribute to the welfare of the group and wider community.

Who runs it?

The North Mymms Youth Project Management Committee have the final say on how the Project is run and approve policies, activities etc. The current committee consists of:

Chair - Gary Kettel

Secretary - Sarah Selby

Treasurer - Ruth Cook

Safeguarding and Health & Safety - Hilary Carlen

Committee Members - Lee Waller, Rob Deblow

The project's activities are run by James Bentall. James is a teacher at a school for children with specific learning difficulties. He is supported by an enthusiastic team of assistant leaders, parental volunteers and junior leaders. All leaders and assistants are vetted for suitability (including taking up references and DBS (CRB) checking).

All of the adults involved in the Project are unpaid volunteers.

A committee of young people meets to talk about forthcoming events, new equipment etc.

Weekly Meetings

Our Friday meetings are usually held at Brookmans Park School or North Mymms Youth and Community Centre, further information for which can be found in our weekly programme. We offer three sessions a week:

- Club for young people in Years 5 and 6 meets from 6:00-7:30pm.
- Club for young people in Year 7 and 8 meets from 7:45-9:15pm.
- Club for young people in Year 9 and above has a separate programme meeting at different venue.

On occasions, special trips and activities will be run which may mean these times and venues change. Please see a copy of the current programme for further information.

Friday meetings are either **structured** (where we offer one activity) or **unstructured meeting** (where young people can choose from a number of regular activities e.g. table tennis, football, art and craft, snooker, air hockey, karaoke, tuck shop, table football, and badminton. We also have a unique activity each week for the members to do which may include hired in inflatables or visitors.)



LOTTERY FUNDED

Supported by...



Brookmans Park and Welham Green Ward community chests



Sylvia Adams Charitable Trust



HCC Locality Budget Scheme



We are affiliated to Pro-Action Hertfordshire, an independent charity operating as an infrastructure and support organisation to organisations working with young people within Hertfordshire.

Other activities

As well as the weekly meetings, there is a range of mainly adventurous activities taking place at weekends or holiday times. Some of these activities are organised by us, others are organised by other local organisations who we pass information on from. Details of all the activities available, including venues, costs, dates etc are available in our current activity programme.

Who can be a member?

The Youth Project is open to young people in school years 5 and above. Anyone can join as long as they agree to follow the club rules and their parent/carer is willing to help. We will work to ensure that no members or potential members are disadvantaged as a result of any special needs that they may have.

How much does it cost?

We offer two different payment options:

(i) Casual Membership

Young People pay a £5 a year admin fee and receive details of all of our weekend and holiday activities which they are welcome to attend.

(ii) Full Membership

Young People pay a fixed fee for the term which covers their attendance at all Friday meetings during the term (Occasionally there may be special activities available during meetings which will require an additional payment - details will be publicised in advance). The amount we charge depends on the length of the term, however typically is around £45

Hardship Fund

It is a policy of the Youth Project that no young person should miss out on attending due to financial difficulties. Please feel free to discuss this with us in confidence using the details overleaf.

Siblings

We offer a discount if you have two or more people from the same family attending. Please contact us for further details.

Fundraising

We offer opportunities throughout the year for the young people to raise their own money to offset the costs of activities etc that they may wish to participate in.

Safety

It is the policy of the Youth Project to safeguard its members from physical, sexual and emotional harm. We have an agreed safeguarding policy, which parents are welcome to see on request. All our activities are carefully planned. A suitable numbers of adults, including a trained first aider, are always available. Leaders are carefully vetted and trained. Members, leaders and parents are all encouraged to report any concerns, and we undertake to take all such concerns seriously.

Bullying

Bullying in any format is unacceptable and will not be tolerated by the Project. If you or your child have any concerns, please contact a Project Leader or our child protection officer in confidence.

How can you help?

All parents are asked to help out at the Project once a term. This maybe to help set up or clear away or help during the meeting e.g. running the tuck shop. Alternatively, you may wish to help us with some of the administration.

If you would like to help more regularly at the Project, have ideas of activities/projects you could run, or are happy to help us with the behind the scenes administration we would love to hear from you - please get in touch using the details below. Please note that anyone helping more than once a month at the Project and/or who has unsupervised access to young people will be asked to comply with our recruitment policy which includes taking up of references and DBS (CRB) checking.

As a voluntary organisation, we rely on fundraising for our income. This money is used for our weekly rent to the school, overheads like insurance, the purchase of new equipment, and for most of the other activities provided. Your support for our main fundraising events would be very much appreciated - we will write to you before each one to let you know what help we require!

The Management Committee coordinates the fund raising and 'behind the scenes' work of the Project. If you would like to join these volunteers, please contact Gary using the details below. The chairman, secretary and treasurer of the Management Committee are elected every year at our AGM.

Your Cooperation

Please understand that the Project is only responsible for young people attending the Project or other activities from the time they are "signed in" by an adult helper, until the point when the young person leaves. You should advise the leaders if you do not wish your child to leave unaccompanied; in this case you or another person known to the young person must arrive promptly to collect them. Parents of younger members should expect to deliver their child to the Project, stay with them until they have been "signed in", and collect them promptly afterwards.

Whatever the age of your child, please note that young people should not arrive before the agreed start time: they will not be allowed into the venue until the start of the relevant section of the Project, and it is unhelpful for young people to be congregating outside before this.

If a young person is cycling to or from an event or meeting, we encourage them to wear a cycle helmet. If a young person arrives by bike to a meeting which will finish after sunset, and does not have appropriate lights, we will contact their parents and ask for the young person to be collected.

We are keen to maintain good relationships with the residents who live near our venues. Unless your child has a disability which impairs their mobility, please do not park in the area immediately around the venue. If we are meeting at Brookmans Park School, please park in the village centre and encourage your child to walk to the venue.

Keeping Parents informed

We keep parents informed of events by sending letters home with the young people. We also run a weekly email and text message service letting parents know of upcoming events, and run a members section on our website, as well as a facebook page and instagram feed.

Programme

At the start of each term, we will send you a copy of the current weekly programme and the activity programme. Most activities are available first come first served so don't miss out!

Friends

Bringing friends along to a meeting or activity is allowed, **but only with the prior permission of a leader.** We will also need a copy of their contact details. A form for this purpose is available from us on request, or can be downloaded from the website at <http://www.nmyouth.org.uk/friend.pdf>

Leaving

If you decide you no longer wish to attend the Project, we would be grateful if you could contact us using the details below to let us know. In the event we have a waiting list of people wanting to join, failure to attend any meetings or activities for over half a term (unless there are extenuating circumstances e.g. illness) will result in your place being offered to someone else.

Community Service

We ask all of the young people who attend our meetings or activities to take part in at least one piece of local community service a year, to help other people in the local area who may be less fortunate than themselves or to help improve the local environment. We publicise these activities through our programme. Failure to complete one piece of community service a year may result in you being restricted about what activities you are able to do, or being asked to leave the Project.



Our Contact Details

Club Leadership

James Bentall (01707) 444420
james@nmyouth.org.uk

Child Protection Officer

Hilary Carlen 07572 864910
hilary@nmyouth.org.uk

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Management Committee Chair

Gary Kettel (01707) 444420
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Treasurer

Ruth Cook treasurer@nmyouth.org.uk

Secretary

Sarah Selby secretary@nmyouth.org.uk