



Abingdon DAMASCUS Youth Project

Report of work to Steventon Parish Council for the period May 2017 – May 2018

In Steventon, we have engaged and supported over 45 young people in the community and through our work within their secondary schools. We engage and support young people using a number of different ‘tools of the trade’ to ensure each young person gets the support that is suitable to their needs.

Street Work and Gazebo Sessions

We bring our gazebo to Steventon with chairs, sports equipment and hot drinks to meet young people either off the school buses or in places they hang out such as the Green and the Park. Having a visible presence, on the streets, in the village is important because it gives people more access to advice, information and support. We often have parents or residents, intrigued by the gazebo, come over and start talking to us, which helps us, builds relationships within the community and it’s also a great way to meet people that are new to the village.



One to One Support

Through our street work, if we assess that young people are vulnerable or have specific needs which puts them at a high risk, we will offer focused, goal-based one-to-one sessions for them – whether they need to off load about their struggles or need help finding employment, or training, we support them through difficult times and help them achieve their goals.

“I didn’t want to go to college. I was sick of not having any money and I just wanted to work. After chatting with the youth workers about my options, I decided college was a better long term option but I would also look for a part time job.”

Issue Based Workshops

We have delivered issue-based workshops in Steventon based on the needs that we identified. For example, after talking with some young women and parents in the village, we delivered a workshop focused on Healthy Relationships and Sexual

Consent to ensure young people had all the information they needed to make safe, less risky life choices.

School – Community Link

We have also delivered a series of issue-based workshops in the Abingdon Secondary schools young people from Steventon attend. We believe it is important to partner with schools because it helps young people to see that they have a lot of wrap-around support and as Jonathan Dennett, Head Teacher of Fitzharrys in Abingdon said, *“Different voices, same message”*.

Gym Projects

Young people from Steventon always attend our gym sessions at the Park Club, Milton Park, which are usually held during the half terms and summer holidays. Young people learn about fitness, health and nutrition.

“I had no idea that the energy drink I bought to the gym had 13 teaspoons of sugar! All that work in the gym and I probably didn’t even burn off the drink. Next time I’m bringing water so it doesn’t go to waste”



All-Girls Football Tournament

One of our most successful events in Steventon was the All-Girls football tournament hosted by Steventon Sports and Social Club. We had 9 teams enter, 4 of which were teams from Steventon village. Due to popular demand, we are holding another tournament on the 31st May 2018.



We gratefully acknowledge support from Steventon Parish Council and SARINC
Roxy Elford
Senior Youth Worker
Abingdon DAMASCUS Youth Project