



Hamoaze House & Seymour House Youth Service

We believe that the best diversionary activity for young people who have challenging behaviours is school attendance. We also believe that, to meet the needs of this group of young people, school should be engaging, fun and progressive – both academically and socially.

We are here to support your school and any of your young people (and their families) who are finding school attendance difficult for any reason.

Both Hamoaze and Seymour House Youth Service have worked effectively at supporting and improving the life chances of Plymouth's more vulnerable young people and their families for over 11 years.

We have a proven track record of engaging positively with young people who are not currently flourishing in a mainstream school environment. By directly working with young people aged 11 -16 from a 'Youth work' perspective, we help them both to develop their own capabilities and to build the resilience required to make more positive and sustainable life choices.

Our service provision runs throughout the academic year. We work in partnership with Alternative Complimentary Education (ACE) offering a tailored school curriculum, positive activities, informal learning workshops and both centre-based and detached youth work sessions, we offer an approach that gives the young people who engage with us the space to grow and learn together, both as individuals and in groups. As a result, evidence shows that they are more able to tackle and remove many of the obstacles that prevent them from doing well in mainstream education environments and, in so doing, help them to improve their educational attendance and achievement.

Our Young Peoples' Team, based at Seymour House in Devonport and working with staff from ACE offers an opportunity for schools to provide any of their young people who are either excluded or at risk of exclusion with some positive personalised development.

Underpinning all of our activities is a strong commitment to:

- Support the young people in recognising their potential and progress;
- Ensure that the young people are at the heart of all decisions, and that they consent to the presence of all those involved and to the sharing of personal information;
- Engage closely with the school so as not to duplicate the work being undertaken with the young people through existing support systems, skill and knowledge;
- Engage with the family and carers wherever appropriate in order to help support and promote positive behavioural change;
- Engage young people from an asset-based perspective by acknowledging that they have their own skills' strengths and resources and are not simply the passive recipients of services;

- Focus on strengthening each young person' not attempting to 'fix' them. We do this by offering unrelenting honesty, respect, trust, decency, fairness and fun;
- Support the young people back into mainstream and full-time education as appropriate.

Centre-based sessions:

All our provision for young people is designed to be flexible enough to be effective in both centre-based and off-site situations. However, our real strength lies in our ability to engage with and to deliver youth work within the varied physical spaces provided across our three main sites.

Here we can normalise and embed the young peoples' positive behavioural change through a relaxed and informal approach to the development of pro-social skills and learning. For example, issues arising out of positive activities can be explored through discussion and debate.

Excellent engagement with staff provides opportunities for interventions made whilst off-site to be opened up' 'unpacked' and explored in safety at a pace suitable to the young person. Equally, learning begun in a workshop setting can be revisited time and again as workers relax with the young people by playing pool or table tennis or in conversational engagement. This often overlooked, but vital component of our activities forms the central plank of our 'Youth work' approach to behaviour change.

Positive activities:

- Having fun;
- Music workshops and activities
- Trampolining workshops (accredited);
- Gym access (accredited);
- Team sports activities (supported by trained instructors);
- Non-contact boxing;
- Rock climbing;
- Fishing trips;
- Moorland scrambles and Gorge walking;
- Personal development program
- Swimming trips and diving;
- Cookery;

Informal learning workshops:

We employ highly trained youth workers able to deliver focussed and accredited workshops. These have a proven track record of providing a solid base from which to develop a 'social education' mode; of youth engagement that includes:

- Alcohol awareness and safety;
- Drugs awareness and safety;
- Healthy significant meaningful and progressive relationships with family and friends;
- Sexual health;
- Physical wellbeing;
- Emotional wellbeing;
- Budgeting and independent living;
- Pro-social skill building; e.g. conflict resolution, problem solving and team work skills.

All sessions include opportunities for conversation and discussion which explore responsibilities and behaviour. All our work with the young people is solution-focussed – working on their personal development and their contribution to their communities.