



## **Vision**

Thame is a growing market town in the heart of Oxfordshire. It is rapidly expanding but is limited in the services and facilities it offers to young people. Thame Youth Projects Group (TYPG) was formed in 2012 with the express aim of supporting young people in Thame. The group is a registered charity.

Through the work of TYPG we are working with young people in our two Youth Cafés; one for school years 7-9 and one for school years 10-11.

We want to expand the work of TYPG beyond the youth cafés for several purposes:

- To engage with young people who choose not to access the services we currently offer
- To empower and support and invest in the lives of the young people in Thame, and surrounding villages
- To tackle the negative image of young people
- To support the town and help reduce instances of anti-social behaviour, gang behaviour and drug culture that seem to be on the rise

Below is a bit more information on all the work we are looking to fulfil through this role:

## **Youth Café**

Thame Youth Café exists to provide a fun, free, safe space to the young people of Thame. As stated above, we run two cafés during term-time. One for those in school years 7-9 and one for those in school years 10-11. Each café has its own unique identity yet runs similarly. They feature refreshments, fairly standard youth club activities and each week a different "feature" activity.

At the moment we are currently engaging with approximately 80 young people a week through the two cafés.

## **Outreach Work**

After looking at the needs of the town, as perceived mostly through discussions with young people, issues raised by the community and exploring further options through focus meetings we believe that our easiest and most effective way of reaching the maximum number of young people who need the sort of service we are providing would be through a dedicated outreach, or detached, youth work team.

The idea of detached youth work is at its heart very simple - meet the young people where they are at. Go to their venues, their turf, their territory. Be willing to engage them where they are rather than asking them to come to you.

We believe this could give us a fantastic opportunity to be flexible in how we work with the young people, to get around Thame to the different areas occupied by the youth and be a launchpad to introducing them to further services after rapport has been established (e.g. drug/alcohol/sex support workers).

This would also serve a secondary purpose of helping reduce instances of anti-social behaviour. It would help the young people see that there are people willing to be on their side, listen to them & if done well could make a massive difference to the lives of young people in and around Thame.

## **Premises**

There are no dedicated premises within Thame for working with and supporting young people. We believe such a space could make a big difference to the investment and involvement of young people in the life of their community. There is potential within Thame for a youth venue. We have the support of the local council and need to source external funding from other agencies. We believe this could be developed to see a permanent space for young people.