



**Off The Streets
End-Of-Year Report
2024 - 2025**

Core Sessions, Activities & Projects

Throughout 2024/2025 Off The Streets has continued to run a core weekly schedule of sessions in each of our three working areas. Each session is designed to welcome specific age groups, as well as designed for a thematic format i.e. sports sessions, sessions to engage girls etc.

Listed below is each session and in which areas they are facilitated -

- **Open Access Sessions - Swffryd, Llanhilleth and Brynithel**

Open Access sessions are open to children and young people aged 6-16 years. These sessions offer a variety of activities to suit the range in ages. Often these sessions have a physical activity element whether it be ball games or group activities.

- **Youth Drop-In Sessions - Swffryd, Llanhilleth and Brynithel**

Youth Drop-In sessions are open to young people aged 10 plus years. Although young people of 'youth' age are classified as 11 plus years, Off The Streets acknowledges that young people begin transitioning into their Secondary School period in Year Six, or at around ten years of age. As such, as an organisation we feel that it is better to be proactive with these young people and provide support and outlets to them, such as Youth Drop-In sessions, to encourage their self-efficacy and personal, social and emotional understanding.

- **UsGirls Sessions - Swffryd and Brynithel**

These sessions are co-facilitated with Aneurin Leisure Sports Development Team. UsGirls sessions are research-based and provide outlets for young girls to engage in sports and physical activity away from the pressures associated with puberty and peers. These sessions always feature some form of physical activity as well as peer-to-peer learning opportunities and skill-building activities.

- **On The Ball Multi Sport Sessions - Llanhilleth (Swffryd and Brynithel - April to September due to insufficient lighting at outdoor venues)**

These sessions are open to children and young people aged 6-16 years and provide sports and physical activity engagement opportunities. The sessions see a wide range of sports facilitated from hockey to basketball, each activity being led by participants. These sessions aim to provide sports and physical activities to children and young people who may not have the resources to join sports clubs, or those who just want to give some different sports a try. Children and young people are encouraged and supported to learn game rules and skills, as well as to take responsibility for themselves and their actions. These sessions have also seen young people

become interested in contributing to setting-up, coaching and refereeing games for their peers and has enabled them to develop interpersonal and physical skills.

- **Older Youth Football Sessions - Llanhilleth**

This session has been implemented within our weekly schedule as a result of consultation with local young people. The need for an older youth provision was identified through ongoing work and discussions with young people, as well as organisational risk assessments. Each week the Older Youth Football session sees upwards of fourteen participants, each a young male aged between twelve and eighteen years. As a project we have received brilliant feedback from participants regarding their experience of the sessions and their feelings of being heard and respected by the project facilitating the session for them.

January - February Participant Questionnaire

Throughout 2024 Off The Streets developed further Key Indicators regarding our work with children, young people and their communities. These indicators enable the project to identify progress and notable improvements to children and young people's experiences.

During January and February of 2025 the project facilitated a further participant questionnaire, informed by questions relating to feedback from ALCC YEG members and our organisations Key Indicators.

Questions asked in this round of questionnaires aims to acknowledge the efficacy and impact of youth and community work within communities. Though we know this topic is extremely challenging to depict in "black and white", the questions asked aim to gather insight into personal opinions and experiences of engagement in youth and community work services.

The responses and data collected from this questionnaire is indexed at the end of this document. SEE APPENDIX ONE.

Work Undertaken & Notable Achievements

During the past financial year, Off The Streets has facilitated lots of positive and purposeful sessions, activities, projects and events within our three working areas.

- **Swim & Slides Sessions**

During April 2024, Off The Streets partnered with Aneurin Leisure Sports Development (ALSD) Team to provide our participants with free weekly swimming trips. ALSD fully funded the trips, including transport and swimming fees for the entirety of the cohort over the six sessions.

Overall the sessions saw more than sixty engagements and provided more than forty children and young people with a free swimming provision.

- **Summer Holiday Programme**

This year's Summer Holiday programme saw us facilitate 55 sessions (not including six weekly cinema trips and one trip to Barry Island). Within this we facilitate a total of 643 engagements with children and young people. The programme saw us provide a wide variety of activities and engagement opportunities from cooking to drumming, creating with clay to participating in litter picking competitions.

- **Gareth Bale / Celtic Manor Trip**

In September 2024, Off The Streets was provided with the fantastic opportunity to take nine young people to the Celtic Manor, Newport to meet Footballing legend, Gareth Bale. This trip saw nine of our participants, who were chosen on merit regarding their behaviour and engagement at Off The Streets sessions, attend the Gareth Bale Festival alongside ninety other young people from all over Wales. Participants engaged in a number of different sports, participated in competitions and engaged in a Question and Answer session with Gareth Bale. We received brilliant feedback from our attendees and their families regarding their experience of the trip, as well as some making positive changes to better their health and wellbeing after the experience.

- **LTA Serves - Tennis Wales**

Through partnership working with ALSD and StreetGames, Off The Streets were able to take part in a fantastic community-sport initiative led by Tennis Wales/LTA Serves. Within this partnership we have been provided with free quality tennis equipment for each of our three working areas, as well as free staff training and support from the organisation to facilitate sessions for our children and young people.

- **Young Carers - Into The Pot**

During the middle of 2024, Off The Streets was approached by Blaenau Gwent Young Carers Service to deliver our 'Into The Pot' cooking sessions to their projects participants. This project has been a great example of partnership working, and as such, more than twenty children and young people have participated in cooking workshops with Off The Streets, learning hands-on skills and engaging with peers.

- **October Half Term**

During October Half Term we facilitated a wide variety of activities within our sessions, as well as an 'Into The Pot' Halloween-themed cooking session. We also held a Halloween Party at Llanhilleth RFC.

- **Firework Fest**

This year Off The Streets held its annual firework display, Firework Fest, for its third year. This event has been brilliantly received by the local community of Llanhilleth and the immediate surrounding areas (Brynithel, Swffryd, Aberbeeg etc.) and has enabled our project to strengthen links with community members, businesses, local stakeholders and organisations. Firework Fest aims to be an accessible event within the community, with low ticketing prices providing a cost-effective experience for local families. Firework Fest 2024 saw approximately six-hundred

and fifty people attend, enjoying entertainment from local young people and individuals and providing local businesses the opportunity to sell their products and further their reach.

- **McDonald's Fun Football**

McDonald's Fun Football sessions have been running at Off The Streets for the past six months. The sessions have been introduced into our schedule as part of our working partnership with Aneurin Leisure Sports Development team and Football Association of Wales. These sessions are open to children ages five to eleven years and provide them free opportunities to engage in small-sided football games, learn skills and build peer relationships. We have seen a brilliant uptake in these sessions with parents and participants giving great feedback.

- **Winter Term Activities / Christmas**

Towards the latter part of 2024, our weekly schedule saw some changes happen due to staff undertaking CPD courses. The team and organisation were able to make a smooth transition to the new schedule and our participants quickly took to the changes. During the winter term we facilitated

- **Ffin Dance - Winter Dance Faktry**

We saw brilliant participation of our UsGirls cohort through Ffin Dance sessions during the Winter Term. The sessions saw around twenty young girls engage in sessions to develop and learn dance phrases, to work in groups and pairs with their peers and in turn created a piece for a stage show. Ffin Dance's facilitation supported the personal growth and development of participants, particularly having a substantial impact on some individual participants - details of this example can be found in **appendix four**. Overall the sessions enabled the UsGirls cohort to perform their routine in front of a theatre of three-hundred and fifty paying guests as part of a line-up for the Winter Dance Factory at The Beaufort Theatre.

Session & Participant Numbers

Throughout the past financial year our project and its staff have had numerous positive and purposeful engagements with children, young people and their communities. Off The Streets has facilitated over five hundred sessions this past year and have facilitated more than six thousand engagements.

Detailed below is the number of sessions facilitated in each of our three working areas, as well as numerical data relating to participant characteristics and number of project engagements.

Data detailed below has been gathered between April 2024 and February 2025.

Area	Number of Sessions Facilitated
Swffryd	170
Llanhilleth	191
Brynithel	203
TOTAL	564

Area	Number of Engagements	Female Participants	Male Participants
Swffryd	2873	1247	1626
Llanhilleth	2358	1212	1326
Brynithel	2147	1050	1097
TOTAL	7378	3329	4002

Partner Working & Partner Comments

During this financial year Off the Streets has continued to work with partner organisations, and have developed further working partnerships alongside these.

Notably, these partner organisations have worked closely with Off The Streets this year to provide further activities and support to our participants -

- **Aneurin Leisure Sports Development Team**

ALSD has continued to support our weekly sessions by providing a member of their team to provide further engagement opportunities for participants. As well as supporting engagement and provision on a face-to-face level with our team and participants, ALSD also provides invaluable support to the project byway of sharing resources, providing staff training opportunities and encouraging partnerships with Off The Streets, themselves and other stakeholders.

- **Football Association of Wales (FAW)**

Through our partnership working with ALSD, Off The Streets has been enabled to develop a further partnership with the FAW. As a result of this collaboration participants of Off The Streets are now able to access McDonald's FAW Fun Football sessions weekly. In these sessions children and young people are able to participate in small-sided games, engage in football-based activities and drills whilst developing interpersonal and physical skills.

- **Ffin Dance**

Partnering with Ffin Dance has allowed our project to provide further opportunities to our children and young people, including experiences they may not normally have the chance to participate in. Ffin Dance has facilitated dance sessions within Off The Streets weekly schedule, including parkour workshops and projects aiming to promote open communication through physical activity with children and young people regarding topical issues in adolescent life.

- **Tennis Wales**

Gaining a working relationship with Tennis Wales has enabled our project to provide another sport within our weekly schedule. We received equipment and training, at no cost, from Tennis Wales, furthering our staff's Continued Professional Development and providing our children and young people with quality equipment to participate in tennis activities and games.

- **StreetGames**

During the past financial year, Off The Streets has developed a working relationship with StreetGames as a result of our partnership with ALSD. StreetGames have provided our project and participants with once-in-a-lifetime experiences such as meeting Gareth Bale, and have encouraged and enabled our children and young people to engage further in sports and physical activity.

- **Dragons RFC**

We have continued to work closely with the Dragons RFC Community team this past year to provide further free rugby opportunities for children and young people within our three working areas. This partnership has enabled work to be extended into two local primary schools, as well as providing an extra session into our weekly schedule.

- **Blaenau Gwent Young Carers Service**

Off The Streets working relationship with Blaenau Gwent Young Carers Service has gone from strength to strength this past year. Our project has been able to provide a large cohort of children and young people with the opportunity to take time away from their caring duties to engage in cooking workshops, learning skills, building knowledge and engaging with their peers.

- **Swffryd Primary School**

Off The Streets has continued to work closely with Swffryd Primary School, its headteacher and its staff to ensure we provide an effective and supportive, multi-service approach. We have provided further opportunities to the school in terms of supporting rugby session delivery and encouraging partnership with Dragons RFC. We have also supported collaborative events and fundraising activities in aid of the school, such as the Viaduct Run. The close working relationship between the school and our staff has in-turn encouraged further collaboration and support with Alana becoming a community governor for the schools board of governors.

Our organisation gathered honest and productive feedback from some of our partner organisations regarding their engagement with Off The Streets during the past financial year.

Partner Organisation	Comment
<p>Aneurin Leisure Sports Development Team</p>	<p>The partnership between the Aneurin Leisure Sports Development Team and Off the Streets has flourished over the past four years, growing stronger each year. Together, we have delivered weekly sports and well-being sessions in Swffryd, Llanhilleth, and Brynithel, creating vital opportunities for children in communities where access to sporting facilities is limited. Alana Insley, lead of Off the Streets, continues to drive the initiative forward with her positive and proactive approach, breaking down barriers and ensuring that sport and physical activity are accessible to all young people. As a team, we are incredibly proud to support this fantastic programme and remain committed to its future success. We are also excited to expand our collaboration by developing interactive cooking workshops, further enhancing the well-being of young people through engaging and practical life skills.</p>
<p>Swffryd Primary School</p>	<p>The school has successfully worked with Alana and the Off the Streets team for the previous few years. Off the Streets provides a much-needed opportunity for the young people of Sofrydd to engage in sessions that will enable them to engage. We have worked closely with Alana and the team to provide a space within the school for Off the Streets to provide their clubs for young e people, not only from Sofrydd but from older year groups as well. The sessions are well attended and the children and young people report a sense of pride in their group work. The opportunity for young people within Sofrydd is a crucial part of our joint work. We have been thrilled that Alana was able to support our work with Dragons Gwent Rugby and we are very proud to promote the joint-working between Sofrydd Primary School and Off the Streets. We place a high importance on community links and the opportunities that Off the Streets provide for our community are invaluable. Helen Hickinbottom - Headteacher</p>
<p>Ffin Dance</p>	<p>We have been working with Off The Streets community group for some years now and in that time, have seen the group grow into a highly proficient provider. The area in which they serve, is both socially and economically deprived and for some people who don't own a car can be a remote place, far removed from the larger urban areas in the Borough of Blaenau Gwent. Therefore the activities that are facilitated by Off The Streets are vital to the community especially in these troubled times for communities. They are led enthusiastically and with every thought to details</p>

	<p>and always with empathy for the children and young people and their families. We have watched the children grow in confidence and are delighted with the continued growth in communication and creative skills in the group. We are delighted to be going forward forging further partnership opportunities with Off The Streets in the coming year. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you would like to discuss further. Sue Lewis - Artistic Director of Ffin Dance and The Beaufort Theatre</p>
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Children's & Young People's Comments

As part of our End-Of-Year Report, we asked a handful of our participants from each of our three working areas to provide us with comments regarding their experience of Off The Streets over the past year.

Age	Area	Gender	Comment
11	Llanhilleth	F	They do fun things and we learn how to keep safe
10	Llanhilleth	F	It's great because we get to make new friends and we do great free fun days out
11	Swffryd	F	I like off the streets because it helps me be myself in the community
14	Brynithel	F	It helps me be myself and make friends
10	Swffryd	F	Off The Streets is fun, I really enjoy us girls as you help us learn
14	Brynithel	M	Thanks for helping me out you guys have give me great experiences and help
15	Llanhilleth	M	There's nothing else about for us [young people] so Off The Streets is great, they even put a new football session on just for us
10	Swffryd	M	Off The Streets gives me stuff to do so I'd rather be here than hanging around the park bored

Parent/Guardian Comments

As well as gathering children and young people's comments, we also asked parents and guardians to provide honest feedback on their child's experience of Off The Streets and how they feel the organisation and sessions impact their child and their community.

Area	Gender	Comment
Brynithel	F	My son attends. Off The Streets every week and has done for around four years. It has been a great way for him to make friends and meet people his own age. He has ADHD and struggles to take part in things but the staff are great with him and work hard to make sure there's something he can get involved in.
Llanhilleth	F & M	Our three grandchildren love it at Off The Streets. There's always something for them to do and they have such good relationships with the staff. Each week they come home and are happy to tell us what fun they have had and what activities they took part in. We think the sessions are great for our community. It's beautiful to see the children having things to take part in that are safe and what they want to do.
Swffryd	F	My children love Off The Streets, they attend all the sessions they can. I know they are safe and having fun when they are at Off The Streets as the staff are brilliant looking after them and helping them to learn new things and giving them opportunities to make friends and enjoy their time. My children have had lots of benefits from Off The Streets, they have gone on loads of trips and have took part in lots of workshops. I think they have learnt new skills and have made new friends which is great. Thank you Off The Streets for what you do.
Brynithel	M	My daughter has additional needs and Off The Streets is amazing with her and her needs. Sometimes she won't take part with other children and gets shy but the staff does wonders with her taking the time to find where her interest is that day and then helping her to get involved. She has gone on trips and done things I didn't think she would. The staff tell her about how proud they are of her and she shines. Amazing work Off The Streets.
Llanhilleth	F	The fun football sessions have given my son a great chance to get involved in football in a more personal way. The sessions are smaller so he gets more involved (he doesn't like crowds very much). The staff are brilliant with him and help him learn real skills.

Community Member Comments

Off The Streets also approached community members of our three working areas for comments regarding our work this past year. In asking these community members for their opinions, we aimed to gather honest feedback regarding how individuals, business owners etc. feel that the local area is impacted by Off The Streets work.

Name	Position in Community	Comment
Gareth Collier	Rugby Club Chairman	<p>Off The Streets is a brilliant community asset for Llanhilleth. They are an organisation who plan and deliver, they have supported our club and in turn we have been happy to support them by providing our rugby field for events etcetera.</p> <p>The project manager, Alana, works tirelessly to provide a range of activities for the children of the village and the other close communities. She and the team work in an excellent community-minded way to strengthen communication and links.</p> <p>The village is better for having Off The Streets running as it helps to battle antisocial behaviour in the community and gives young people the chance to take part in learning for their future, and the future of our community.</p>
Devon Blackmore	Shop Owner	<p>My name is Devon Blackmore and I own and run the local Fish and Chip Shop in the local area.</p> <p>For me, Off The Streets are having a significant impact on the area's anti-social behaviour decline. From what I can see, they are also having a major impact in the community, working with the local business (including myself, educating children of litter through the area through taking them on litter picks in the village and impacting so many children's lives.</p> <p>When the children and young people come into my shop- they are regularly telling me what they have done at Off The Streets or that they are just making their way to one of the sessions. I have seen a huge difference to the children and youth in the</p>

		<p>area as there are so many more opportunities for an area that has become so desperate for something for the children to do.</p> <p>Without Off The Streets in the area- there would be no other opportunities for these children and youths. However, it wouldn't just be the children that miss out. It would be the whole community.</p>
<p>Geraldine Monk</p>	<p>Community Centre Secretary</p>	<p>Off The Streets has been a great addition to Brynithel and the Community Centre. As well as being the secretary of the community centre I am also a childminder and a resident of Brynithel so I am able to see first-hand the benefits and importance of Off The Streets in the area. Their weekly sessions have brought life to the community centre and it's fantastic to see so many children having fun and learning each week. Some of my children that I care for attend Off The Streets sessions, they are always so excited to get to the sessions and take part in activities the staff plan and do. As well as supporting the children of Brynithel, Off The Streets has supported the community centre in organising and holding events for our fundraising efforts. I hope Off The Streets are able to continue their work in Brynithel as it is definitely a much needed service for our community.</p>

Child/Young Person Case Studies

During this past year, staff have acknowledged changes and improvements to individual children and young people's behaviour, skills and abilities. As such, case studies are written about these participants in order to inform further practice and show real progress of how engaging with Off The Streets can enhance and improve children and young people's lives.

Case studies are indexed at the end of this document. SEE APPENDIX TWO, THREE AND FOUR.

Further Work & Future Progress

In the new financial year, Off The Streets hopes to progress further in providing engagement opportunities for the children and young people of our working areas, as well as to grow in its professional ability.

The organisation has many plans for new and exciting projects, events and activities for our participants and their communities.

Work to be undertaken during the remainder of this financial year (2024) includes -

- **Continuing to develop a working relationship and open communication with St. Illtyd's Primary School, Llanhilleth**

In continuing to create a working relationship with St. Illtyd's Primary School, a member of the team will be supporting a school trip to Rodney Parade for the children to participate in a Tag Rugby Festival.

- **February Half Term Provision**

Off The Streets has developed a programme of work to be facilitated during this February Half Term. Included within the week will be two trips, one being an event for twenty-eight participants. We will be facilitating a variety of activities and skill-building opportunities for children and young people to engage in alongside their peers.

- **UsGirls ID Project & Ffin Dance - trip to the Beaufort Theatre during February Half Term**

As part of our continuing partnership with Ffin Dance, our UsGirls cohort have been involved in a new project which encourages young people to explore real life issues and experiences through dance and physical movement. The ID Project will enable our participants to further their knowledge and skills regarding physical movement and physical discipline, and will also see them perform at The Beaufort Theatre in a live stage show during April 2025.

- **Facilitate a Multi-Sport Activity Day at Abertillery Sports Centre during February Half Term**

Our staff team have planned a Multi-Sport Activity Day which is to be held at Abertillery Sports Centre. The event will engage 28 children and young people between the ages of 8 and 14 to take part in a variety of sports, access an inflatables swimming session at the sports centre and to receive free food and refreshments.

- **Into The Pot sessions and partner working - Young Carers**

We will be continuing our relationship with Blaenau Gwent Young Carers Service to deliver further Into The Pot cooking sessions to their cohort of young carers. These sessions are due to take place after March 2025 and will provide approximately twenty children and young people with cooking activities.

- **Dragons Rugby - Give It A Try sessions & The Gateway Project**

We began facilitating Give It A Try (GIAT) sessions at Llanhilleth towards the end of January 2025. This session implementation has been a result of partnership working with St. Illtyd's Primary School and Dragons RFC, as well as consultation with our participants. These sessions so far have seen good engagement levels and has enabled us to extend our weekly services into another day, now seeing us provide sessions over five days a week. GIAT sessions are set to continue until the end of March when the project and its impact will be re-evaluated.

APPENDIX ONE

Off The Streets Child & Young Person Questionnaire Responses January - February 2025

During the beginning of 2025, Off The Streets facilitated another project-wide questionnaire in order to gather true and honest opinions from our participants.

Each question asked corresponds to Off The Streets Key Indicators, and each question has been devised to identify children and young people's engagement, as well as their personal experience of the impact youth and community work services may provide them.

Questionnaires were facilitated on a one-to-one basis with participants, enabling Off The Streets staff to fully engage children and young people in understanding and completing the questionnaires.

Detailed below is each question children and young people were asked and their corresponding responses, including numerical data and personal statements made during one-to-one facilitation.

In total 45 participants engaged with, and completed, the questionnaires. Ages of participants were between 6 and 16, questions were explained for clarity and to enable children and young people to fully understand what they were being asked. Some terminology was changed subtly in order to enable children and young people to fully understand the questions.

Participants' responses have been anonymised and correct spellings have been added for clarity and readability.

Off The Streets Key Indicator - 2i / 2ii			
Question - Do children & young people feel they have developed positive and purposeful relationships with youth and community workers?			
I feel like I can share problems with my youth & community workers	YES 38	KIND OF 7	NO 0
I trust my youth & community workers to keep me safe and to support me	YES 38	KIND OF 7	NO 0
I feel I can access advice and support from my youth & community workers	YES 40	KIND OF 5	NO 0
COMMENTS			
6 / Female / Llanhilleth - The staff make me feel safe and I trust them. They always talk nicely to me and ask me about my day.			
12 / Male / Swffryd - I know the staff want what's best for me, even if I was in the wrong I know they would help me to make it right			

11 / Male / Brynithel - The staff look after me and help me when I have big feelings

Off The Streets Key Indicator - 2i / 3iii

Question - Do children & young people feel they have maintained, or developed positive and purposeful relationships with other trusted adults and peers?

I feel like I have a good relationship with my family and friends	YES 27	KIND OF 11	NO 7
I feel like I have a good relationship with trusted adults at school (example - teachers or support staff)	YES 13	KIND OF 14	NO 18
I feel like my personal relationships have become better since engaging in youth & community activities	YES 23	KIND OF 16	NO 6

COMMENTS

14 / Male / Brynithel - I talk more now about any problems I have and I feel like I can actually tell me mam things

12 / Female / Swffryd - I've made more friends in school because I'm being myself more

9 / Male / Llanhilleth - I came here from a different country but by coming to Off The Streets I've made many friends and we go to school together and play together

Off The Streets Key Indicator - 2i / 2iii

Question - Are children & young people more likely to access local youth & community provisions?

I attend other groups (example - part of a sports club or attends dance classes)	YES 8	KIND OF 3	NO 34
If I had a problem, I would be happy to receive help from other organisations that Off The Streets could direct me to	YES 36	KIND OF 9	NO 0
If I had a problem, I feel like I could ask for help or find advice to support myself	YES 31	KIND OF 7	NO 7

COMMENTS

14 / Male / Swffryd - I can't afford to go to a football team but Off The Streets helps us play proper games and feel like we're playing for real

9 / Female / Brynithel - When I was sad about my [redacted] passing away Off The Streets helped me to speak to another lady who was a counsellor and it helped me

11 / Female / Llanhilleth - I always talk to the staff if I'm worried or have a problem, they always know how to help or find me someone who can help

Question - Do children & young people feel like they have more control over their emotional regulation, and feel that they are more resilient?

I feel like I can think about a situation before I react with my emotions	YES 17	KIND OF 19	NO 9
I feel like I know how to handle my emotions (example - I can walk away to calm down or I have techniques to help me be less anxious)	YES 17	KIND OF 19	NO 9
I feel like I can cope well with change or difficult situations	YES 15	KIND OF 18	NO 12

COMMENTS

9 / Male / Swffryd - I find it hard to stop myself from being naughty but at Off The Streets I know we have the blue yellow and red cards so it makes me stop and think

15 / Male / Brynithel - I feel like I can walk away now rather than kick off, the staff have helped me to find ways to calm down then come back and talk about it

12 / Female / Swffryd - Sometimes things don't go my way and I have learnt that's okay, there is other stuff to be happy about

Question - Do children & young people have a better sense of self-agency and increased self-efficacy?

I feel that I'm able to make my own decisions and plans in my day-to-day life	YES 28	KIND OF 11	NO 6
When I set-out to do something or achieve something, I will try my hardest to make sure I follow through to the end goal	YES 31	KIND OF 8	NO 6
I feel like I'm helpful to others and that I support and respect other children, young people and community members	YES 34	KIND OF 11	NO 0

COMMENTS

14 / Male / Brynithel - I can't wait to be a LEAP Leader because I want to help others and the staff, one day I want to be a youth worker

10 / Female / Swffryd - I try hard at everything and I help people in Off The Streets and school, before I was shy but now I have lots of friends

16 / Male / Llanhilleth - I try to help the littler kids more now because I was little at Off The Streets once, I help them learn football skills

Question - Do children & young people opt to make more positive choices and participate in less risky behaviour?

I feel like I hang out with people who are a positive influence on me	YES 26	KIND OF 16	NO 3
I feel that I try to stay out of trouble and don't listen to peer pressure to get involved in antisocial activities	YES 35	KIND OF 8	NO 2
I don't take part in any risky behaviours (example - smoking or vaping, using drugs or drinking alcohol, breaking property or causing nuisance in the community)	YES 35	KIND OF 8	NO 2
<p>COMMENTS</p> <p>15 / Male / Brynithel - I used to smoke and sometimes drink too. I did some bad stuff as well but coming to Off The Streets helped me get that it's pointless and might hurt my future. When I had the chance to meet Gareth Bale and actually got to meet him and ask about how fit you have to be to be a footballer I decided I was going to stop smoking and that (drinking)</p> <p>12 / Male / Swffryd - I tell my friends about their behaviour and I try my best to behave in Swffryd and wherever else I go, I'm getting older and don't want a bad image</p> <p>11 / Male / Brynithel - I do still get in trouble sometimes but I'm trying to behave better because people know me for behaving badly now</p>			

APPENDIX TWO

Off The Streets **Child & Young Person Case Study** **Young Person A - relating to Ffin Dance engagement**

Give some background on the child or young person you have chosen as your study.
(The child or young persons age, which session/s they attend, how long they have been a participant at Off The Streets)

Young person A has been a participant of Off The Streets for approximately three years. Young person A attends the vast majority of Off The Streets sessions, including those facilitated outside of their community, in our other working areas. Young person A is always enthusiastic about engaging with our project and gladly welcomes other organisations of which Off The Streets collaborates with. As a project, we know Young person A to come from an underprivileged background where the familial economy doesn't allow for cost-related extracurricular activities, surplus of resources (food, money etc.). As a result, this has previously had a knock-on affect to young person A, their wellbeing, skills, confidence and their opportunities. The partnership between Off The Streets and Ffin Dance has played a vital role in supporting and encouraging young person A to develop and thrive, opening up further opportunities of which they may not have previously had or been able to access.

What notable changes have you acknowledged in this child or young person?
(Maybe they have developed skills, built their confidence or made new friends)

Young person A has developed a wide range of interpersonal and physical skills during the course of working with Ffin Dance. Young person A has been encouraged and enabled to focus more on their personal wellbeing, both physically and mentally. Young person A has developed their confidence and self-esteem, enabling them to work with their peers and build a positive self-image. Young person A has set and achieved personal goals, using skills learned to be resilient and to keep trying. Young person A has made new friends, explored topics and relationships to improve understanding of positive and purposeful communication and boundaries. Young person A and their family has been supported by the partnership working of Ffin Dance and Off The Streets to provide the family unit with opportunities to become more connected to each other and their community.

In what ways do you think Off The Streets has benefitted this child or young person?

Young person A has benefitted hugely from engagement with Ffin Dance and their community-based activities and projects. Young person A has benefitted from a partnership-working approach, receiving all-round support and encouragement. Young person

A has developed skills that will support them to navigate day-to-day life and to further develop and enhance their future opportunities. Young person A has bloomed into a brilliant example of what community-based learning and support can do for individuals.

APPENDIX THREE

Off The Streets

Child & Young Person Case Study

Young Person B - relating to engagement with Off The Streets

Give some background on the child or young person you have chosen as your study. (The child or young persons age, which session/s they attend, how long they have been a participant at Off The Streets)

Young Person B is fifteen years old and has engaged with Off The Streets for approximately two years.
Young Person B accesses sessions that include physical activities such as Multi-Sport in both Llanhilleth and Brynithel and Llanhilleth Open Access.
Young Person B has a particular interest in football and has previously been recognised by his talent by teams but hasn't felt the inclination to join any organised sports due to engaging in antisocial behaviours and is on the cusp of becoming categorised as a NEET (not in education, employment or training) young person.
Young Person B has been a habitual 'vape' user and has also engaged in underage drinking and smoking.
Young Person B has struggled with behavioural issues and has often exhibited a disrespectful attitude.

What notable changes have you acknowledged in this child or young person? (Maybe they have developed skills, built their confidence or made

We have seen amazing engagement from Young Person B and they have shown brilliant personal growth and development. Young Person B has shown improvement in their way of making personal choices, and taking time to think things through before reacting. They have engaged better with their peers and has developed a better understanding and caring nature towards younger peers, supporting them to engage in sessions and learn alongside young person B.
Young Person B has decreased their use of vapes, drinking and smoking and now feels their wellbeing and health is better for this. Young Person B has taken the experiences they've had at Off The Streets to better themselves and to personally improve.
Young Person B has become much more of a respectful participant and now takes more time to engage personally with staff and engage in meaningful and purposeful conversations. They now understand more the role of our staff and project and has shown an improved appreciation and attitude towards their engagement and their behaviour.

In what ways do you think Off The Streets has benefitted this child or young person?

Although Young Person B has exhibited inappropriate behaviours and engagement in

antisocial activities, our project and staff have persevered with this young person and have show them unconditional positive regard. We have supported and encouraged this young person, as well as challenged them and their behaviours, providing consequences for actions and a structure that they have not ordinarily been accustomed to. Young Person B has been offered once-in-a-lifetime opportunities such as meeting his footballing hero, Gareth Bale and engaging in a brilliant young person-centred event, The Gareth Bale Festival of Sport.

APPENDIX FOUR

Off The Streets

Child & Young Person Case Study

Young Person C - relating to Ffin Dance engagement

Give some background on the child or young person you have chosen as your study.
(The child or young persons age, which session/s they attend, how long they have been a participant at Off The Streets)

Young person A has been a participant of Off The Streets for approximately two years and is fourteen years old.
Young person A has complex needs and a statement of additional learning needs.
Young person A finds it difficult to develop trusting relationships with adults and peers alike.
Young person A previously engaged with dance at a very young age (3-4 years) but has since had no interest in the subject until engaging with Ffin Dance.

What notable changes have you acknowledged in this child or young person?
(Maybe they have developed skills, built their confidence or made new friends)

Young person C has developed a wide range of interpersonal and physical skills during the course of working with Ffin Dance. They have overcome huge personal challenges in order to fully engage in sessions, for example - physically joining hands with others can cause young person C anxiety and sensory stress, however they worked hard and created interpersonal skills in order to overcome this challenge, enabling them to touch others as part of dance phrases.
Young person C has developed their confidence and self-esteem, enabling them to work with their peers and build a positive self-image. Young person C often struggled with the feeling of being mocked or bullied by others and so often held back from engaging. Through Ffin Dance facilitating their work in UsGirls sessions at Off The Streets, young person B felt comfortable to begin to participate.
Young person C has set and achieved personal goals, using skills learned to be resilient and to keep trying. As with overcoming their personal challenges, young person C has been encouraged and enabled to develop resilience and to overcome set-backs. Young person C has set targets and goals and achieved them through the support of Ffin Dance activities.
Young person C has made new friends, explored topics and relationships to improve understanding of positive and purposeful communication and boundaries. Often young person C engages with select individuals, finding it difficult to engage with peers and to find similarities among them. In engaging with Ffin Dance activities young person C has been encouraged and enabled to build friendships with other young people and to express themselves alongside their peers.

In what ways do you think Off The Streets has benefitted this child or young person?

Young person C has benefitted from their overall participation in Ffin Dance activities in a multitude of ways. Our project has seen young person C make so much personal progress in developing interpersonal and physical skills, as well as creating friendships and bonds with peers and trusted adults.

Young person C has overcome huge personal challenges to fully engage in sessions and to achieve personal growth and goals. Young person C has become more involved in peer-based activities and continues to grow their personal, social and emotional education.

12 Month Claim April 2025
Detached – Outreach

The number of young people supported between April 2024 – March 2025

Between April 2024 and March 2025, the Abertillery youth detached team engaged a total of 652 young people.

The breakdown is as follows: **Females** – 362 **Males** - 290

There were also 264 anonymous contacts for the period where the detached team have met young people on the street.

Details of provision/activities delivered to support the young people above.

The team currently carry out detached youth work on the following evenings.

Tuesday Evenings: The youth service van is deployed in Abertillery, allowing staff to connect with young people directly in their neighbourhoods. The team have identified Gelli Crug Park in Abertillery to base themselves to run positive engagement activities. This initiative promotes accessibility and provides a safe space for youth to engage with the team. The team are also out on foot building relationships with young people.

Wednesday Evenings: The youth service van is deployed in Brynmawr Welfare Park, this area was highlight as a hotspot for ASB – Young people from the Abertillery area will also attend this session on a Wednesday.

Thursday Evenings: The team conducts centre-based projects in Abertillery, where young people participate in structured activities designed to foster skills and build relationships.

Friday & Sunday Evenings: Detached youth work and street-based outreach are conducted, allowing staff to interact with young people in their natural environment. This approach enables the team to identify and address issues that matter most to the young people they serve. The team are also running open access football sessions on the 3G pitch attached to Abertillery Leisure Centre.

The youth service van is also deployed in Brynmawr Welfare Park, again, this is utilised by young people from Abertillery and acts as a positive diversionary activity.

The detached team utilise the youth service van on Friday and Sunday evenings, the van acts as a diversionary activity to steer young people away from identified hot spot areas by Gwent Police and Community Safety, currently Abertillery has been identified over the past 12 months. The van allows young people to have a safe space to congregate, there is food available along with sporting activities and a PlayStation. The detached team are available to young people to deal with any concerns they may have and to signpost them accordingly.

In addition to these evenings, the detached team also support and signpost young people to Cardiff Kicks and Dragons Rugby sessions in Abertillery to promote positive engagement to support the reduction in ASB.

Utilising the van in the community also gives the detached team an opportunity to engage with young people that may not be attached to education, training or employment that may be risk of becoming homeless, the team can signpost to the wider youth service, the role of the detached is imperative to capturing these young people most at risk.

The Abertillery detached youth work team play a vital role in supporting and empowering young people in the community. Through various workshops, consultations, and engagement activities, the team addresses relevant issues such as, drug and alcohol, PSE, homelessness, NEET (not in education, employment, training) amongst others, whilst providing a safe space for learning and growth. Continued efforts to adapt programming based on the feedback from youth will further enhance the impact of their work in the community.

Details of Partners & Partnership working – Details of activities, provisions carried out with partners.

The detached team work closely with the wider youth service, they often come across young people on the streets that are NEET or homeless, the link the team have with the YEP team within the youth service is vital to be able to make timely and effectively referrals into the team for young people to access support in a timely way. The full-time detached member of staff plays a vital role in facilitating and coordination these projects and is vital in the continuing to be the link to the wider youth service team.

Blaenau Gwent Youth Service has played an active role in the creation of the Blaenau Gwent Anti-Social Behaviour Task Force was formed, comprising key partners including, BG Community Safety Team, Gwent Police Neighbourhood Team, Tai Calon Community Housing, BG Youth Services, and the Council's newly appointed Community Safety Wardens.

The intelligence gathered at the taskforce helps us focus our resources (detached team) to the areas that would benefit most from our support. With this information we can target areas where high levels of ASB have occurred. Our presence in the Abertillery area over the past 12 months has had a significant positive impact in the reduction of ASB calls made to Gwent Police.

This involves fostering strong relationships with young people, understanding their specific needs, and connecting them with additional youth services and resources as required. The role aims to equip young individuals with essential information, support, and opportunities for personal development, with the view to reduce ASB.

The full-time detached youth worker collaborated on five engagement activities led by Blaenau Gwent's new 'Taskforce,' aimed at addressing ASB through a multi-agency approach. Regular interaction with local businesses and the community has fostered positive feedback on social media, highlighting the effectiveness of the team's outreach efforts. The staff also participate in wider youth forums, allowing for the exchange of best practices and insights with other local authority youth services. The team played a vital

role in the summer programme of activities provided by BG Youth Service where hundreds of young people participated, this allowed the detached team to engage with young people involved in ASB.

We have learnt over the past 12 months that working in partnership with key agencies and organisations is vital to combat community issues and insuring projects run successfully. An example of this being in November 2024, the ASB Task Force was announced as a Category Winner: Anti-Social Behaviour at the Wales Safer Communities Awards ceremony in Wrexham.

Details of outcomes/ impact/ good or innovative practice/ positive outcomes

The team has been actively working with young people to enhance their contributions to the community through various initiatives. Notably, two art projects have been successfully implemented: In Ebbw Vale, young people planned and executed a creative project in a local car park and in Abertillery, they undertook a similar project but too a more community led approach and completed an art project in a bus shelter in an area with reported ASB incidents. These art projects not only enhanced the spaces visually but also fostered a sense of ownership and pride among the young people and the community, showcasing their potential to drive positive change perceptions of young people.

ASB Task Force was announced as a Category Winner: Anti-Social Behaviour at the Wales Safer Communities Awards ceremony in Wrexham. This highlights the dedication and positive work the detached team have carried out and the over the past 12 months, and the importance of collaborative partnerships working.

Gwent police have reported a reduction of ABS related calls and local business have also reported to the detached team a reduction in ASB.

Details of any barriers experienced:

Barriers and challenges encountered are resource limitations, a critical barrier to maximising the potential of youth activities is the lack of dedicated facilities and relevant resources. Without adequate space and necessary tools, it becomes challenging to create impactful programs that can effectively engage young people and encourage their participation.

Stereotyping of young people, the rise in anti-social behaviour (ASB) in the area has fostered negative perceptions of young people within the community. These stereotypes complicate efforts to build constructive relationships between young individuals and community members. It can lead to a cycle of mistrust, further alienating youth and reducing their opportunities for positive engagement.

Identified key areas of need /focus/ development for Detached provision.

There is a persistent lack of understanding regarding the team's role within the community, although this has improved a great deal through enhanced social media presence and community engagement.

Funding – Constant threat of funding not continuing

Staffing Challenges: - Staffing challenges persist due to the relentless pressures on communities and partner agencies. The growing demand for detached youth work highlights the need for more staff to effectively support young people and address their needs.

The Abertillery detached youth work team has made significant strides in supporting young people over the past year, with numerous successful initiatives and positive community partnerships. Continued efforts to address resource limitations and enhance community understanding will be vital for sustaining and expanding these programs in the future.

The team aims to engage with more young people moving forward with the addition of extra staff to continue the successful work that has already been carried out.