

South Woodham Ferrers report April - July 2025

Highlights from this term:

- We had a new volunteer join the team. Martin has made a great start and particularly enjoys playing board games and Uno with the young people.
- We have 5 young leaders - they have made great progress and continue to grow in confidence, leadership & creativity. One of the young leaders enjoyed helping in youth club so much that she also completed her school work experience week with us.
- YMCA entered a team into a community football tournament, organised and run by the PFCC. Much of the team was made up SWF young people from youth club; they had an incredible day of playing football, meeting new people and eating good food. They ran their own football training session in youth club the week before to practice. They worked so hard and we were so proud of them, our team even won the Team Spirit award!

Most common topics of discussion:

- School, friendships, family dynamics, goals and aspirations.
- Young people enjoy telling youth workers about their week, achievements and challenges.
- They are very open, due to the fantastic rapport they have with staff.
- Staff love celebrating achievements with the young people and many conversations, particularly with the older group, are focused around goal setting and aspirations for the future.



Specific support given to young people this term:

- Young people expressed concerns about a friend. Even though the friend doesn't attend youth club, the young people gave us enough information that we were able to hand this over to the school, who were then able to investigate and support this young person. This highlights the trust that has been built so strongly in this youth club.
- Dealing with friendship issues and changes in friendship groups.
- Navigating change: moving house, changing school, changing school year & the pressures that come with this.



What does engagement look like here?

- Young people absolutely love the access that we have to the outside space in this club, we have been able to facilitate a range of different sports activities over the summer weeks, inviting lots of laughter and friendly competition. Sports and games are combined with picnic and ice lolly breaks, creating a safe space for conversations and getting to know each other.
- South Woodham Ferrers has a really nice community feel with a positive and kind atmosphere. Everyone gets on really well and are very welcoming to new comers. New people who have joined on their own now have excellent, new friendships in the youth club as everyone supports, welcomes and encourages each other.
- The older session is very much youth-led. The young people often plan the week before what they would like to do for their session, whether this be baking, crafts or games. They are very proactive when it comes to certain points in the academic year, for example, as exams approached they chose to have revision time during the club. They used this time to practice their presentations, offering advice and constructive criticism to one another which was all taken on board positively.
- Popular games include: Dodgeball, Rounders, Football, Badminton, Head Bands and games such as Uno and Herd Mentality.



Next term we are looking forward to:

- Greeting the young people after the summer holidays, catching up and seeing what they've been up to.
- Creating new activities and session plans through collaboration with the young people. They love being involved in decision making and often bring creative ideas.
- Welcoming new young people - we will be arranging a Year 6 open evening to encourage new attendees.