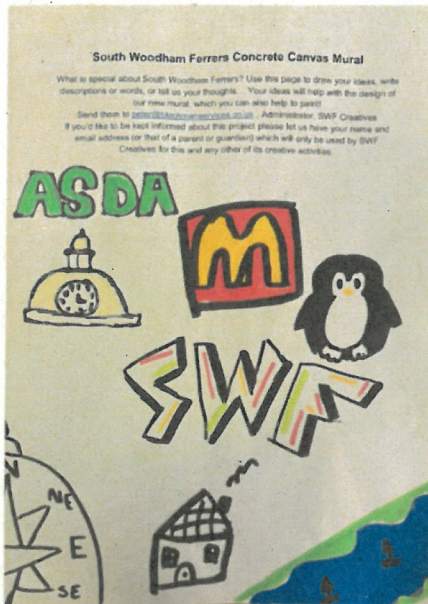


# South Woodham Ferrers report January - April 2026

## Highlights from this term:

- One of the young people from the older session spoke live on City Sound Radio, Chelmsford. She spoke so incredibly well of her experience with us at the YMCA, sharing her views on youth clubs and the volunteering opportunities that have contributed to her DofE certificate.
- Attendance has remained consistent and young people have been able to enjoy an exciting mix of activities, such as sports, arts & crafts and baking. The young people have loved developing their table tennis skills and coming up with fun and unique games to play inside.
- The second session have often chosen to use their youth club time to revise for their GCSE's. They always feedback that is such a nice and supportive environment to do their revision in, supported by their peers, and staff who are always ready to go through some flash cards and mini tests.
- This youth club has also introduced team challenges and unique activities over the past term, which the young people are always so excited for. Examples of the challenges are Don't drop the balloon, Baby food challenge, Face biscuit and Cone grab. The young people also offer up their own challenges for the following week.



## Specific support given to young people this term:

- As young people see youth club as such a safe space, they often start conversations with the group around topics that are currently impacting them. This can range from recent documentaries, to additional needs, healthcare and personal circumstances. The fact that young people feel they can be so open with each other and staff, demonstrates the strong sense of trust that has been built over time.
- Some young people in the club are young carers. We have had many conversations with them about prioritising their mental health and wellbeing when caring for others.
- As many of the older session approach their GCSE exams, staff have been revising with them most weeks, going through flashcards and text books to help increase their confidence as exams approach. There have also been many conversations around burnout, and how they must allow themselves time to rest between revising for exams and be kind to themselves in stressful times.



## What does engagement look like here?

- There is often an indoor sport activity set out like basketball or table tennis, with colouring/crafts on another table, and our comfy bean bag section for those who just want to relax.
- The young people here maintain a positive attitude from the second they walk into the room, greeting staff and telling them all about their week.
- Young people have different interests, but when it comes to team games, challenges and activities, everyone joins in together as a community to have fun and try something new.
- Fantastic relationships have been built between youth workers and young people and activities are co-created to ensure they are engaging and current. For example, the young people in this group particularly enjoy crafts, and recently made pipe cleaner flower bouquets to take home for themselves or loved ones.

## Most common topics of discussion:

- Young people feel safe and able to talk openly about anything that's on their mind e.g. personal achievements, friendships as well as anything that's worrying them
- Exams have been a very prevalent topic this term
- Future goals and aspirations in education and careers

## Next term we are looking forward to:

- Supporting our older session with their GCSE's
- Being part of the PFCC's annual charity football match and having young people from the club as part of the team
- Developing new exciting group challenges with input from the young people
- Having picnics and playing games in the outside space
- Celebrating more Jack Petchey award scheme winners