

**Gilberdyke Parish Council
Gilberdyke Youth Project
Mission Statement – September 2020**

What are our aims and objectives for the Gilberdyke Youth Project

Key Mission Statement: The Gilberdyke Youth Project will strive to contribute to the personal, social development and economic well-being of young people within an equal society and to give them confidence to be part of their community and to love where they live.

Gilberdyke Parish Council believe the Youth Workers relationship with the young people is key to this objective and our key aims and objectives are:

- To provide a high-quality youth provision which is accessible to young people, ensuring they have the opportunities, experiences, knowledge and skills to become well rounded individuals that can fulfil their potential personally and feel a valued member of their communities - as part of this teach them to be responsible for their actions and to learn right from wrong.
- To ensure young people's voices are heard and to provide recreational and sporting activities that offer fun, friendship, enjoyment and learning.
- To celebrate young people because of who they are and what they have achieved; to improve confidence and promote positive profiles of their contribution to society.
- Where necessary provide a safe and trusted environment where young people feel confident enough to raise and ask for help with issues many young people face today, such as mental health, sexuality and drug abuse.
- To ensure equal opportunity for those who struggle whether that is mental health or family matters wise.

And the project will never lose sight of a key objective, which is for young people to have fun and enjoy themselves:

- Day trips out for fun
- Visit to the cinema
- Field activities and water sports
- Visits to educational site such as The Deep, Magna, etc

How will the Gilberdyke Youth Project achieve these aims and objectives

Gilberdyke Parish Council believe developing and maintaining trust and confidence and professional relationships with young people is key. Youth workers will strive to listen and advocate and we believe it is critical to involve young people in decision making processes – to consult with them on what they want, what is happening in their communities, involving them in planning and responding to need.

“Let the kids lead the way they decide what projects, things they want to do get involved with”.

Our initial thoughts are having young people involved in village projects, including the pond, the park, a possible skate park (removable ramps on the car park), help in fixing fences, planting, Xmas decorations, helping the elderly with shopping. In addition, prepare young people for real life – guidance in CV's, job interviews, bank accounts, social skills.

This can be achieved by helping young people to:

- Develop social and communication skills
- Develop a responsibility towards others
- Develop decision making skills
- Adapt and respond to change in themselves and their social and physical environment.
- Develop confidence and enable them to express their own reasoned opinions
- Develop awareness of their feelings, attitudes and values of themselves and others.
- To educate themselves and challenge positively

Two examples of how the Gilberdyke Youth Project will achieve this are:

Example 1.

Young people are telling us that young people are using drugs in the villages.

Detached work to go and speak to young people, see what is happening in the community and if there is any evidence of drug use and to what extent. To offer advice and education to those informally during detached work.

Youth workers to offer drug awareness sessions to young people as a planned focused session and intervention.

Youth workers to offer drug awareness sessions to parents and community members.

Youth workers to work with local partners as part of an information gathering exercise and keeping communities safe. (Police, schools etc)

Youth workers to arrange a community first aid course (virtually perhaps?) so people know how to respond to a medical emergency should one arise, particularly if it is drug related.

These sessions would raise awareness and educate all sectors which would hopefully enable young people to make better informed decisions, to support someone who is struggling and know which service to access. To proactively tackle an issue as a whole community.

Example 2.

Young people are telling us they want to reconnect with their friends again safely as it's affecting their mental health.

Detached / virtual work to gather the views of young people, offer one to one session(s) with young people who are struggling and to plan safe sessions together. Youth workers also to gather the views of parents and carers on how they feel.

Youth workers to offer covid safe drop-in slots for young people to socialise and see the youth workers in a setting. These sessions would be very simple, hot drinks, music and talking. Other social sessions could develop from there.

Youth workers to offer planned outreach sessions to young people to encourage safe gathering and keep them connected with each other but to also help them to understand the forever changing government guidance.

What will the new Youth Project look like, and how will it be delivered – ie session based or outreach

We feel the look of the new Youth Project needs to be young person led. Young people are telling us that they want a bit of everything, face to face, virtual and outreach. We think we need to be flexible and need led to begin with. Gathering their views at this point is important to ensure they are involved in the planning and we are listening to their needs. We live in strange and worrying times, but there is also a lot of opportunity – the Youth Project is keen to use social media, Instagram/Facebook get the young people involved and to make sure they are active in delivering key and positive messages to all

Youth Workers will commence outreach / detached work ASAP and can set up virtual sessions as soon as we get the equipment needed. Getting virtually set up will be a key priority for the Youth Project so we are able to cope with anything the future throws at us without losing touch with anyone.

What age groups should the Youth Project focus on

The Gilberdyke Youth Project is **OPEN TO YOUNG PEOPLE FROM GILBERDYKE AND LOCAL VILLAGES – ALL ARE WELCOME**

The Project will be open to anyone from ages 9 to 18 years old and based on previous experience, the Youth Workers have engaged successfully with young people early on and adapt the sessions as they get older to keep them engaged.

The sessions and needs are very different for each age group.

How will we measure success say within six months and one year

Both Gilberdyke Parish Council and the Youth Workers believe this is critical and are keen to ensure we are delivering what everyone wants

We are currently developing ways to measure our success, which will include monitoring :

- The number of young people engaging.
- Providing young people with the opportunity to provide feedback
- Also doing the same with other stakeholders such as parents, guardians and carers, and the wider community
- Youth worker and PC communication.

Youth Workers will of course evaluate with young people in their work – we feel the best way is to ask the young people!!!

What are the challenges facing the new Youth Project and MOST IMPORTANTLY how will we meet these

The current ongoing pandemic is the obvious biggest challenge at the moment - ensuring everyone is safe and feel confident to become involved in the project.

Sessions will be managed by a thorough risk assessment and will be need to be tightly organised even though this takes away from the drop in, informal culture we would like to have.

In the short-term Youth Workers concentrate on detached work, with Youth Workers going to Young People instead of the other way around. Once the risk assessment is in place the Youth Project can organise targeted/focused sessions which can be advertised and people can book into. The virtual sessions can also offer a structure yet more open forum for young people to gather too.

“Young people want to be together and socialise - we just have to find a safe way for them to do exactly that, especially in the new world of Covid”

This mission statement will be reviewed in 6 months' time from the date of the approval of the Parish Council and thereafter on an annual basis in order to ensure it remains 'fit for purpose'

Signed (Parish Chair, on behalf of Parish Cllrs) *Nick Norris*

Nick Norris

Date of Signature *15th September 2020*