

## Gilberdyke Youth Project Mission Statement

### **Aims and objectives for the Gilberdyke Youth Project**

The Gilberdyke Youth Project will strive to contribute to the personal, social development and well-being of young people within a fully inclusive and safe environment and to give them confidence to be part of their community and to appreciate and respect where they live.

Gilberdyke Parish Council believe the Youth Project 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.
- 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.
- Provide a safe and inclusive 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 support is available for those who struggle whether that is with their 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 through sporting activities, trips out for fun, visits to the cinema and field activities such as horse riding.

### **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 Project 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.

*“Place the young people at the centre of all sessions, let them lead on activity choices and trips”.*

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), continue to develop the planting area and progress to a sensory garden area where young people and families can sit and enjoy sensory plants in a relaxing environment.

This can be achieved by helping young people to prepare for real life:

- Guidance in CV's, job applications, etc.
- 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 tell us that young people are using drugs in the villages.
- Youth Project workers, on 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.
- Youth Project workers to offer advice and education to those informally during detached work.
- Youth Project workers to offer drug awareness sessions to young people as a planned focused session and intervention.
- Youth Project workers to offer diversionary activities to help engage young people in more positive activities.
- Youth Project workers to work with local community partners as part of an information gathering exercise and keeping communities safe. (Police, schools etc)
- Youth Project 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*

- Parents are contacting the Youth Project to ask for support as their children do not go to school and have no friends.
- Young people are invited to attend the youth group in an inclusive, safe and friendly environment.

The Gilberdyke Youth Project has grown in numbers in the last two years and has attracted a number of young people who are:

- Not in mainstream education
- Facing permanent exclusion from their schools
- Neurodiverse and struggling with friendships

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

### **How will we measure success?**

Both Gilberdyke Parish Council and the Youth Project workers believe this is critical and are keen to ensure we are delivering what everyone wants. The Youth Project 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
- Doing the same with other stakeholders such as parents, guardians and carers, and the wider community
- Youth Project workers will report back to the Parish Council with updates on the project
- Youth Project workers will continue to communicate with the young people to ensure the project is on track, relevant and engaging

**What are the challenges facing the Youth Project and how will we meet these?**

The current challenges are the Youth Project is growing in numbers and it is sometimes difficult to manage such a large group. Going forward it may be necessary to split the groups more and perhaps start another evening session to allow organic growth.

Date of Parish Council meeting at which this Mission Statement was agreed	
Signed	
Date	
Review date	