



Youth Work

Education

Recovery

Fund

Village Storytelling Centre and SWAMP | Glasgow

37 young people, in six small groups from 4 schools, participated in the development of youth-led, creative communities, where they shared personal experiences and explored their own creative expression as a tool for maintaining individual and collective wellbeing. Initially sessions were facilitated online, and after Easter, the group met in person. The young people attending the project had been specially referred by teachers and parents, due to concerns of isolation, anxiety and unhappiness which, for many, stemmed from before the pandemic, with COVID simply exacerbating existing issues. Activities included youth-led creative writing, live performance, including music, photography, painting and sculpture, alongside facilitated discussion with relaxation and mindfulness practice.

Direct Impact

92% of participating young people improved their skills, particularly confidence to build relationships, communicate thoughts, feelings, opinions and ideas - and build ideas with others.

84% of participating young people improved their literacy skills, demonstrating creativity imagination through writing and other creative and building confidence to perform their own work.

86% of participating young people improved their health and wellbeing.

Accredited Awards

91% of young people achieved an Arts Award (Discover).

Feedback from young people:

“I feel like this is somewhere I could do anything.”

“I’ve now got ways to meditate. It’s made me feel hopeful.”

“This is the first time I have been open and not been scared I’d be judged.”

“I’ve been inspired and I can actually feel proud of my writing.”

Feedback from parent:

“This has been so good for X. She was so anxious and upset before this started. She didn’t want to go back to school and I was really worried about her. She is smiling again.”

Feedback from teachers:

“There are young people here who never stay in engaged in anything yet they have never missed a week. We have seen a big difference in their engagement, in how they are relating to each other and their confidence is growing. I have learned so much more about these young people’s experiences and struggles because they have felt able to share with the group.”

“All the young people involved in the project are Nurture pupils who were selected due to their social and emotional needs. I have observed a significant change in their ability to engage in the activities...They are confident and mature in describing their feelings and emotions. They have described the environment as ‘anxiety free’, ‘stress free’, ‘calming’ and ‘helpful’.”