

1. What is the role of the Youth Service, what are they delivering for young people?

The Youth Service currently sits within the Youth Hub alongside Young Carers and Young Person's Drug and Alcohol Service. We are moving towards a single 'With Youth' approach where every young person receives seamless, strengths-based, relationship-centred support at the right time for them and in the right place that empowers them to thrive in education, employment, wellbeing, and community life.

We work alongside the Youth Homeless Prevention team to collaborate on projects and service development to encourage a proactive and preventative culture of support in line with the Families First Partnership.

Our work also compliments and is informed by the National Youth Strategy with high quality youth work at its core, providing flexible approaches, expanding capacity and sharing specialisms in the team to best meet the needs of young people.

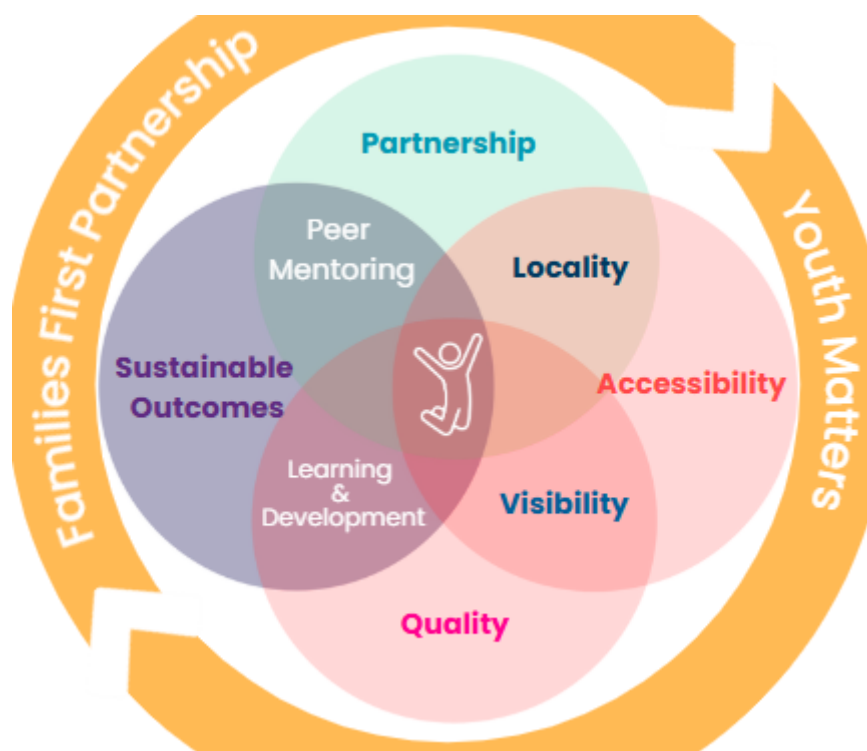


Figure 1- 'With Youth' Success Framework

Our work is predominately targeted, 1 to 1 and group work, referrals currently coming from schools and across Children's Services, with some open-access sessions where young people can just turn up. Delivery is rooted in voluntary engagement and mainly with 11- to 17-year-olds, with some extended provision for 8 –to 10-year-olds and 16 – to 19-year-olds. We are also exploring a play offer for our 6- to 8-year-old young carers as an identified gap.

We are developing fresh partnerships with VCSs and the Youth Service and Young Carer team have now separated into two locality teams to enhance these place-based relationships. We are also focusing on inclusion to ensure our work is accessible, this includes further training to be undertaken related to SEND, and growth of our offer with additional She and Us groups and currently planning a group for young people questioning and exploring their identity, designed to be discreet to compliment the work Proud to Be are already doing.

We are working with Sarah Dorsett from the Community Safety team to develop a peer mentoring programme to support sustainable outcomes by developing 'moral courage' for the young people we work with. We are keen to take the learning and impact from the Mentors in Violence Prevention model and develop a peer mentoring programme, which would support young people to keep themselves and each other safe, when there are no trusted adults around.

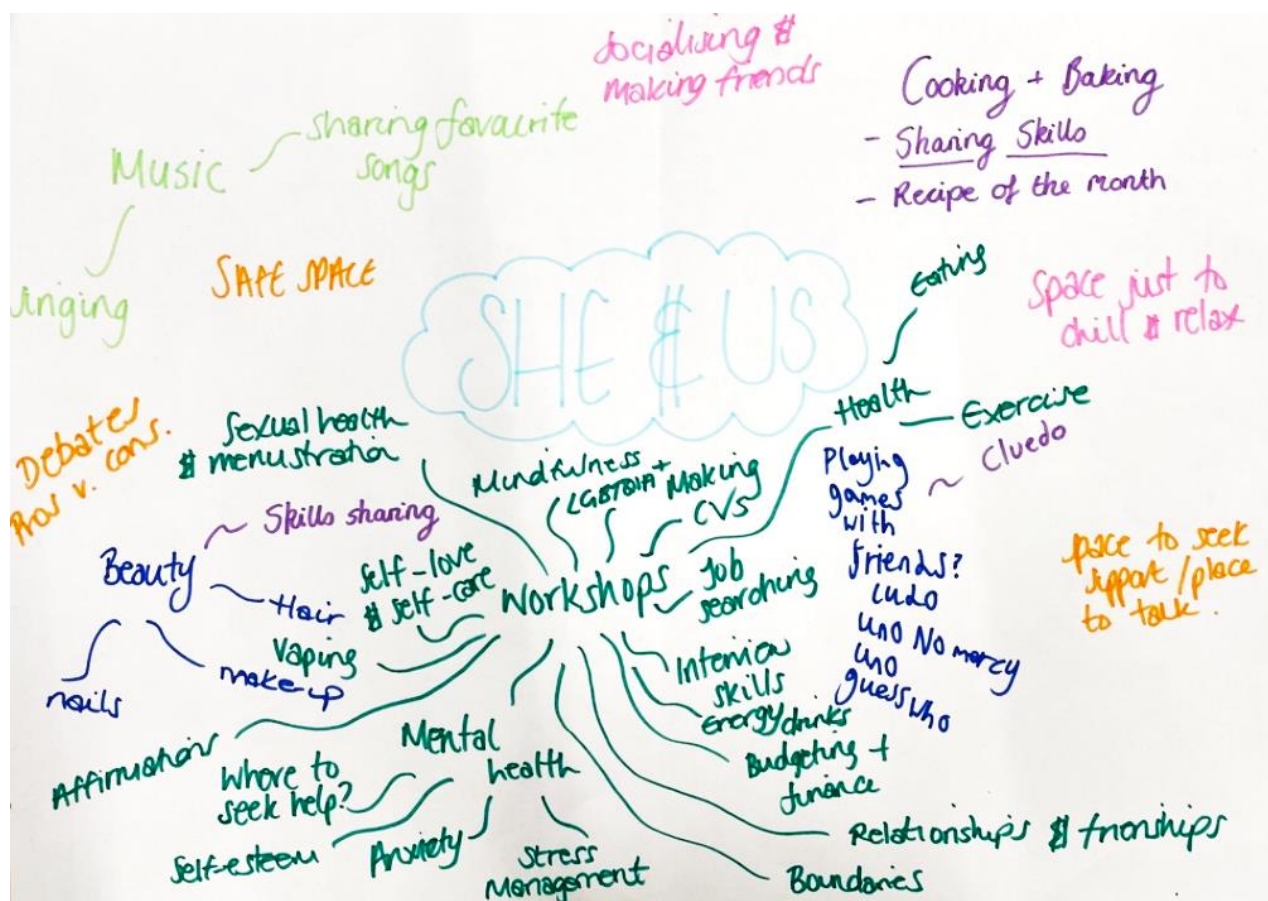


Figure 2 She and Us activities and themes young person led

We have listened to the feedback provided by young people at the Powered by Youth event in September 2025 and are focusing on delivering on some of the things they have requested to compliment and in collaboration with amazing partners as outlined below.

- **Safe places to go** – We have been successful in bidding for some Better Spaces funding. This has been used to improve Chilled Out our youth space in Torquay to make it more comfortable, accessible and inviting and to secure additional resources to support skills development including First Aid training equipment. We are hoping to re-launch this space mid-May. We are keen for our partners to provide direct work from this space so it can be well utilised all day / every day. We are also exploring the development of a youth club in Whiterock as a progression on from the assertive outreach work, Space have done to provide a 'soft landing' for the young people in that area and maintain the reduction in ASB.
- **Help to find work** – We are working on a potential project with Devon, Plymouth and Torbay Careers Hub and Imagine This exploring volunteering / work experience opportunities for young people in the VCS. We are delivering a Fair Futures Festival on Tuesday 9th June at the Town Hall supported by our partners and wider services including Adult Social Care and TSDFT. The aim of the event is to bring support and opportunities together under one roof for those young people who are unsure about their next best step. We are also supporting the 'Cradle to Career' project with local schools.
- **More things to do** – We are embracing 'active support planning' in our work, as identified as good practice in a recent Research in Practice study on Young Carers support this includes purposefully planning early on to accompany young people to experience activities offered by other providers. We are also involved in Torbay on the Move Outdoor Partnership and have suggested joining up on a combined Summer Programme. We have had feedback that the HAF programme needs to be adapted to support activities for young people, who don't want to engage in 4-hour sessions.
- **To know about what is going on** – We are exploring a range of methods to promote what we are doing directly to young people including the use of the SPOND app and Sound Communities Ocean Youth Radio and Imagine This's What's On page. We have also been updating our pages on the Family Hub website. We recognise there is not just 'one way' to share and communicate with young people.

Current number of young people working with us:

- 540 young carers on our register. An average of 168 young carers attend an activity each month.
- 175 young people in our Youth Service Community.
- 31 young people currently receiving 1 to 1 youth work with an allocated worker.
- 25 young people currently regularly attending groups.
- 50 young people a month on average attending open session at Parkfield. This is an increase of 11 from the previous quarterly average.

- 17 young people are currently in structured treatment and working with our substance misuse workers.

To support promotion and uptake of our groups we are currently working with South Devon College to provide a weekly lunch time drop in for open conversations and relationship building.

2. What open access youth provision is currently available to young people, not just via the Youth Service but on a wider scale?

The local authority outcomes framework states:

7.19.17 Participation in youth services in the last 12 months (including sports, music, art or youth clubs) – output metric placeholder:

'This placeholder metric will show the number of children in a local authority aged between 11 - 16 who have participated in out-of-school youth services over the prior 12 months, based on a new question in the Active Live Survey from September 2026. Potential youth services will likely include attending an out-of-school sports club or fitness class; art or music group, course or club or music lessons; uniformed youth group; youth club or centre; any other group or club. The 11 - 16 age range has been chosen, rather than the wider statutory age range of local authorities' duty for youth services, as it aligns with the existing Active Lives Survey design.'

Open-access youth provision in Torbay is delivered through a mixed economy model, combining Torbay Youth Service delivery with a strong voluntary and community sector offer.

This list refers to open access where no referral is required, it is free or low-cost and young people can choose to attend.

- Ripples Youth Club (Paignton/Gerston) – town-centre drop-in with games, sports and IT access.
- Great Parks – Youth Club (Paignton)
- St Paul's Youth Club (Torquay) – indoor and outdoor activities, social space
- Windmill Youth Provision (Torquay) – weekly open-access, youth-led sessions focusing on life skills, wellbeing and social connection
- Mad Moos Milkshake Bar (Paignton) – after-school open drop-in café provision in partnership with a local church
- The Zone Youth Nights – physical activity-focused youth sessions including parkour and creative activities.
- Brixham Youth Group – Fuel Youth

Children's Overview and Scrutiny Board

18th May 2026

Youth Service Lines of Enquiry

- Sound Communities – Ocean Youth Radio Saturday Sessions – managed open access in Paignton.
- YMCA South Devon – Open Youth Sessions (Paignton)