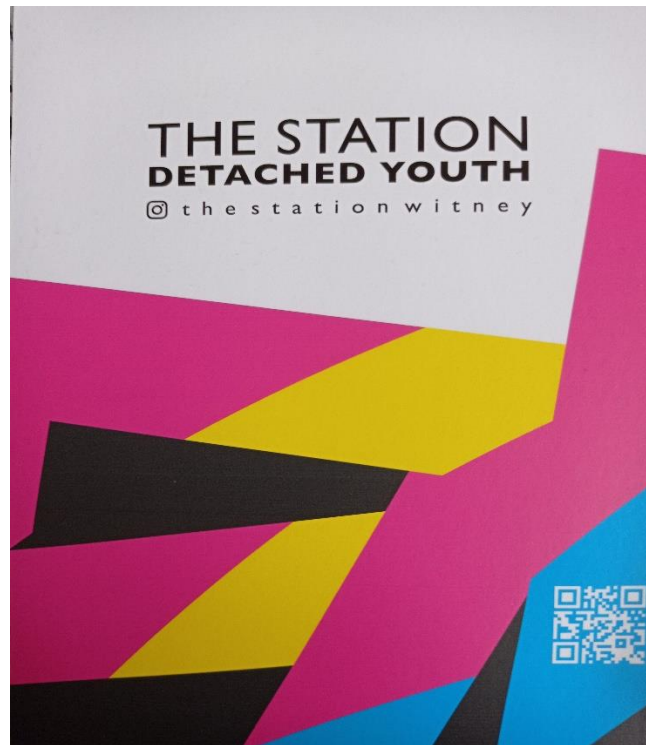


Report on *The Station*
detached youth work.



***The Station* detached youth work officially began on Thursday the 22nd of February. Working alongside Jason Huffadine and Guy Plowman, we put together the safeguarding and risk assessment policies for this work to proceed and ensured that our respective DBS checks were up-to-date. A spreadsheet for any future volunteers and paid detached youth workers was also put together, along with a “volunteer” starter pack. A document with some basic training was written up and will be delivered before any new youth worker begins their work on the streets.**

In March we purchased a laptop and 2 new phones (on a two-year contract), as well as a number of *The Station* hoddies and t-shirts and a couple of large flags with *The Station* logo on them to be taken to future events. Jason went to print on the flier (see above) which we have since been distributing on a regular basis.

I have had 3 meetings at Witney Police Station with Chris Ball, the local police Inspector, along with others from St Mary’s Cogges church. We have been planning a 5-week focus for the young people during the coming summer holiday period and the following images (see below) give a good summary of its aims and objectives:



KICK



FREE FOOTBALL SESSIONS THIS AUGUST
@ the station witney

KICK

29 JULY - 30 AUGUST

THE STATION DETACHED YOUTH ARE HOSTING **KICK**
MONDAYS, WEDNESDAYS 7-9PM+ FRIDAYS 6-8PM
WITNEY ARTIFICIAL TURF PITCH, GORDON WAY

FREE FOOTBALL SESSIONS MATCHES SPLIT BY AGE Y7&8 AND Y9-11
FREE COLD DRINKS AND SNACKS AVAILABLE // FOOTBALLS AND BIBS PROVIDED



WWW.THESTATION.LIFE

THE STATION is an initiative of members of Witney Community Church through the Bright Futures Oxfordshire charity supported by Witney Town Council and others

The main idea behind this project is to create a safe place for this age group to meet, play football and hang out during those 5 weeks. We have already begun recruiting volunteers to help run these fifteen 2-hour sessions, as well as order various equipment needed. This venture, if successful, will then be repeated in coming years and we are also working on finding other games and activities for the Tuesdays and Thursdays of this 5-week period, so as to provide something for each day.

Guy and myself were at the opening of the Wheeled Sports Park on 22nd March and made some initial contacts with the teenagers there. In April, I had a meeting at my house where I invited a number of contacts who had expressed an interest in the work of *The Station* and there were 9 people present, ranging from their mid-twenties up to the age of 80! I have since set up a whatsapp group with them and three or four are updating their DBS status and reading through the RA and safeguarding documents, before receiving their training imminently and going out onto the streets in pairs. Once this is done, we aim to have people out and about on a regular basis during any given week.

I have been out myself on a few occasions with the intention of finding out where the teenagers tend to hang out and starting to make contact with them and recognize faces and names. This is a process that obviously requires time and patience, but with more people joining the team, I am confident that we will soon be able to build trust and acceptance with a growing number of young people. Extra focus, hours and manpower will also be put into the Witney Music Festival at the end of May / beginning of June as it attracts the age group we are working with.

There is more I could say – including the wider links I have formed with other youth workers, such as real interest from Chris Papadopoulos, who is the Senior Youth Worker for North and West Oxon and works for Oxfordshire County Council – but I will leave it there for now and be very happy to answer any further questions you may have about the work of *The Station* so far. Thank you for your support and backing on the project which could not happen without you.

Alastair Hobbs, May 2024.