

YMCA BARNESLEY

YMCA



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## YMCA UNITY PROJECT

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Building emotional resilience and wellbeing in  
children and young people aged 8-14 years

## Project Overview – Pre Covid Delivery

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- 10 Sessions per week term time
- 2 sessions in each locality / Specific Holiday provision
- Volunteering & peer support opportunities
- Transition Support
- Open access and targeted to respond to need
- Young person focussed and lead
- Community & family engagement
- Referral & signposting to other agencies

## Project Overview – Covid Delivery

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- 2 sessions in each locality – School based lunchtime clubs - Transition Support – working with Year 6 bubbles during lunchtime delivery
- Digital sessions / Virtual youth clubs/ Street based detached sessions /Outdoor activity sessions/ Allotment sessions / Face to face schools & youth club sessions / 1-2-1 support/ Facebook Live & You Tube videos
- Specific Holiday provision – Outdoor allotment sessions inline with NYA and Government Guidelines
- Regular YMCA Barnsley Website & Facebook updates
- Postcards/ Summer catch up cards / Christmas cards
- Activity & resource packs delivered
- Phone calls / Emails / Socially distanced visits to keep in touch
- Peer support opportunities – Outdoor & indoor meetings / Supporting Virtual Youth Club Delivery and booked on sessions
- Sleep support project
- Young person focussed and lead
- Community & Family engagement
- Referral & Signposting to other agencies

## Where we are now.....

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- The project has delivered 211 session and reached 213 Children & Young people (Q1,2 & 3)
- We have 8 Peer Supporters
- Staff Training & Development throughout Covid Response & Ongoing
- Further links with other agencies – strengthening these links during Covid delivery to ensure the children and YP we work with have access to all services required at this time

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Meet the young people and projects.....



# Central

**Oliver's 'Covid cut' raises cash for YMCA**

A YOUNGSTER has raised more than £500 for a local charity by risking a 'Covid cut' and shaving his head. Prior to the lockdown, ten-year-old Oliver Johnson would regularly go to YMCA Barnsley after school. And when, like many people, his hair started to become unmanageable, Oliver decided to use the opportunity to give something back to the organisation that's helped him improve his confidence over the last few years.

Oliver set a target of £150 – but his mum Geri said he was 'chuffed to bits' at making more than three times his total.


"He's attended the YMCA quite a few years now," she said.

"He was quite down with his confidence at first and it's helped him a hell of a lot. They've done really good things for him."

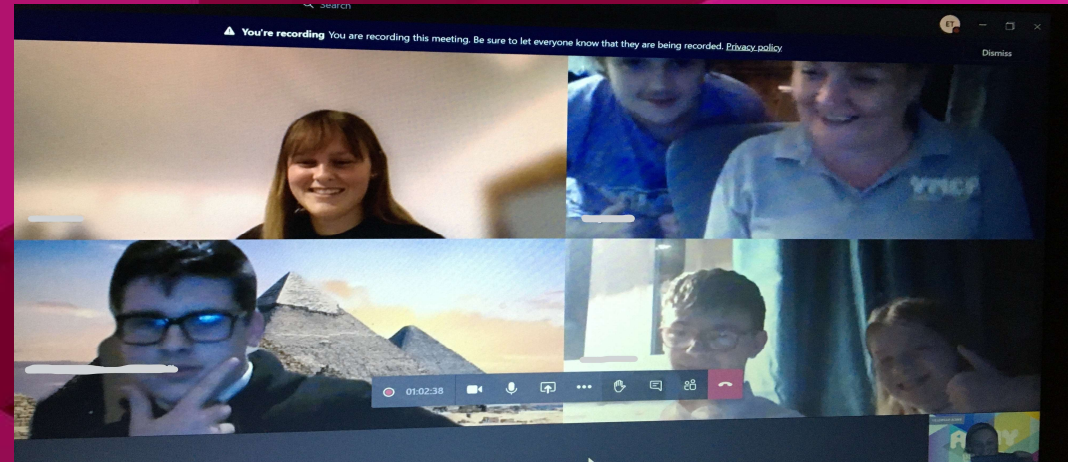
Geri said the Queen's Road Academy pupil had been missing school and his friends when a handwritten postcard sent by the YMCA came through the letterbox.

He decided if he was going to shave his head, he might as well 'try to help people who actually need it'. Geri said: "He got a real lift from the postcard"

The news has travelled the country, with the family receiving messages from as far as Brighton, and Oliver has been featured in YMCA's monthly newsletter for his efforts.



**CUTTING IT:** Oliver celebrates his new style (left) and above, he's pictured with the postcard that inspired him.





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*Oliver says "I love attending the YMCA because it's fun, I've met new friends through the holiday activities rather than just the ones I have at school. They do cool trips for us to go on, the activities are varied, interesting, I learn lots and there always good fun. I get to experience different projects like music recording, dance & drama, gardening, cooking, loads of arts & craft things which are my new interests now and do at home too. The staff are lovely, kind and caring, I have a laugh and I feel comfortable with them. I really would like to join out of the school club and attend on an evening I enjoy it that much and I know how much it's helped me in many ways, I'd like that to continue now I'm getting older and the new challenges I'll be facing that comes with that. Thanks YMCA Barnsley for all your help & fun times."*

*Feedback from Oliver's mum Geri: Oliver has improved in all ways since his time at the YMCA after school club, he showed interest into it which was a big step but yet he didn't have the confidence to ask school about it so I'm so glad he told me, we went along together so he could observe then within 5 minutes he began to join in with a staff member which progressed from then. He was happy to continue attending by himself. He's confidence just kept on growing, his belief in himself & his abilities to try new things, speak to others & allow himself to find his own hobbies, interest & himself, who he was. At home he was loud, bubbly funny and always smiling you wouldn't believe the change in him socially, so it's now great to see the real Oliver all the time now and that's definitely come from him attending the YMCA club all these years, he attends their out of school holiday club which excelled his progression even more. I / we are very grateful to the YMCA for all they have done for Oliver, & hopefully his fund raising idea expressed his thanks in a little way too.*

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# Dodworth





*I enjoy the YMCA youth club because lots of my friends go and we can have fun and also make new friends. I also love the activities the YMCA arrange because they are all different but all absolutely fantastic. Also they do fun days in the school holidays which allows me to learn different things like working in a recording studio and doing workshops.*

*Charlie*

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# Kingstone

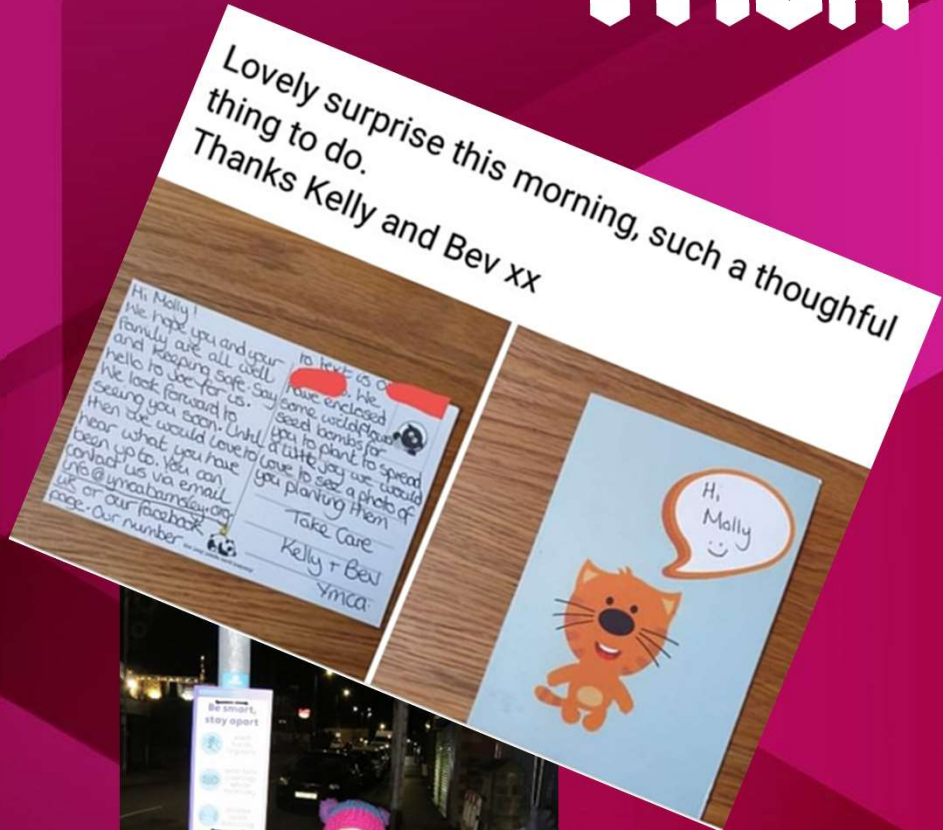


say a big Thankyou for looking after Jowan he adores coming to ymca but tonight he has come back a completely different child he's been very down with loosing his nanny yesterday but he's come home tonight with his little spark relit so just wanted to say thank you it's lovely how he's spent 1.5-2 hrs with you and the difference thank you so much ... could you

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# Stairfoot



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*The children are always keen to attend the YMCA sessions as they are fun and engaging and allow them to explore activities that they might not otherwise have chance to do. Over the Christmas period, the youth workers were always ready with a fun, creative activity for the children (making tree decorations etc.) but were equally happy to facilitate some of the children's requests too. They are always friendly and approachable and make the children feel at ease - I certainly noticed some children coming out of their shells and developing more confidence within the group situation during their time attending the YMCA group.*

**The Forest Academy**

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# Worsbrough

Saturday

Thankyou so much I really wish I had filmed he had the biggest smile ever bless him xx  
Just had this sent from a parent after receiving their postcard from



Hello everyone,  
I got you're postcard thank [you.Me](#) and my family are all safe and staying active and motivated.I've been painting going on long bike rides and walks round Locke park.I hope you're all ok I miss you all I can't wait till YMCA opens again.



Thank you for the post card  
YESTERDAY, 14:01

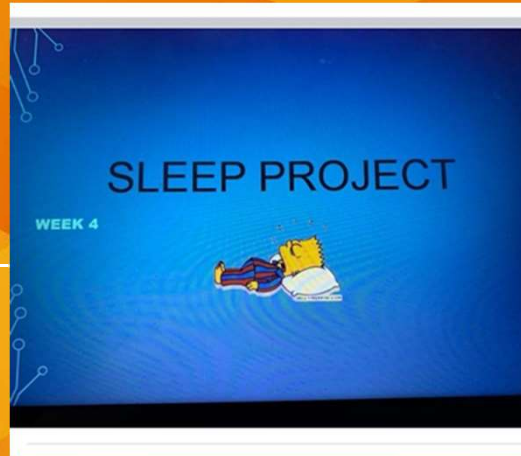


“Just wanted to update you that when I took .....to school this morning and he chatted with me about your chat he said he felt like he had had a load off his mind and felt so much better from talking with you and that it feels good to know he has a safe place to go and a trusted adult he can talk to in confidence if he needs it in the future. So thank you very much, I cannot tell you how much I appreciate it.”

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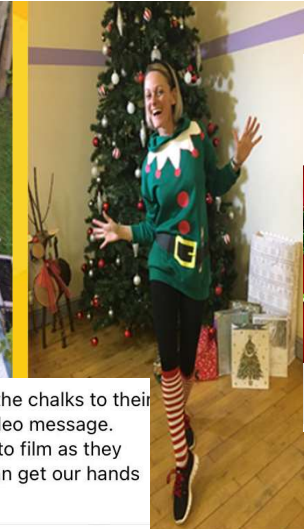
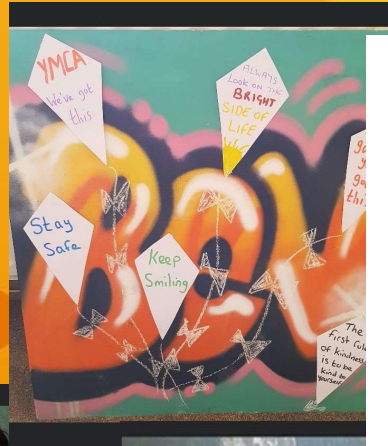
Thank You





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Happy smiley Wednesday folks, the weather forecast is looking wonderful for the next few days so keep topping that vitamin D up, carefully :) Vikki has sent this photo of Amy holding up her postcard received recently from our gang. Amy's smile is infectious, good to see you Amy and keep smiling :)

Here's our Ellie with her contribution to the Central Council Area Advent Calendar. Rumour has it, the director of the BBC has been in touch asking Ellie to audition for Blue Peter but the management have been very clear...hands off our Ellie! 😊



YOUTUBE.COM  
How to make a Christmas Ornament - Ellie



Here's Jo with her contribution to the Central Area Team's advent :) self care is Jo's message, be kind to yourself so you have the energy to be kind to others :)



YOUTUBE.COM  
Christmas Self-care - Jo



Our Jo and her son Will have taken the chalks to their garden wall and have sent in this video message. Apparently it took several attempts to film as they both kept laughing...wonder if we can get our hands on any of the out takes...hmm!?



Things To Do	▶▶
We have a selection of fun activities for you to be creative, active, entertaining & imaginative.	
Health & Wellbeing	▶▶
Resources to help you stay positive and motivated.	
Info for Parents & Carers	▶▶
Important information to help and support parents and carers during this difficult time.	
Links to Other Agencies	▶▶
Useful information links which other agencies may benefit from.	

