



## Case Study – The Exodus Project – Brierley. 30<sup>th</sup> April 2022

### **What Exodus do**

Exodus was formed in the year 2000 by Jackie and Martin, who still manage the project's operations and development. From one activity club in the Town Centre of Barnsley and lots of dreams, the project has grown to 15 activity clubs, a weekend activity centre, two charity shops, 14 staff, 60+ volunteers, 3 minibuses and a large white van! We now have projects all over Barnsley, including Town Centre, Worsbrough Common, Darfield, Brierley, Staincross, Cudworth, South Hiendley and Bank End. We have 7 trustees, many of whom have been with us from the start and continue to guide and inspire our vision for the future.

The North East Area Council has provided funding through the Youth development Fund for Exodus.

This funding goes towards Worker's pay, Management Charges, Transport and Activities Equipment and resources.

Each Quarter Exodus receive £1637.00 from the North East Area Council.

### **In the Quarter from January to March 2022, the service ran:**

- 11 kids club sessions
- 11 'Rock Solid' sessions
- 1 weekend camp for KK group
- 8-11 year – x17 'Kidz Klub'
- 11-15 years – x6

### **TOTAL Volunteer hours – 416**

X4 volunteers worked an average of 4 hours for each of the 11 club sessions between Jan-Mar22

5 volunteers worked 48 hours over the weekend camp in March.

There was one new volunteer who signed up within this period.

### **Quotes via Social Media:**

“LF absolutely loves the group. It's the only time I see her smile. Fantastic group and amazing people who run it. Thanks so much for the time you give to our kids it means so much. Brierley Parent”. CL

“BC absolutely favourite activity of the week!!!! She wouldn't miss exodus for the world. Such a brilliant youth club KB” Brierley parent.

### **It is our unique model that is most noteworthy:**

We work with children and young people, many from the most disadvantaged communities. Our aim is to divert them from destructive lifestyles. We do this by working in partnership with families and others within the communities. There are 5 aspects to our unique model:

1. Our main focus is on mid-week activity clubs in the heart of less advantaged communities. Our clubs for 8-11's are called Kidz Klub. Our youth groups are known as Rock Solid. There are currently 15 groups meeting every week during school term time.
2. We deliver weekend "camps", which combine great fun and educational activities, at our own activity centre known as Jenny's Field. The children and young people who attend the mid-week clubs, come in their turn to the centre, again with the aim of building trusting relationships and growing aspirations.
3. We visit the children in the younger age clubs every week at their homes, to be accountable to parents and carers and to build partnerships.
4. We partner with the wider communities in which our activity clubs are based, by working alongside schools, community associations, ward alliances, residents' groups and local authority officers, delivering galas and community improvement initiatives.
5. The final aspect of our unique model is volunteer development. Over half of our volunteer team are former service users. They progress from the Kidz Klub groups to the Rock-Solid groups, and when they reach 14 they can become junior leaders (volunteers) in the younger age clubs. After that, so many progress to become adult leaders. We have known many of our adult volunteers for 6 to 14 years, as a result of our relationship building approach to volunteer development.

One of our Junior Leaders (Volunteer) aged 14 is coping with the stress of their parents' separation and impending divorce. As so often occurs, young people are not only facing the mental and emotional stress of such a dramatic change in their life circumstances, but they face the feelings of conflict and guilt when it comes to trying to maintain a relationship with parents who are not separating amicably. The Junior Leader also has the challenge of Social Services involvement and for our part we are seeking to support them by providing stability and consistency when their life seems to be in turmoil.

They are involved in a number of different Exodus activities, even those not in their immediate area, in an effort to help distract them and build a network of support and encouragement. This experience is not uncommon and the relationships we build enable us to engage in these ways all the time. This is “what is different now.”

