

## Report for the North East Area Council - July 2022

### Grimethorpe Activity Zone (GAZ)

GAZ (est 1994) is based in the Acorn Centre, High Street, Grimethorpe, Barnsley. S72 7BB.



#### Who works/volunteers there?

The Project Manager: Dave Taylor, has over 25 years qualified Youth worker

x2 sessional youth workers: have prominent positions in schools or other charities

x3 Volunteers: volunteering x12 hours each, trained to a high standard and supervised by qualified, experienced staff

There is a training schedule to ensure all staff receive the appropriate training, gain necessary skills and knowledge to help run the activities for children and young people in the locality.



#### Why Grimethorpe?

In 2021-22, the service's aim was to address some of the poverty issues that affect the lives of children and young people in the region. There are few services for children and young people in the area.

About Grimethorpe: (2019- Community Insight Report/Child Wellbeing Index)

In the bottom 10% of deprived neighbourhoods in England

26% of children were living in poverty (England 17%)

36% lone parent households (25% Nationally)

46% of the community had no qualifications (22% Nationally)

8% Youth Unemployment (3.5% Nationally)

### **The 2021-22 aims:**

- To improve mental health and wellbeing
- Improve education
- Develop confidence and pride in themselves
- Help make new friends
- Reduce loneliness
- Help with youth nuisance and anti-social behaviour

### **How GAZ planned to do this:**

Provide a wide range of fun activities, that are free, in a safe and welcoming environment for young people who can start to shape the sessions.

Enable Young people to elect a youth committee to help design the sessions

Encourage 'Kids running GAZ' and recruit young people to help run their session

### **The GAZ Sessions:**

52 sessions per year during term-time of which 13 were school holiday sessions. Each Session was 2 hours and were aimed at young people of school age.

Wednesday - Younger Group

Thursday - Younger Group

Then, Older Girls \*\*

\*\*In recent years, the number of activity sessions has broadened to react to the needs of the group by introducing an older girls' group.

### **Activities include:**

- arts and crafts
- music
- dance
- games and competitions
- free food at each session



### **Our Council's part:**

The North East Area Council provides some funding towards the group's Out of School Activity Sessions through the Youth Development Fund and GAZ receives funding every quarter following monitoring and evaluation.

### **Funding Received in 2021-22 Financial Year**

Q1 April - June 2021	£1425
Q2 July - September 2021	£1425
Q3 October - December 2021	£1425
Q4 January - March 2022	£1425
<b>Total</b>	<b>£5700 p/a</b>

### **Looking to the Future:**

GAZ have been approved for a further year of funding, £5700, from the Youth Development Fund in the North East Area for 2022-23.

They also apply for funding from other organisations and grants so help fund wider activities.

Dave Taylor stated that they wanted to work more on joined-up projects, especially for Summer Activities, such as those for the Jubilee. He sees the value when working with Grimethorpe Library, Eleanor from the Dance Depot (next-door), churches, Social Prescribers and Love Life UK.

### **Project Officer visit - 28<sup>th</sup> June 2022**

Groups have continued to support their communities throughout the pandemic in a variety of ways, but this has often meant that valuable learning visits to groups have not been able to take place. The North East Project Officer visited GAZ for one of their Younger People Sessions on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2022.

The building is accessed via the ground floor and would be accessible to all. Facilities include a large kitchen area, toilets, and a large room which houses various activities such as a pool table, musical instruments, table-soccer, and tables for activities as well as for eating at.

There were several young people in attendance and three older, uniformed, girls who were later introduced as being Young Volunteers and Leaders. They were organising themselves between the pool table, Jenga and the craft table. Although they were not much older than the young people in attendance, they were listened to, and the younger children followed their instructions.



Along with the Young leaders, there was the Project Leader and one other paid staff member. He explained that due to family circumstances another paid member of staff had not been able to attend for an extended period but that there were always another two adult volunteers.



The young people drifted between some activities but also were prompted to take part by either the Young Leaders or the sessional workers/volunteers.

They played Jenga, musical instruments, created window decorations, keyrings and coloured for a competition. They also took part in organised, 'Play your cards Right' and a Pool Tournament.

Near the end of the session while they were sitting eating Pizza, grapes and bananas, they played an organised game of Bingo. Food is provided at every session.

The children chatted about what they liked about Gaz:

“I like doing the pool tournaments and bingo”

“The food is good”





“There’s loads of different things to do”

“I like to sit and do the colouring - they have a competition”

While the children ate and chatted the Project Officer chatted to staff and volunteers who were willing to write their thoughts about GAZ too - but at that moment were a little busy!



The colouring competition was judged and prizes for all the competitions and games were given out. The Project Lead noted that they don’t get much but they will take part and play the games when there is a prize at the end of it.

