



2025-2026 CREDITON YOUTH SERVICE ANNUAL REPORT

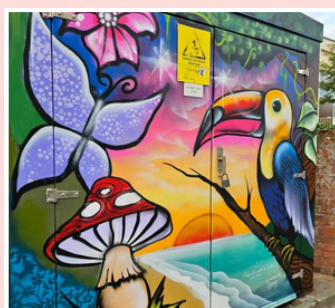


**CREDITON
TOWN COUNCIL**

Alongside our regular activities in the Summer Term at The Hub, Crediton Youth Service (CYS) provided opportunities for young people to learn and develop skills in line with Objective 2 of the Youth Work Strategic Plan through our Photography Internship and Work Experience programme. CYS worked intensively with small groups of young people to build communication, teamwork and presentation skills in real work settings. Photography interns had their work published in the Crediton Courier and on our website, while work experience students took part in budget workshops and helped prepare and present information to the Youth Committee.

One of the participants said: “[the work experience] helped me gain a better understanding of how the council operates as a whole, as well as see the benefits and importance of democracy.”

“My child thoroughly enjoyed last year's work experience! During the project, she was so energised and engaged, it really lit a passion in her for local government and how it sees the younger members of the community. She gained in confidence, especially in speaking to adults outside of the school environment on challenging topics. I would encourage any young person considering it to give it a go!” (parent feedback)



CYS summer holiday programme included events and activities at The Hub and Newcombes Meadow, along with an outdoor adventure trip to Hartland delivered by Skern Lodge. The trip was challenging, exhilarating and fun, and stayed a talking point among the young people for weeks afterwards.

Our street art project, part of the summer holiday programme, was well received by the community. In collaboration with Olas Art, young people transformed a vandalised telecoms box on Parliament Street.

Autumn term saw CYS move from the Town Square to off-site venues across Crediton, creating opportunities to develop new activities and build stronger partnerships with Crediton Library and Crediton Arts Centre. Girls Group and Youth Voice quickly settled into their new venues and began delivering a full range of curriculum activities.

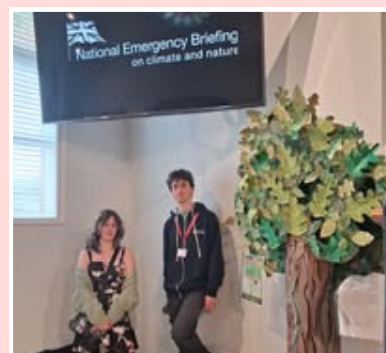


A key highlight of the Autumn Term was the development of Youth Voice, including the recruitment and training of young volunteers, the election of young people to a range of roles, and planning a programme of work that includes Youth Fringe (Summer 2026) and Micro Forest (Autumn 2026).

Delivering a youth voice programme has enabled young people to develop new skills and confidence as these impact statements show: “I’m more socially resilient, I’ve gained confidence”. “My self worth is through the roof coming here”. “Being here has inspired me”. “This is something (Youth Council) that I wouldn’t normally do, and I’ve adapted really well”.

Spring Term saw Youth Voice create a cardboard tree to promote their Micro Forest plans. The Micro Forest Tree has toured to Devon County Council’s County Hall as part of the Things to Do, Places To Go Awards, as well as attending the Annual Town Meeting. Youth Voice was awarded £1,000 to support its activities.

As part of the Tree on Tour, young people are gathering ideas from Crediton residents about future sustainability projects – watch this space to hear more about this later in the year.



Spring term also saw the installation of another piece of CYS art, funded by Crediton Heart Project. Young people made clay rings which stacked together to form a totem pole now installed in Peoples Park Wildlife Area.

Creating young people led public artwork has impacts for the whole community, as well as brightening up different areas of the town, public artwork encourages creativity and ownership. The installation of Community Artwork is one of the aims of Mid Devon District Council's Masterplan. CYS has been delighted to contribute to this through its work with Crediton Heart Project on the totem pole, as well as the street art project in Parliament Street. Look out for more art installation in Summer 2026.



Our girls group continued at Crediton Art Centre, with young people telling us they really like:
"Being with people, making new friends" "I love the cooking"

We measure our qualitative impact against the National Curriculum for Youth Work, as well as through young people's impact feedback.

We measure our quantitative impact through participation and attendance at our sessions.

CYS works with young people in a range of ways across the year, delivering intense work, regular work and outreach work

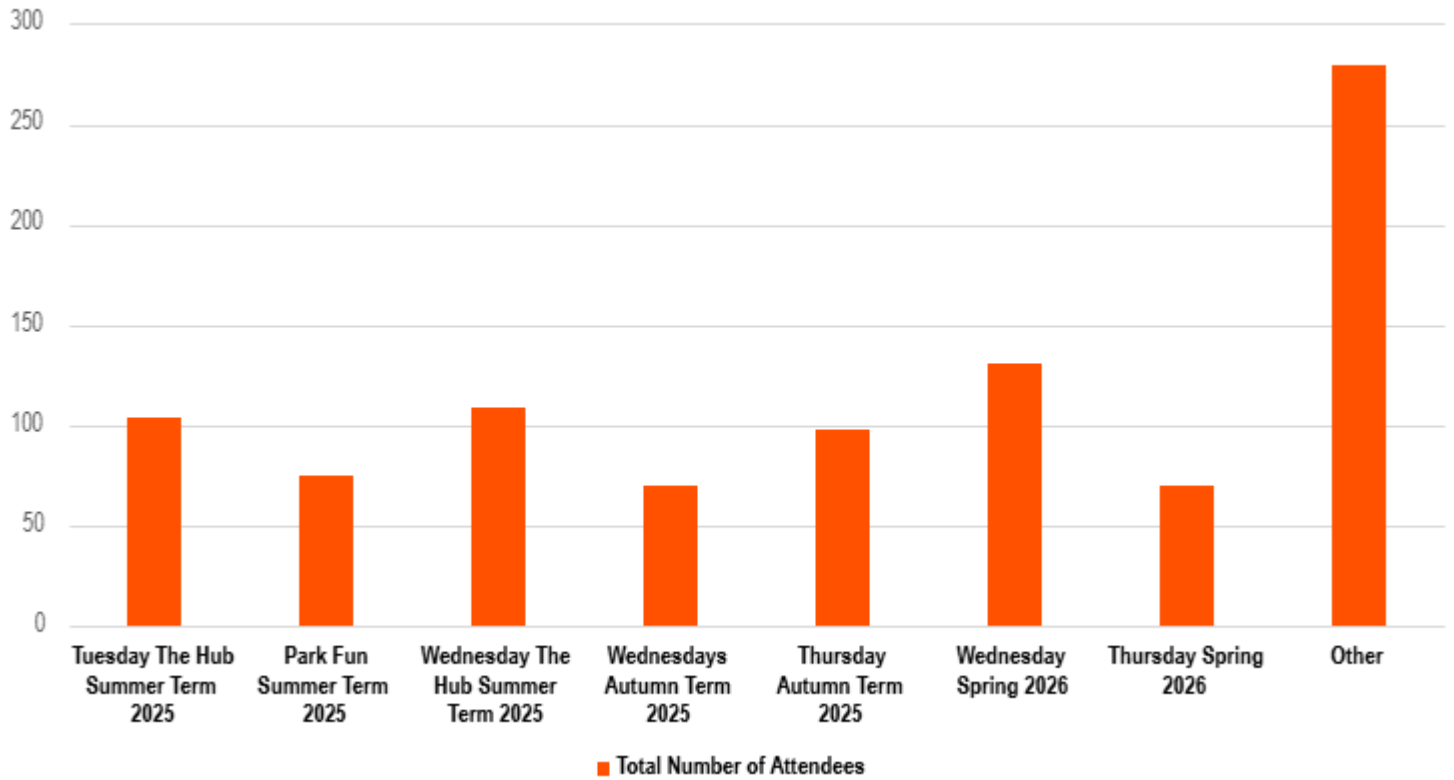
- Intensive work involves a shorter time scale, and usually a smaller number of young people. For example, work experience, photography internship, boxing intervention. Young people may just take part in these projects, or they may also join or be members of our regular weekly work.
- Regular work: This is weekly youth work. For instance, Girls Group, Wednesday Project Night, Youth Voice and Detached Youth Work. The same young people tend to come every week and are members of CYS.
- Outreach work takes place weekly at QE, and annually at Haywards and Landscore Schools with year 6 pupils. Outreach work is characterised by light touch contact with young people, often one-off, occasionally regular and sometimes leading to young people attending regularly. Outreach work can also include assemblies and class talks. On average we speak to between 20 and 40 young people every week during outreach. We do not include outreach work in the statistics given below
- NB These statistics do not relate to a full youth work year, as a month of delivery was lost in September 2025 due to the move from 8 North Street to 6 North Street (Manor Office).

In the last year, CYS delivered 88 sessions (excluding 40 school outreach sessions and 2 assemblies). There were 937 attendees, giving an average of 10.6 young people per session.

We also delivered a further 24 sessions in partnership with other organisations, including 4 sessions of the QE Cookery Hub attended by 16 young people and a course of 10 sessions for 8 young people in partnership with Bang Bang Boxing.

Other projects have included appointing more Peer Educators (young people 16-18 who are employed to help run youth activities, giving them early work experience); hosting focus groups for the skate park re-development; photography of public events, as well as weekly activities and art projects, several in partnership with other town organisations.

Total Number of Attendees 2025 -2026



Average Number of Attendees 2025 -2026

