

PZN Youth Impact Report 2024





Background

2024 was a big year for PZN Youth, full of positive change. The organisation changed names, from Kesoberi CIC to PZN Youth CIC, to better reflect the work and its ambitions. PZN Youth also took on their own building to operate from in December 2023, creating a stable base for the young people to access.

These changes meant the organisation could give young people autonomy in designing the space and filling it with activities and resources they were interested in.

Towards the end of the year PZN Youth signed a Service Level Agreement with Penzance Town Council who now support their core Friday night offer. This has given them the confidence and knowledge that they have local support for the work they are doing.

Thanks to a range of further funding, PZN Youth has been able also offer targeted nights, 1:1 sessions and holiday trips.

Despite experiencing challenges throughout its second year in securing core funding, the provision has gone from strength to strength, continuing to welcoming new young people into the space each month.

The year ended in a strong position, both in terms of reputation and attendance, affirming the value and need for a space for young people outside of school. This report highlights the learning gathered through the second year of the project.

PZN Youth's ethos

There are core values that underpin this work:

- **Inclusion:** any young person of appropriate age is welcomed through the door and everything they engage with is free - from the food, to going on trips and taking part in workshops
- **Safety:** the project aims to create a safe and welcoming space for the young people to nurture their wellbeing and sense of belonging, achieved by staff using a trauma-informed approach to working with young people
- **Opportunity:** the project provides young people with options to try new things, explore their interests and play, through workshops and trips
- **Responsive:** it is integral for the project to be adaptive towards the young people's interests. This is ongoing. The project is for them and should be informed by them

2024 in numbers

132 youth club sessions delivered

14 trips delivered

Over **1500** individual visits from young people aged 11 – 19

8 young people benefitting from 1:1 or 2:1 sessions

13 partnerships formed to enable guest sessions

1 full time worker

7 sessional workers

2 project cooks

1 trainee qualified

2 volunteers

5,000+ digital engagement with social media platforms per month

3 community events

£53,699 invested in project

Trips

BF adventure Via Ferrata

Bolitho gardens play park
/basketball courts

Eden Project

Kernow fishery

Jubilee Pool and geothermal

Penlee park

Marazion paddleboarding

Marazion rock pooling

Mount Hawke Skatepark

Roller Disco

Sennen surf school

St Michael's Mount

The Annual Conversation
(County Hall)

The plaza skatepark

The Track



Partners

Penzance Town Council

Arts Well

Asone

Clean Ocean

Creative Kernow

Golowan

HeadStart Kernow

Mitber

National Trust

Penzance Library

St Ives Bay Boxing club

Time2Move

Tough Dough

Wildworks Theatre



Young people's feedback

Throughout 2024, PZN Youth grew their regular cohort of young people who continue to return each week, alongside those that come and go depending on what else is going on in their lives. Feedback continues to be overwhelmingly positive for the provision and the space:

"It's actually given me the time to go out or I'd be bed rotting. It's like an excuse to go out."

"I can be with my friends and be safe... in a building where there is lots of people... There's stuff to do and you feed people and healthy food not just junk food."

"I didn't have many friends and now I have enough."

"Youth group has [taught] me to be more open 'cos I can talk to people better."

"Everything is good, it's fun, the piano, the boxing thing and my friends are here."

"The trips are really good they are free and fun and made me not bored. (if I wasn't here...) I'd be doing nothing probably, lying on my bed on my phone..."

"The trips are really good and free if they weren't I wouldn't be able to go on them."



Parent/carer feedback

Thank-you for ALL the continued support you show my Young Man, as without PZN Youth Club Kids have nowhere else safe to go to catch up with other youth and just chill. Hanging around the streets should not be the only option xx THANKS 🙏 to Everyone involved in keeping our Kids safe.

Youth Worker feedback

The sessional workers have been given opportunities to learn and develop through the project:

Working as Youth Worker for PZN Youth is never boring! No week is ever the same. I have never worked somewhere that is so responsive to the young people's interests and needs. It is ever evolving as our young people navigate adolescence and young adulthood, and the provision is rightly adaptive to their changing environments. I think this is what makes it so special as the care towards them and what they need/want makes them feel valued. It is not without its challenges, it takes a lot of time to work in this way, but it's at the core of what makes our provision work and I have learnt so much from this approach and the incredibly skilled team.







Case study (names of young people have not been provided for confidentiality reasons)

When L joined us at the youth club he had been having a difficult time with bullying and discrimination. He always showed an interest in creative activities and through his time with us he has developed skills in performance Djing and is showing an incredible talent in design/sewing /dressmaking. He has made some good relationships and become a popular member of the group.

"I love how I can unleash my creativity ... and how they gave me the chance to be a DJ and learn a new talent I didn't know I had. I didn't have much to do which made me sad...I come every week...there are good vibes...It has made life fun."



Reflection and planning

2024 learning

The need: the numbers through the door and the young people's feedback have demonstrated the irrefutable need for a space away from school or home that young people feel safe to occupy and enjoy. They are enthusiastic about it, have their own ideas about what they would like as part of it and most crucially are better for it.

The importance of space: there is huge value in a space that young people can put their mark on. The young people feel the space is theirs, are comfortable there and continue to return. Challenges with the space include its size; numbers are limited to 18 young people at a time as a result which means there is sometimes a 'one in one out' policy. There is also a lack of suitable outdoor space which would go a long way, particularly in the warmer months. The team are seeking funding to transform the outdoor space to make it viable.

Trips: they have continued to be a highlight for many of the young people. There is a sense that young people would benefit from more of these; they give the opportunity to provide a reset and experience new people and places, supporting aspiration.

Importance of targeted sessions: the targeted sessions delivered alongside open access were crucially important for inclusion. Some young people with certain needs are unable to access core nights. The Girls group, Young Men's group, Quiet Creative group and Refugee group, plus 1:1 sessions, ensured that the space was welcoming to a range of young people.

Youth work approach: staff policy is to use a trauma-informed approach to working with young people that is rooted in empathy and support. The key aim is for young people to feel a sense of belonging at PZN Youth which has helped to foster repeat visits and feelings of autonomy, evident in their suggestions of activities they would like to do.



Plans for 2025

Fundraising aims: the project is in need of core funding. There are funds to deliver specific pieces of work, e.g. arts workshops, holiday clubs and targeted sessions, but core funds to cover building and staffing costs are currently a priority to make the provision sustainable.

Building: PZN Youth hopes to secure funding to extend and improve the building and garden area. They are currently investigating the possibility of purchase with grant funding which would open up many more opportunities for developing the building into a permanent youth space. The PZN Youth team feel strongly that the youth of Penzance and Newlyn deserve this.

Targeted nights: weekly targeted sessions will continue for girls, neurodivergent and refugee young people. They will be encouraged to attend the open access sessions when/if they feel ready to.

Trips: PZN Youth are part of a pilot with Time2Move running half term trips in winter 2025 and hope to offer trips as usual in the Easter and summer breaks to meet the enthusiasm young people strongly expressed for these in 2024.

Recruitment: the project's ambition is to be open as many days/evenings a possible. More funding is needed for this as well as more staff. The aim is to recruit more sessional workers, in particular males, to get closer to achieving this. To date, the project has supported one entry level youth worker to gain qualifications and training.

1:1 sessions: a small selection of young people that will benefit from focused time with staff will continue to be offered 1:1 work to explore interests, challenges and build resilience.



Conclusion

The second year of the project has continued to demonstrate:

- The significant **need** for a safe and welcoming space for young people to occupy out of school hours
- The **power** of high-quality youth work to nurture young people's sense of belonging

PZN Youth has followed some key principles to get to its current position:

- **adapting** to young people's feedback has been integral to building trust and showing them they are seen and heard. From putting certain food on a menu, buying a popular board game, or organising a trip – meeting their requests sends them the message that their interests are valid and that the team cares
- **free** – there is no charge to be there. The project believes this is the only way to be a truly inclusive space
- **trauma-informed staff approach** is key to building trust with the young people. Staff explain expectations clearly and nurture young people to manage their own behaviour

The ongoing arrival of new young people to the youth club shows that the provision is still gaining traction. There is an encouraging appetite amongst new and current partners to deliver activity, that comes with a recognition of the huge value that youth work interventions can have for young people.

Through securing its own space, PZN Youth is moving towards being seen as a permanent fixture in Penzance. This has not been without risk, as the need for core funding is ongoing. PZN Youth is hugely grateful to all the funders who supported them during 2024. The task now is to secure long-term funding that will enable the provision to flourish and shout louder in its support for the brilliance of young people in Penzance and Newlyn.

Funders



Grant funded by
**PENZANCE
COUNCIL**



**Cornwall
Community
Foundation**



nationalgrid



LiveWest

