



STAFFORDSHIRE COMMISSIONER
Police | Fire and Rescue | Crime



2021 Evaluation

15 December 2021



Foreword

The Space programme was launched in 2015 by the Staffordshire Commissioner, recognising a great opportunity to support a reduction in low level crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB), whilst at the same time developing stronger relationships with young people and well-rounded citizens of the future across Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent.

Positive activities provided through the programme have consistently engaged youngsters throughout the school summer holiday periods for the last six years, with the seventh year in 2021 seeing over 17,625 attendances and 35,333 hours of activities. Feedback from parents, guardians and carers is once again very positive, recognising the difference Space makes to the lives of local youngsters, particularly those from more challenging backgrounds.

Despite the huge difficulties faced in 2020 due to the Coronavirus pandemic, I'm delighted that Space continued to operate. In recognition of the frustrations young people experienced during the various lockdowns due to isolation and national restrictions, Space 2021 was introduced particularly to provide an vital outlet for young people to channel their energies into positive activities and personal development.

Space reinforces the importance of valuing and supporting our younger citizens, not just because low level crime and ASB reduces whilst Space is operating, but because it provides the chance to nurture and develop all individuals regardless of background or circumstance and enhance mental health and wellbeing.

Ben Adams
Staffordshire Commissioner

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Note: All references to “Staffordshire’ incorporate the geographical areas of Staffordshire County and City of Stoke-on-Trent

Executive Summary

Building on 6 years of positive engagement with local young people across Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent, Space 2021 has provided a positive learning environment for those who may not ordinarily have had access to such opportunities, channelling enthusiasm and encouraging positive engagement by all, regardless of background, gender, faith or ability.

Space has become a household name with local young people, families, carers and our partners; all appreciating the positive investment by the Commissioner into the lives of our future citizens.

Nationally there has been considerable concern for the wellbeing of young people as a result of the Covid pandemic (see appendix A) and it has been important this year and as we look to the future, to ensure that young people are able to move ahead with positivity and confidence.

Working with local professionals including the Police, Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service (FARS), local community safety partnerships (CSPs), social care teams and the Youth Offending Service (YOS) amongst many, the Staffordshire Commissioner's Office (SCO) was able to provide, through committed local providers, a hugely engaging programme of support delivered by 35 organisations from 135 venues across Staffordshire, all operating within Government COVID-19 guidance.

Taking place over five weeks between 26 July and 28 August, Space 2021 was funded by a £174,704.60 investment by the SCO, with a contribution of £8,000 from FARS. Additional non funded contributions were made by 'The Hubb Foundation', providing food as part of the Stoke-on-Trent Department for Education's Holiday Activities Fund (HAF) and local schools were also key to success, providing facilities and staff who volunteered to assist programme delivery.

The 2021 programme operated in targeted locations as defined by police and partner data sets as being hotspots for youth-related low level crime and ASB. Partnership working identified key cohorts and individuals that would benefit from programme participation, with stakeholder engagement ensuring their participation. Attendance again this year was by a minimum of 30% targeted cohort.

The bespoke Space website (www.staffordshirespace.uk) promoted the programme, with supplementary marketing via social media and other channels. A total of 1,492 SCO funded activities were advertised on the website and 6,042 young people aged between 8-17 years attended. A further 199 non SCO funded local activities were also advertised on the Space website. Feedback from partners, parents and carers, alongside young people was overwhelmingly positive.

The Coronavirus pandemic continued to present challenges to the Space 2021 programme with comprehensive mitigations effected by the SCO to ensure the wellbeing of all involved. Programme delivery was also affected, with some providers experiencing financial issues, having limited staffing and operational facilities.



Commissioner Ben Adams and youngsters at the Right Stuff Boxing Club in Stafford

Commissioners, service providers, partner agencies, participants together with parents/guardians/carers have contributed towards the outcome evidence contained within this report, together with data gathered through additional analysis and audit processes.

Thanks are extended by the Staffordshire Commissioner to all those involved in Space 2021 in what has been an unprecedented and most challenging time.



Deputy Commissioner Helen Fisher (centre) with, Staffordshire Police, Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service, Dave Evans S-O-T cabinet member for Children and Young people, Nicky Twemlow YMCA and Adam Yates Hubb Foundation.



Right Stuff Boxing Stafford with Space 2021 Participants.

1. ASB - National Context

National data on ASB is limited. That which is available shows a general decrease from 2007 through to April 2018, correlating with activity by government and local organisations through use of ASB tools and powers, together with the 'RESPECT' Campaign and learnings from high profile cases of ASB where agencies had not identified or responded to ASB adequately, leading to tragic outcomes for the victims (Fiona Pilkington and Gary Newlove).

Nationally, ASB increased by 20% between March 2019 - March 2020 and at the peak of the pandemic, was at more than double 2019 levels. Not including COVID-related incidents, residual ASB was 12% higher than in 2019.

Recent research by Ipsos Mori indicated more than half of UK adults believe crime will go up in the next 12 months; 56% of respondents expected ASB to increase.

A recent 'Association of Police Crime Commissioner's' In Focus Report on ASB; <https://www.apccs.police.uk/media/6809/anti-social-behaviour-in-focus-v4.pdf> highlighted important challenges faced and opportunities available in tackling ASB. The Safeguarding Minister Rachel Maclean stated her determination for partners to work together to provide an effective response to ASB, highlighting the requirement for innovation and a strong partnership between local agencies. The Report recognises good practice from many areas, and in particular youth diversion programmes around England and Wales being funded by Police and Crime Commissioners (PCC's), hailing similar successes as the Staffordshire Space Programme in reducing youth ASB and contribution to better communities.

2. ASB Local Context

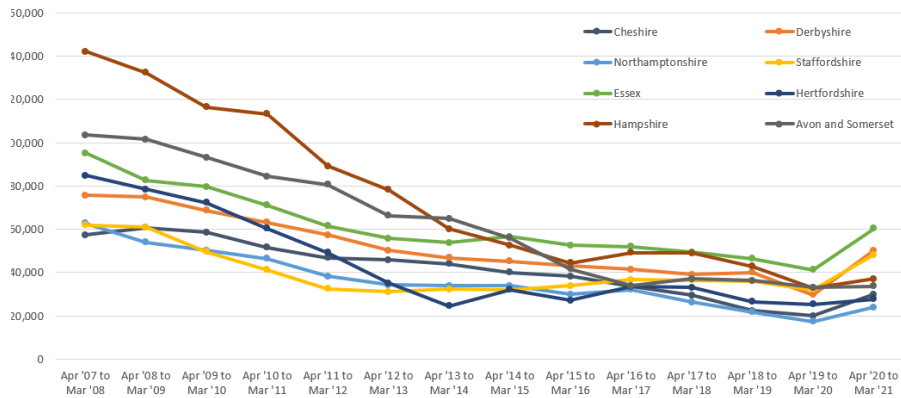
Staffordshire Baseline Statistical Analysis and Hotspot Identification

Compared to England & Wales, rates of ASB are higher in Staffordshire & Stoke-on-Trent (Source: Pan-Staffordshire Strategic Assessment 2020 which identifies 28.9 incidents per 100 head of population in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent, compared to 22.7 nationally). 59% of local ASB is characterised as rowdy and inconsiderate behaviour, the vast majority of which is alcohol or drug-related and takes place in town and city centres and other public spaces.

Staffordshire Police recognise, as do many other UK police forces (Thames Valley, Avon and Somerset and Lancashire particularly) that youth related ASB increases during the school summer holiday periods. Indeed additionally both Cheshire Police and Northamptonshire Police have both approached the SCO to use the Staffordshire Space Programme as best practice in their own areas, in an endeavour to reduce increases in youth related ASB in the school summer holiday period.

Police and partner datasets highlight that deprived and disadvantaged communities, particularly those in high housing density areas and with high proportions of social housing are disproportionately affected by neighbour disputes, and that repeat victims of ASB tend to experience the same levels of psychological harm as victims of less-serious violent crime.

Graph to show number of ASB incidents for Staffordshire Police and Most Similar Forces:
2007-2021



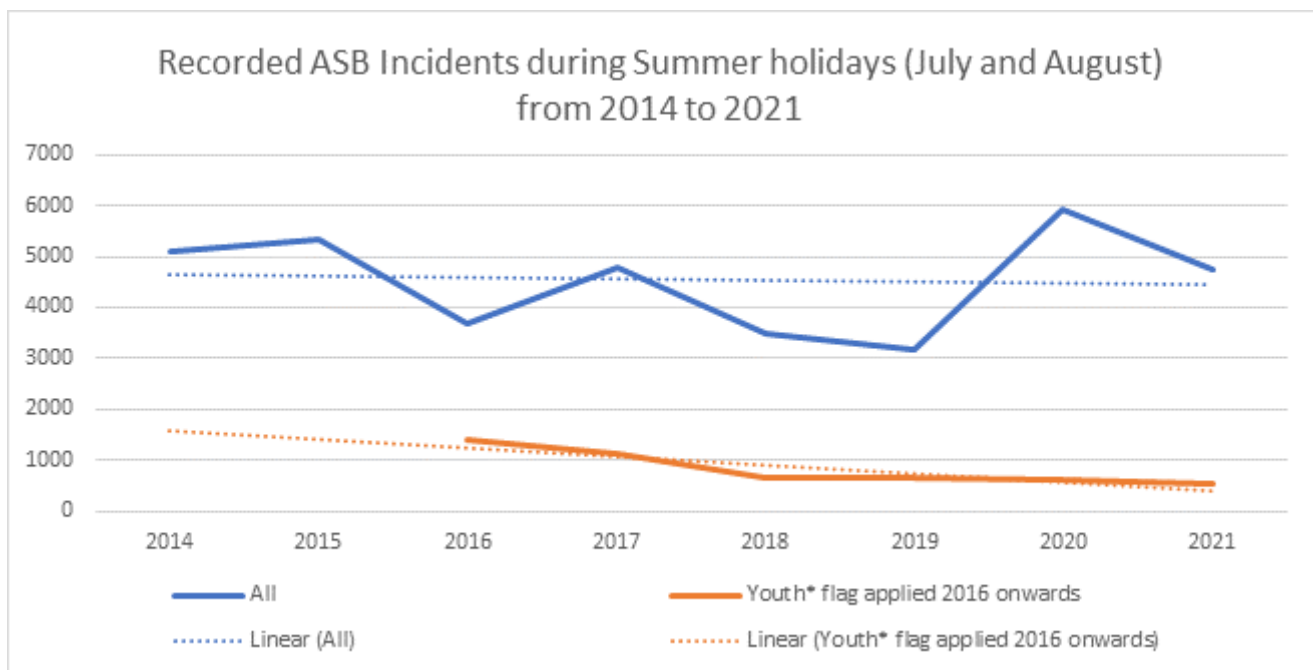
The graph above shows the number of ASB incidents for Staffordshire Police compared to most similar Forces between 2007 and 2021. The graph shows Staffordshire ASB on an upward trajectory between 2020 and 2021 and 3rd highest in its most similar group.

Previous Space reports have compared volumes of ASB during the school summer holidays against the same period in previous years. These comparisons have shown year on year reductions culminating in a 53.3% reduction in youth-related ASB between 2016 and summer 2019 (pre-pandemic).

In 2016, Staffordshire introduced an 'ASB Youth Marker'. This flag identifies community calls for police assistance which are perceived by the caller to involve youth related ASB. The Youth Marker has been effective in helping ensure Space activities are provided within areas of highest levels of reported youth ASB, at the appropriate times of the day and days of the week. The data is also key to evaluating reductions of reports to the police of youth related ASB.

Table below: excerpt from analysis of Police data on Youth ASB reported in the school holidays compared with same period since 2016.

LPT	2016 Youth	% Youth change 2016 to 2015	2017 Youth	% Youth Change 2017 to 2016	2018 Youth	% Youth Change 2018 to 2017	2019 Youth	% Youth Change 2019 to 2018	2020 Youth	% Youth Change 2020 to 2019	2021 Youth	% Youth Change 2021 to 2020	% Youth Change 2021 to 2016
SOT North LPT	243	-28.2%	174	-28.4%	92	-47.1%	65	-29.3%	56	-39.1%	46	-17.9%	-81.1%
SOT South LPT	274	-23.5%	244	-10.9%	161	-34.0%	144	-10.6%	68	-57.8%	47	-30.9%	-82.8%
Newcastle District LPT	164	-26.8%	147	-10.4%	69	-53.1%	91	31.9%	48	-30.4%	28	-41.7%	-82.9%
East Staffs LPT	104	-42.9%	103	-1.0%	61	-40.8%	65	6.6%	43	-29.5%	43	0.0%	-58.7%
Stafford Borough LPT	118	-14.9%	85	-28.0%	53	-37.6%	57	7.5%	37	-30.2%	46	24.3%	-61.0%
Cannock Chase LPT	101	-48.1%	102	1.0%	49	-52.0%	70	42.9%	27	-44.9%	29	7.4%	-71.3%
Tamworth LPT	84	-48.5%	60	-28.6%	36	-40.0%	34	-5.6%	26	-27.8%	16	-38.5%	-81.0%
South Staffs LPT	97	-26.6%	61	-37.1%	34	-44.3%	39	14.7%	33	-2.9%	14	-57.6%	-85.6%
Staffordshire Moorlands LPT	81	-31.9%	75	-7.4%	69	-8.0%	44	-36.2%	41	-40.6%	25	-39.0%	-69.1%
Lichfield District LPT	129	-23.1%	59	-54.3%	36	-39.0%	43	19.4%	25	-30.6%	26	4.0%	-79.8%
Total	1395	-30.6%	1110	-20.4%	660	-40.5%	652	-1.2%	404	-38.8%	320	-20.8%	-77.1%



From the above, Commissioners and Police recognise a spike in youth related ASB in the school summer holiday periods.

Additionally, through further data analysis, the SCO recognises youth related ASB spikes are consistent with other school holiday periods such as Easter and Autumn half term (noting that data analysis is dependant on the accurate use of the youth qualifier by Staffordshire Police).

3. Space 2021

Governance and Planning

Partners across Staffordshire continued to work with the SCO to jointly deliver positive outcomes for local young people. Using a range of information and data analysis, partners identified youth-related low level crime and ASB hotspots and used these to define Space plans for 2021.

Until the pandemic, SCO funding was provided to CSPs to locally commission providers to deliver activities within their geographies. However following legal advice, the SCO took the decision to directly commission all Space activities in 2020 to ensure clear accountability and compliance with all COVID-19 related requirements. This approach was supported by CSPs and partners.

Financial and insurance checks were undertaken with all providers alongside evidencing liability insurances and financial viability. Additionally as per previous arrangements and operating under a Service Level Agreement (SLA), all activity providers were required to have in place Disclosure & Barring certificates for staff, first aid certification, comprehensive safeguarding measures, hygiene certificates, amongst a range of other specific safety related requirements.

This revised operating model also recognised diminishing resources within local CSP to co-ordinate local Space activity due to staffing restructures, staff vacancies and/or the broadening of local community safety roles, effectively limiting CSPs ability to commit to supporting local elements of the Space programme.

Working in Partnership

Clear referral pathways were defined with key partner agencies including Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent YOS, Pupil Referral Units, pre-identified schools, Local Authorities (including Early Help, Social Workers and Troubled Families/Building Resilient Families teams), Staffordshire Police, ASB Practitioners and Housing providers. This enabled targeted young people to access activities to divert them from low level criminality and ASB.

Additionally, Space planning was aligned with local efforts to introduce the new Holiday Activity Fund (HAF), introduced by the Department of Education in 2021, specifically aimed at supporting youngsters eligible for free school meals.

Very early on in the planning for Space, it was recognised that the Space and HAF programmes could compliment and support each other. Staffordshire Space and Staffordshire HAF Leads met regularly whilst planning both the summer provision programmes. The meetings were valuable and good practice and learning from the Space Programme was shared. Funding opportunities were maximised and activities complimented as opposed to duplicated each other, ensuring maximum financial benefit and investment in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent.

Space provided targeted activity for young people involved in low level crime and ASB but whose circumstance would not involve free school meals and therefore who would not fall within a HAF cohort. Where appropriate, providers were encouraged to bid for HAF funding as opposed to Space monies.

Through coordinated activity, FARS once again supported Space to deliver activities in hotspots related to nuisance fires and youth ASB. The local YOS delivered a bespoke programme of activity under the Space brand, to engage with young people on their own caseloads; delivering a range of activities including water sports, climbing, team building and education around consequences and desistance.

Registration

Registration ensured parents/guardians/carers recognised and acknowledge their own health and safety responsibilities in supporting young person's Space attendance; a form was completed on line or with providers prior to attendance.

Parents/Guardians/Carers were required to sign a 'Disclaimer' to confirm they were satisfied all safety and COVID health related measures were in place, recognising the implications from the pandemic. Young people were only able to attend activities within their own local authority boundary and not able to join an activity if they or anyone in their household had tested positive or displayed COVID symptoms within the previous 14 days.

Budget

Following recognition by the Staffordshire Commissioner of the importance of supporting the mental wellbeing of local young people, the SCO committed £180,000 to fund Space 2021, with FARS providing a supplementary £8,000. A total of £182,704.60 was spent including £8,000 FARS contribution.

Delivery

Space 2021 operated for five weeks between 26 July - 28 August 2021 to young people aged between 8-17 years.

The programme comprised both a targeted and a universal element. ASB related data determined the levels and types of activities within geographies, with a minimum of 30% of funding being ring-fenced for targeted cohorts of more vulnerable young people, who may have a greater propensity to offend.

35 providers were able to meet the stringent standards required to adhere to government restrictions and essential health, safety and safeguarding requirements. To this end, some geographical areas, had a limited availability of providers. Despite this, a wide range of activities, flexed to support localities, age, ability and individual need was effected.

This diverse offer is recognised as the cornerstone of Space, appealing to as wide an audience as possible.

Each year Space provides training and launch events for stakeholders. The training is planned and facilitated jointly between SCO, Together Active and StreetGames UK. The training outcomes focus on giving organisations and their coaches, youth workers and referrer's knowledge and skills around effective engagement and delivery. This year three workshops were delivered online, covering Mental Health, Managing Challenging Behaviour and Engaging & Retaining Young People.

Alongside this, the SCO Space Lead facilitates a Space Launch event, bringing all stakeholders together to outline aspirations for the programme that year. The event includes local planning for stakeholders where providers can make referrers aware of activities and booking arrangements.

The Space launch has been held virtually for the last two programmes.

Space 2021 Funding spent to support local provision

Area	Funding Allocation	Activities Provided	Comments/Narrative
Stoke-On-Trent	£44,416.90	Doorstep Multi-sports. Mobile Climbing Wall. Leisure Ct Passes. Outdoor Activities. Space Launch Community Fun Days. Fishing. Indoor Climbing. Arts and Crafts.	Allocation of £8k from FARS directed to City of Stoke-on-Trent to supplement SCO funding, due to high prevalence of youth related ASB. Providers work well with targeted and universal cohort.
Staffordshire Moorlands	£22,195.00	Doorstep Multi-sports. Leisure Ct Passes. Outdoor Activities. Nature and Bush craft. Youth Activities. Arts and Crafts. Boxing.	Good range of providers and activities keeping ASB low year on year. Providers work well with targeted and universal cohort.
Lichfield	£21,424.50	Doorstep Multi-sports. Leisure Ct Passes. Community Fun Days. Arts and Crafts. Youth Activities. SEND Residential and Outdoor activities.	Good range of providers and activities keeping ASB low year on year. Providers work well with targeted and universal cohort.
South Staffordshire	£10,013.00*	Leisure Centre Passes. Doorstep Multi-sports. Fishing.	South Staffs has struggled with quality and selection of providers to engage CYP and overcome geographical challenges. Progress made with use of

		Climbing adventure Team Building. Arts and Crafts.	Leisure passes, fishing and climbing activities. Facilities available to targeted and universal cohort.
Stafford	£15,404.20	Boxing. Doorstep Multi-Sports. Mobile Climbing Wall. Fishing.	Leisure centre provider closed during 2020 due to COVID and unable to deliver 2021 Space activities. Other providers offered good quality, aiming to keeping ASB low. Providers work well with targeted and universal cohort.
Newcastle	£19,230.80	Leisure Centre Passes. Doorstep Multi-sports. Fishing. Outdoor activities.	Good range of providers and activities aimed at keeping ASB low. Providers work well with targeted and universal cohort.
Cannock	£18,380.00	Doorstep Multi-sports. Inflatable Games & Park Events. Leisure Ct Passes. Fishing. Mobile Climbing Wall. Summer School Activities and Learning.	Good range of providers and activities aimed at keeping ASB low. Providers work well with targeted and universal cohort.
East Staffordshire	£21,215.20	Doorstep Multi-sports. Leisure Ct Passes. Fishing. Mobile Climbing Wall. Summer School Activities and Learning. Martial Arts. Nature and Bush craft.	Good range of providers and activities aimed at keeping ASB low. Providers work well with targeted and universal cohort.
Tamworth	£10,425.00	Youth Activities. Arts and crafts. Mobile Climbing Wall.	CSP has struggled to find providers to deliver doorstep type activities in Tamworth. Tamworth have no Leisure centres that can be commissioned to deliver a Space 'Pass' which is successful in other LA areas. Challenges for 2021 Space programme involved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corner Post Boxing being closed for building repair, Boxing Club usually delivers and excellent programme of activities. • Up until the pandemic Jump Extreme have delivered extremely popular activities and food as part of the Space provision. Jump Xtreme unfortunately dropped out last minute from the 2021 programme due to the high costs of insurance making the activity not financially viable for them to deliver. This late drop out also made it impossible to get other activities in place. • Canal and River Trust advised against fishing activities in Tamworth due to infestation of predatory fish(Zander) and low fish stocks as a result. Limited providers worked well with targeted and universal cohort.
TOTAL	£182,704.60		
*South Staffordshire were allocated £12,434.00 but returned £2,421 as an underspend			

Space 2021 Funding allocation to support local provision

Area	SCO Funding	Targeted Attendees	Universal Attendees	Total Attendees
Stoke-On-Trent	£44,416.90	1918	93	2,011
Staffordshire Moorlands	£22,195.00	191	386	577
Lichfield	£21,424.50	329	757	1,086
South Staffordshire	£10,013.00	415	185	600
Stafford	£15,404.20	138	94	232
Newcastle	£19,230.80	366	424	790
Cannock	£18,380.00	263	60	323
East Staffordshire	£21,215.20	134	106	240
Tamworth	£10,425.00	121	62	183
Totals	£182,704.60	3,875	2167	6042

Of the 3,875 targeted young people recorded; below shows breakdown of the source of each cohort and a comparison with the previous year:

Targeted Cohort	Space 2020	Space 2021
Targeted Area	651	2205
YOS	15	235
BRFC	11	20
Pupil Referral Unit	7	3
Looked After Children	74	28
Disability	90	110
ASB	305	876
CAHMS	12	14
Free School Meals	208	237
Early Help	-	26
Other	20	121
Total	1,393	3,875

Outputs

From SCO and FARS (£8,000) funds of £182,704.60 Space 2021 has this year achieved:

- The support of 35 individual activity providers, operating activities from 135 venues;
- A total overall of 1,492 SCO activities were available through the Space website;
- 17,625 individual attendances by young people;
- 35,333 hours of positive engagement for youngsters;
- An additional 199 SCO Non-funded activities were also published on the website through 6 providers
- Individual activities providing 8 main categories of events; Sports (1082), Community Fun days (33), Learning (46), Outdoors (60), Events (26), Creative (40), Clubs (83), Football (217); Multi-activities (104).

Outcomes

Staffordshire has seen reductions in youth related ASB as defined by the 'Police Youth Marker' since 2016, when 13,95 incidents were recorded by Police, compared to 320 in 2021.

Full details are provided in table 'Excerpt from analysis of Police data on Youth ASB reported in the school holidays compared with same period since 2016' found in Section 2, 'ASB Local Context'.

Year on year comparison is however challenging due both to 2020 being an unprecedented year because of the pandemic; and also Space 2019 seeing significant additional investment from the Department of Education in the sum of £40,000 and additional smaller sums from Tesco, the mainstream supermarket.

(Appendix B) provides outcome evidence in the form of CYP Case Studies

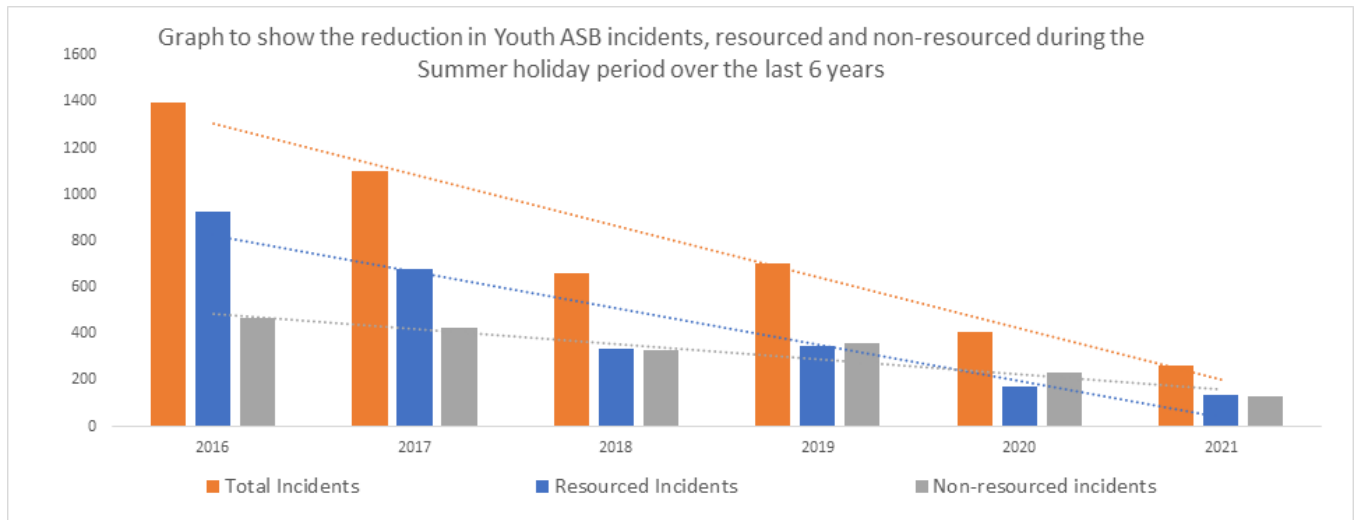
Annual Cost Comparison

The table below shows the cost of provision year on year since the start of the programme. After the proof of concept in 2015, attendance costs dropped from £11.20 to £5.84 per attendance in 2019. However in 2020 noting that due to the implications of COVID, costs were high and attendance numbers very low, cost per attendance was £19.29. Whilst costs remain higher than norm in 2021 due to health and safety requirements of COVID, restrictions on numbers were lifted, and as a result costs have significantly fallen this year compared to 2020, to £9.91 per attendance.

Narrative	2015 Proof of Concept	Space 2016	Space 2017	Space 2018	Space 2019	Space 2020	Space 2021
Target Audience	Local Discretion but to include Targeted Cohort	30% SCO allocation of spend on Targeted Cohort Max 70% Universal Cohort	30% SCO allocation of spend on Targeted Cohort Max 70% Universal Cohort	30% SCO allocation of spend on Targeted Cohort Max 70% Universal Cohort	30% SCO allocation of spend on Targeted Cohort Max 70% Universal Cohort	30% SCO allocation of spend on Targeted Cohort Max 70% Universal Cohort	30% SCO allocation of spend on Targeted Cohort Max 70% Universal Cohort
Recorded Attendances on SCO funded activities	13,388	12,432	18,101	30,110 (112 May half-term/29,315 Summer/685 October half-term) (1781 targeted yps)	38,322 (68,361)hrs (15,812 yps) (8,151 targeted yps)	4,715 (14,225)hrs (2301 yps) (1,393 targeted yps)	17,625 (35,333) (6,042 yps) (3,875 targeted yps)
SCO Funded Activities	246	1,114	657	847	1055	500	1492
Non SCO Funded / Other Activities	340	1,968	1572	731	379		199
SCO Funding	£127,053.76	£139,297.41	£133,546.45	£159,465.15	£167,627.77	£83,453.93	£174,704.60
FARS Funding				£6,780.00	£7,145.00	£7,500	£8,000
Dfe Funding				£10,050.00	£39,743.90		
Total Funding				£176,295.15	£223,971.43	£90,953.93	£182,704.60
Average Attendance Cost	£9.49	£11.20	£7.37	£5.85	£5.84(per attendance) £3.27(per hour attendance)	£19.29(per attendance) £6.39(per hour attendance)	£9.91(per attendance) £4.94(per hour attendance)

In 2016/17 Staffordshire Police used 'Value for Money' profiles to estimate costs per ASB incident to Local Policing. Cost per non-resourced ASB incidents have been estimated by the Force at £277 per incident, and cost per resourced incidents e.g. where police officers are deployed to respond are estimated at £467 per incident.

Staffordshire Police data (Knowledge Hub) showed that Youth ASB incidents have reduced year on year as illustrated in the graph below:



From these reductions an estimated cost saving can be made .

Over the last 6 years (2016 – 2021) an estimated reduction of 301 non-resourced incidents are noted (469 incidents to 168) and an estimated reduction in resourced incidents of 766 (926 down to 160) of youth related ASB incidents has been calculated:

ASB cost per incident £277 x 301 incidents = £ 83,377

ASB cost per resourced incident £467 x 766 incidents = £357,722

Total estimated cost saving = £441,099 over a year period

Notwithstanding the above, it should be recognised that without the Space related investment, police non resourced and resourced youth ASB related incidents potentially would have remained at 2016 levels. Such demand would have increased pressure on police resources to respond to ASB at the cost of supporting other incident types.

Website and Marketing Analysis

The Space programme was marketed via various means, a standalone website (www.staffordshire.space.uk), Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

Participants were able to review activities within their geographical location, identify the provider, any specific requirements related to the event and book a place. Viewers can also choose to receive Space website updates, including any future announcements, direct to their email address.

The website was also used to promote activities and to provide safety advice for young people including promotion of the Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Safeguarding Teams 'Be Wise' campaign, the NSPCC's Childline helpline number and useful advice, and links to the Staffordshire County Council's 'Knowaboutcse' website which aims to educate and prevent child sexual exploitation.

Between 16th of July and 3rd of October:

- The website received 16,983-page views from 11,832 individual users with 5,880 subscribers choosing to receive updates / know more about Space.
- The Space Facebook page had 6,317, 37 Space events were published on Facebook with a reach of 491,578. There were 1,231 event responses and 8,094 link clicks for all Facebook ads.
- The Space Twitter page had 894 followers; 27 posts including Retweets from 16th July to 3rd September 2021.
- The Space Instagram page had 357 followers.

Participant and Parent/Guardian/Carer Feedback

Participant and families were encouraged to provide feedback through the Space website. Responses received for the 2021 were on the whole satisfied. 74 respondents answered 6 questions:

Space website Feedback Table

Question	Answer True	Answer Not Sure	Answer False
The activity was what I thought it would be	72	1	1
I felt involved in the	72	-	2
I learnt or did something new	63	5	4
I want to do this again	72	1	1
Taking part made me feel happier	68	2	2
I would do this activity again	72	1	1

2 negative comments were received regarding activities that were advertised but did not take place. On both occasions, an explanation was given personally to each complainant and apologies were extended from providers/Space Lead.

Some key highlights from anecdotal feedback received include:

- Young people experienced positive interaction from police officers who have supported the activities which has helped to break down barriers between young people and policing;
- Youngsters advising of a wish to become mentors to help others experiencing similar circumstances as their own, such as being at risk of offending (this element is supported by case studies provided by the YOS teams).



Paddle Boarding delivered by Tittesworth Water Sports and Staffordshire YOS



Various activities being enjoyed by young people from Lichfield



Young people attending Fun Club Youth Activities in Lichfield.



Young people attending activities delivered by Liberty Jamboree at Whitemoor Lakes

4. Summary and Recommendations

Summary

Outcomes

The Space programme is recognised by parents/Carers/Guardians and stakeholders as providing a positive learning experience for young people across Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent. It fulfils a clear need to ensure young people are positively occupied during the summer holiday period and do not become embroiled in low level crime, ASB and gang related activity which clearly affects the public purse but also sets them on a downward spiral. Space provides opportunity for engagement with Police, Fire and other stakeholders whose positive influence has evidentially impacted for the better, the lives of local young people.

Despite restrictions, Space 2021, has delivered a comprehensive programme of diversionary activities to a significant number of young people from both targeted and universal cohorts. Feedback concerning outcomes is extremely positive from stakeholders, parents, carers and young people alike.

Strategic

Based in rural and urban areas across the geography, young people of differing ages have many interests, abilities and an ability to appeal to as wide an audience as possible, with a particular focus on needing to engage with the targeted and more challenging cohort is key to the success of Space 2021. Providers operating Space activities have a first-class record of working with such individuals particularly, supporting, nurturing and shaping their lives into better routes for the future, and drawing them away from low level criminality.

The approach adopted in 2021 has evidenced how multi-agency partners and associated funding streams, both national and local, can work together to support the broadest cohort, ensuring maximum benefit for Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent through strong and well-established partnership working.

Space clearly supports delivery of the Commissioner's Police and Crime Plan 2021-24; identifying with the need to prevent crime and ASB from happening in the first place.

Resourcing

The Space 2021 programme is resourced by the SCO through provision of the Space Programme Lead on a 3 day per week basis. Strategic oversight of the work undertaken is provided the Commissioning and Partnerships Manager.

Support from local CSP leads and other stakeholders provides invaluable aid in defining hotspot locations and negotiation of provision to respond positively to community concerns and meet identified needs is undertaken by the Programme Lead. Any availability of CSP officers to locally lead Space is now recognised as being extremely challenging.

Programme Planning

With strong and established relationships with activity providers and other stakeholders, it's recognised that planning of Space activities is best undertaken as early as possible, in order to secure venues, resources and to prepare the volume of intricate and critical health, safety and security aspects related programme delivery. Protection of participants, providers, public funds and the reputation of the Commissioner are a key focus of this work and success in this regard is evident from a first-class safety record of Space since its inception, despite the COVID pandemic.

Clearly year on year, the programme has developed with best practice from Staffordshire shared far and wide and indeed Cheshire and Northamptonshire Police have received input from the Programme Lead on Space, with an ambition to launch a similar arrangements locally.

Referral pathways for targeted cohorts are now clear and maximised by all stakeholders with an ambition to extend and enhance relationships with Care Home establishments to support their statutory duty to provide LACs with Personal Education Plans, involving out of school physical and mental activities.

Funding

The Programme Lead continues to seek additionality funding to support the programme with recent contributions received from FARS, The Hubb Foundation, local football clubs and a range of Tesco related financial support over recent years.

Training

Utilising a range of activity providers conversant with ASB tools and powers is key to continual positive engagement and success in diverting the targeted cohort away from low level criminality. Training on tools and powers, alongside mental health first aid, behaviour management and programme delivery forms part of the role of the Programme Lead.

Data and Analysis

The ability secure and analyse all available stakeholder datasets to determine hotspot ASB locations and support programme delivery is key, forming a key role of the Programme Lead, working in partnership with police and partners.

Volunteering

It is recognised that the Space programme provides an opportunity to consider the development of a volunteering cohort of young people. However as very complex and appropriately tightly controlled environment requiring DBS and regular vetting, this is an area open for further consideration and exploration.

Marketing and Communication

The Space brand is subject to copyright and work undertaken delivers the comprehensive Space communication strategy, supported by all stakeholders. The website operates as a stand-alone site however is clearly linked to the SCO website and contains a wide range of accessible personal safety information for service users and their parents/guardians/carers.

Space sponsorship provides an opportunity for consideration for the future and consideration could be given to the expansion of the programme in this way.

Policy and Risk Management

With detailed understanding of the implications of the Space programme in terms of risk, the Programme Lead and Partnerships and Commissioning Manager continue to utilise the specialist services of Staffordshire County Council's Legal Team and the Force Commercial Services Team to ensure legal compliance and maximum protection for the SCO, programme participants and activity providers.

Summary

Recommendation 1

That the SCO continue to strategically lead the Space Programme, utilising their knowledge, experience and relationships, established over the life of the programme.

This recognises internal expertise and the capacity issues of others to operate the programme.

Recommendation 2

That the Space programme is embedded as formal model of positive engagement with young people across Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent, and seen as part of a continuum of such activities, operating in conjunction with and complementary to similar schemes such as the HAF programme, ensuring a streamlined offer, maximum coverage, provision and impact for young people and families across the geography.

This means working closely with Police, CSPs, HAF coordinators, SCIVYs, and other local providers, to identify hot spot areas vulnerable individuals and groups, and ensure full coordination of resources and delivery.

Recommendation 3

That the Commissioner continues to financially support Space for the period 2021-24, supporting implementation of the Commissioner's Police and Crime Plan 2021-24.

Recommendation 4

That the focus of Space continues to be the provision of positive activities for young people aged 8-17 years, with a continued effort to increase the targeted element of the programme (cohorts and geographies), whilst retaining some universal provision.

Recommendation 5

That the Space programme continues to use a range of experienced and dedicated professional organisations, with a clear track record of working specifically with young people with challenging behaviours.

Additionally, work is undertaken to increase the number, capacity and capability of providers within some geographies to ensure a more full and even programme in all areas.

Recommendation 6

That all opportunities to secure additional funding and resources be exploited, including links with the 2022 Commonwealth Games.

Recommendation 7

That volunteering aspects of the Space programme be considered, in line with national disclosure and barring, and vetting requirements.

Ends.

Helen Davies, Commissioning and Partnerships Manager

Jon Connolly, Space Programme Lead

Appendix A

National Concerns regarding the wellbeing of young people as a result of the COVID pandemic:

1. The findings from the series of OFSTED Briefings on schools between 2nd -24th November 2020 which considered the impact of the pandemic and lockdown on children and young people. The briefing highlighted the impact to include:
 - Primary and those with Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) children appeared to be impacted on more significantly;
 - By and large young, people returned to school ‘hungry to learn’;
 - That some leaders reported an increase in undesirable behaviour and a deterioration in physical and mental health for some pupils;
 - Most leaders in schools of all types said that extra-curricular and enrichment activity was reduced or halted due to risk assessments and pupils not being able to cross bubbles.
2. A recent national survey entitled the ‘Big Ask’ conducted by the Children’s Commissioner for England and Wales (<https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/the-big-answer/>), asked young people what would make their lives better; with over half a million responses, one of the most common was wanting things to do (sports activities and fun).
3. Furthermore, the Princes Trust Tesco Youth Index 2021 highlights that one in four young people feel “unable to cope with life” since the start of the pandemic, increasing to 40 per cent among those not in work, education or training (NEETs). The research also suggests that more young people are feeling anxious than ever in the 12-year history of the Index, with the unemployed worst affected.

The Staffordshire Space programme delivers what young people are asking for in the ‘Big Answer’ and looks to respond to the issues identified by the Ofsted Briefing. Since 2015 the benefits of Space have been successfully delivered where they’ve been needed the most; reducing youth low level crime and ASB and importantly, helping cohorts of young people in need of support. Indeed, other geographical areas of the UK are keen to follow our lead, with the SCO sharing its practice and all that has been achieved in Staffordshire through Space to make a difference to the lives of local young people.

Appendix B

Case Studies providing outcome evidence

Case studies are collected from participants, parents/carers/guardians, providers and other stakeholders such as teachers as part of evaluation and feedback and despite difficult circumstances due to the pandemic, Space has continued to show real benefit and impact.

Over half of attendances were from young people in targeted cohorts from where feedback received has been positive. Below are some of the case studies received describing the experiences and outcomes for young people attending the Space activities this year:

NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME SOCIAL CARE TEAM

Written by mother of 'L' and 'K'

After years of witnessing domestic abuse and having to completely change our lives. 'L' now 13 and 'K' 12 have made many sacrifices, one of those including moving to a new area and a new school. They knew no one and felt very isolated at first. Being able to partake in the space programme gave them opportunities to explore new activities and as they were provided with a free bus pass it meant that they were not isolated anymore.

They were up every morning and went swimming every day. Climbing and now talk of joining the gym. It gave them something to look forward to and I saw a positive change in their mental wellbeing. They grew in confidence and it made them more independent. Plus, they would arrange to meet old friends at swimming and they made new ones too.

I think they would have liked to participate in the days out but wasn't sure how to go about signing up or travel. This will definitely be something that we will look into this summer.

STOKE-ON-TRENT YOUTH OFFENDING SERVICE

Young Person, CS- 13 yrs.

CS was referred into the YOS four months ago, he was a non-attender at education for over 12 months. CS was referred into the service due to his non-attendance in school and this being a risk factor to him getting involved in crime and ASB. At first CS was very difficult to engage, he would not involve himself in conversation and would not make eye contact. The case manager got CS to join football sessions and CS enjoyed the session and seemed to grow in confidence. We then offered him sessions on the summer SPACE programme. At first CS was reluctant to take part.

The case manager agreed to support CS on the session, and this went well. Following this CS went on to complete several sessions. He tried different activities and we could see him growing in confidence. He completed the two-day residential, which his mother thought he would not take part in as, he was very reluctant to stay away from home. We are now in a position for CS to be reintroduces into a new education provider. He is also still involved in the sports sessions provided by YOS.

Young Person, VP-17 yrs.

VP came to our attention when he was moved out of his home city by the police for his own safety after being involved in gang related crime. Since being moved VP as made good progress in removing himself from crime and gangs. He attended the SPACE programme to occupy his time through the summer holiday. He did many sessions and always engaged positively, at times he supported staff in preparation for each activity and was very helpful throughout the summer programme, as his confidence grew, he became a role model for other young people. The staff spent time with VP in discussions about his future as well as offering support to transport him to college meetings and to attend Court appearances.

VP explained the SPACE programme has provided a welcome distraction from current issues and stated that this opportunity has also given him the incentive to help other young people who have, like him, found themselves involved in a gang lifestyle, He has stated that when he leaves College mentoring is what he would like to do as a possible career.

Young Person-HC

HC is a 'Looked After child' (LAC) and was referred into our service by his carers because of peers he was beginning to involve himself with. At first, he was extremely reluctant to work with YOS. We spoke with staff from the care home about the SPACE scheme and they encouraged HC to attend along with the case manager and one of the care staff. Following this first session HC completed several more sessions.

The relationship with his youth offending officer began to develop and it was clear to see HC was beginning to have trust in the system. His confidence grew and he struck positive relations with staff and young people. We had good discussions about his next transition into college and adult life.

The SPACE programme gives not only a diversion away from crime and ASB but, an excellent platform to mentor young people, have positive conversations about their future. It also allows staff to mentor young people and to point out positive behaviours and tactfully challenge negative views and behaviours.

LIBERTY

Young man aged 16 autistic and speech barriers

The Space programme provided a fantastic opportunity for J to step well out of his comfort zone to try new things and make new friends and to develop his confidence and independence. The support from Liberty was amazing and made it possible for J to access the programme and also made both J and us, as his parents, feel comfortable about him going.

Young man 16 autistic and serve anxiety

J was really hesitant to go on the residential with Space but when he found out that Liberty were able to supply him he was able to overcome his fears with the support of Liberty. He made new friends and had experiences that he would not normally do. He was able to have fun and laughs in a safe caring environment. And achieve his personal goals. He felt safe and we felt he was safe.

Young man 16 Down syndrome

Space provided H with opportunities and experiences that he would not normally have experienced. He grew in confidence and widened his friendships. All this was done with the fantastic support of the Liberty team.

Young lady 16 autistic

S massively benefitted from the residential. She loved the independence that was promoted & the exploring of the new activities. She expanded her friendship group & became confident to initiate new conversations with people she hadn't-previously done so. She very much appreciates the time away from home with people she trusts & who understands her.

Young man 19 Autism and mental Health issues

SPACE provided J with a safe and nurturing environment where he could respond to new challenges and achieve new highs. The use of the 'hidden curriculum' - social skills, cooperation, communication was evident throughout the well prepared and planned activities. J enjoyed every aspect of his time with Space.

Young man 18 with Autism and Social Anxiety

Space gave our son the opportunity to explore his limits in a safe environment with peers of similar ability away from the normal family environment. He grew in confidence and achieved goals that we never dreamed of, as well as having fun. This entwined with education relating to potential dangers in the community was simply invaluable.

FUN CLUB LICHFIELD

Young person 'J'

J has been a member for many years with us, we have seen him grow. Just before the summer he left full time care to live independently on his own. We were able to give the opportunity to work with us as a Youth Connector throughout the summer on Space. This was a brilliant for him to still be part of something when all around him there was uncertainty, he thrived working as a Youth Worker helping out and delivering sessions. From this he is now going in to full time College to continue with Childcare Course. Without Space throughout the summer this would not have been possible, we are very proud to have him as part of the team and are looking forward to see where his future will take him.

STAFFORDSHIRE YOUTH OFFENDING SERVICE

Young Person 'LF'

LF was a child who had recently entered into the care of the local authority and has relocated to Staffs. He was struggling to settle in at the children's unit and was finding his environment a difficult one. There were concerns as to whether the placement would break down. He took part in all of the activities on offer, water sports, fishing, climbing and enjoyed all of them. He used the activities as a means of having time out of the house as a means of escapism which reduced tensions in the house. But also, as a means of connecting to the local area. In the end he did the whole of the fishing project, 4 out of 5 full days at the water sports and 4 sessions of climbing.

Since SPACE, he has retained water sports activities at a weekend and utilised the offer of a fishing membership. He has stated that the time at the sports activities gave him a focus and enable him to have time that was for him to settle. He advised that he had lots of fun and has things to talk to the other house members about as well as when he had contact with his family.

This was important for Mum as she was able to see that LF was settling and thriving, despite her concerns about him entering the care system. She received alongside the unit pictures of his completing the activities and he collated a memory board in his room of these. On one of his water sports days he spent some one on one time with one of the instructors and they introduced him to rescue and coaching which he is looking at whether this is something he would wish to explore in the future either as a hobby or as a career.

Young Person 'LL'

LL was another child who utilised all the activities and enjoyed them. He was a reluctant attender but was always waiting at the door for his collection and actively participated in everything despite his protesting. The activities enable him to take on a leadership role and he was supportive and encouraging of the others helping them to overcome fears, take the next step with an activity or just to have a kind word to say. He was the first to volunteer to do the tasks got people to join in and this was a side of him that he had not displayed before choosing to distance himself and only spend time with his immediate peer group. To attend the activities, he would delay time with them and would use YOS as an excuse to not socialise with them. This has enabled him to begin to take that step which is not always easy.

Since the activities he has seen that people are invested in him, he is attending education full time (something he did not do before) and is seeing that goals are achievable rather than things that happen to other people. He has seen that if he tries that he can succeed. He did ask if there could be an activity once a month as he would like to continue with the activities and how to achieve this is being explored. He liked variety so since the Space scheme we have taken him to the driving range, out on bike rides and supported him with fishing. LL has come a long way and the fact that he is prioritising himself is a key step in building that desistance.

Young People 'MB' and 'EB'

MB as a female was reluctant to attend therefore we agreed that she could bring either her brother or a friend with her to the activities so that she would feel more confident in her attendance. She asked if her brother could attend and this enabled them to access all of the activities. Both stated that they have done things they have never been able to before and loved the experience that it gave them. MB excelled at the fishing and held the title on more than one occasion for the most fish landed.

In discussions with MB she stated that the events had given her confidence to try new things and that she can be really good at them. However, to do this you have to overcome your fears. She stated that water sports were not her thing at first as she did not want to fall in, however the group rallied around her and she did a circuit of the lake on more than one occasion which she is proud of. Fishing has been an activity that she has continued with since the programme.

Family attending climbing

I was approached by a member of staff who advised that they were working with a family as prevention that had become fractured and they wanted to offer them some time climbing as a family unit to see if these relationships could be given a boost by undertaking an activity together. A slot was identified, and the family thrived working together and acting as a team whilst having fun. It gave them time away to see themselves in a different environment to reflect on how family life could be. They have now implemented family activities with them all making suggestions as to what they would like. It has brought the family back to the same page.

DG and his brother

Since their attendance on the programme of activities we have been able to secure further funding through BRFC to pay for them to undertake an Introduction to climbing course and a 10-session pass for them to continue with the activity post space. Mum who observed the session as she was concerned about them spending time together without killing each other said she had never seen them work so well together and that the climbing has helped to rebuild their relationship.

They are now developing skills in teamwork, trust alongside building a new hobby with links in the community. They have a much more positive relationship and a safe place to go and spend time.

BURTON ALBION AND CENTRAL CO-OP LEARNING TRUST

The SPACE programme that was run in Redbrook Hayes School and Burton Fields school during the summer holidays of 2021 was run to target a variety of children for various different reasons. The main reason was due to the children being identified as having slipped behind either academically or socially following the pandemic and periods of lockdown away from school. 75% of the children were free school meal children and the rest were families that were identified as being borderline and known to the schools as struggling.

One child in particular at Redbrook Hayes school was really reluctant to attend the SPACE programme as they didn't want to attend school during their holidays. However, they were identified as a child in need of the programme due to both school and home noticing that the child had become very anxious and reluctant to engage with other children as much as they have done prior to the school closures. At the start of the week they did attend reluctantly, and throughout the week he engaged more and more in the various activities and worked well with other children, forming friendships with children they hadn't done previously despite them being in their year group at school.

Since September the child (now in year 6) has shown more confidence, despite still being a little anxious, but is much more engaged and willing to 'give new activities a go' than the previous school year. Their attendance in school is also improved following them attending the SPACE programme over the summer. The parent has said that the child noticed that the school were helping to try and ease some of their anxieties by putting things in place when they returned and attending in the summer they could see this was part of that which has really helped them and enjoy school.