

From Idea to Impact

Creating a Safe Space Youth Café in
West Bromwich

YMCA Black Country Group
Jo Goldie – Chief Officer Programmes

Project Overview

- Safe Space Youth Café created as an after-school hub for young people aged 11+
- Funded through partnership with West Brom Building Society Foundation
- Welcoming space for young people to connect with peers and access youth worker support



The Partnership

- Corporate sponsorship discussions identified funding opportunity
- Evidence presented highlighting the gap in youth services locally
- West Brom Building Society Foundation committed to funding term-time provision
- Youth worker recruited with lived experience and creative aspirations for young people



Launching the Youth Café

- Launch event with representation from local high Schools
- Two weeks of outreach using 'box of sweets' engagement approach
- Promotion with local high schools
- Focus on Safe Space values, creative opportunities, gaming, entrepreneurship and respect



Practical Operations

- 5 to 6 different high schools are attending, with young people from different backgrounds.
- Co-production of activities and consultation constantly with the young people.
- Flexible to adapt and change dependant on attendees
- Themes sessions on current relevant affairs



Key Take Aways

- Shared building with office tenants, gym members and external bookings. Mitigating risk, complaints and young persons ownership.
- Formalise 'drop in' sessions for attendance, consent and for the collection of data.
- Be prepared to fund additional workers, as we underestimated the need.
- Corporate partnerships can unlock impactful youth provision.

Key Take Aways cont....

- Strong outreach is essential for engagement
- Collaboration with external partners strengthens delivery and resources
- Formalise 'drop in' sessions for attendance, consent and for the collection of data.
- Align and get the support of the local authority to shape strategy.