

### YEG budget report 23-24

Many people on the council will be already aware of the work led by youth engagement working group. Since its inception in 2019 our youth services have engaged thousands of young people in our area. Within its first two years of its inception ASB reports in the Abertillery area reduced by 50%.

Our detached youth teams involvement has been vitally instrumental in achieving this; being successful in addressing many of the issues that our young people in the community encounter. The detached teams are able to get access to young people that are hard to reach to engage in services who are likely to through the cracks. Some of the problems that affect our young people include sexual abuse and homelessness. The YEG received reports during this year of several young people being made homeless and living in nearby woodland; with tents and equipment provided by the youth service. These are not isolated incidents, it's a very real risk that many of our young people and families face when young people don't continue with their education. This means that their families don't receive the benefits to keep them fed and watered, so they are kicked out and expected to fend for themselves. This is just a glimpse into the rabbit hole of adversity and challenges young people and their families face.

Below are costings for two options provided by our detached teams.

#### The two options

Option 1 consists of 2 staff and a manager on part time

Option 2, which is preferred, 2 staff and a manager on fulltime hours.

You will probably notice a considerable increase with Off the Streets. 2.6 times compared to last years budget proposal. They have gone from providing 4 sessions a week to running upto 3 sessions 4 days of the week. (See table below for the full program of activities and engagement.)

In the past year Off The streets have tripled the sessions which they deliver in our communities. They have branched out further to include, engage and support young people, their families and the wider community.

Included in this years funding for off the streets includes costings/estimates for them to establish a physical base or premises.

A point worth mentioning why there is such a difference in between the two detached teams. With the BG youth team, their support and infrastructure comes from the borough's youth program. We only pay for the youth workers. If we had to pay out for all of it, it would be more than double what it is now.

As a third sector organisation, Off the streets do not have the support, resources and infrastructure that the BG detached youth teams has. They do it all of their own back through their organisation hence the costs being more

#### Option 1

	COSTINGS 2021/2022	COSTINGS 2022/2023	PROPOSED 2023/24	PROPOSED 2024/25
BG DETACHED TEAM	£54,000	£35,000	£41,500	£41,500
OFF THE STREETS	£40,000	£44,000	£44,244	£116,143
YOUTH LED PROJECTS			£2000	£2000

TOTAL	£94,000	£79,000	£87,744	£159,643
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#### Option 2

	COSTINGS 2021/2022	COSTINGS 2022/2023	PROPOSED 2023/24	PROPOSED 2024/25
BG DETACHED TEAM	£54,000	£35,000	£54,500	£54,500
OFF THE STREETS	£40,000	£44,000	£44,244	£116,143
YOUTH LED PROJECTS			£2000	£2000
TOTAL	£94,000	£79,000	£100,744	£172,643

#### Off the streets current engagement program

Monday	5-6pm	6:30-8pm	6:30-8pm
Activity	Football, Llanhilleth	Us girls Brinithel	Boys only Swffrydd
Tuesday	5:30-6:45pm	7-8pm	6:30-8pm
Activity	Open access Swffrydd	Boys only Llanhilleth	ALN session Brinithel
Wednesday	4:30-6pm	6:30-8pm	6:30-7:30
Activity	Open Access Llanhilleth	Youth drop in Llanhilleth	Football Swffrydd
Thursday	4:30-6pm	6:30-8pm	6:30-8pm
Activity	Open access Brinithel	Youth drop in Brinithel	Us Girls Swffrydd



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**Supporting Statement - Off The Streets Project Proposal April 2024 -  
March 2025**

Dear members of ALCC,

Alongside documents regarding Off The Streets proposal to the council for the financial year of 2024 to 2025, I would like to write a supporting statement to the members also. I would like to use this opportunity to draw awareness to the ongoing work that Off The Streets has been facilitating throughout Swffryd, Llanhilleth and Brynithel, the improvements that have been made and the impact I feel, and see, our project is making.

As the newly appointed Team Manager at Off The Streets, I feel that the project has expanded our reach far beyond what was previously being delivered pre-July 2023. We have implemented new session categories and aimed to provide experiences catered to the specific needs and wants of our children and young people. An example of this is our facilitation of a new session aimed specifically at children and young people with Additional Learning Needs, providing more opportunities for those who may be isolated from other provisions due to economic and geographical limitations. Within this we are also aiming to develop a support network amongst the guardians of these children and young people, creating bonds and relationships where previously parents and carers may have had little to no connection with their peers.

The key issues that still face our local communities is what Off The Streets work towards combating; antisocial behaviour, isolation, food poverty, systemic and generational deprivation to name a few. Capturing a clear picture of change and positive developments within issue areas such as these can often be difficult and may take a long time to show true results within communities. I, and the team, do however feel that we are seeing and supporting change and influencing the lives of our children, young people and their families positively. We engage with so many individuals each week that each have their own individual personality, needs and backgrounds but, Off The Streets staff strive to provide only a welcoming and nonjudgmental attitude towards all who engage within our project. We have been proud to see our project supporting participants to build confidence and skills, make connections with peers and staff and also access opportunities to improve their health and wellbeing.



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We are a developing team, consisting of staff with many years of experience as well as newer team members who have been on their youth work journey for a short while. We pride ourselves on being adaptive and flexible, ensuring that we are facilitating impactful and purposeful work. Our team has been upskilling themselves, attending training sessions and themed workshops to support their professional development.

Our collaborative and partnership work has continued to be positive and purposeful, providing our project with the resources to facilitate further opportunities for our children, young people and their families, as well as their local communities. This support and collaboration has been an invaluable asset to Off The Streets work. Included alongside Off The Streets proposal are two letters of endorsement from our partner organisations for the council's reference.

Overall, I feel that Off The Streets has gone from strength to strength, withstanding and thriving on change and arising needs of the communities of which we work in. Our children and young people will always be at the core of why our staff and project does what we do and we look forward to continuing our work.

Thank you to all council members for considering Off The Streets proposal of our continued Youth & Community work.

Yours Faithfully,

***A. Insley***

Alana Insley

Project Manager

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## **Off The Streets Project Proposal April 2024 - March 2025**

### **1.1 - Staffing & Work to be facilitated/Activities**

Off The Streets will be aiming to facilitate more Youth & Community Work projects, activities and sessions through the next financial year. We will be continuing our collaborative work with various partner organisations such as Aneurin Leisure Sports Development, Swffryd Primary School, Ffin Dance, Brynithel Community Centre, Llanhilleth RFC and others to provide further opportunities for our children, young people and their families.

Over the course of the six weeks summer holidays, Off The Streets engaged with upwards of one hundred children and young people each week. This meant that as a project we engaged all of these individuals in activities, sessions and projects, provided balanced meals and refreshments free-of-charge on a four-day-a-week basis. Food poverty has been continuously highlighted throughout Off The Streets work. Our staff often see children and young people attending in a hungry state and with parents sending them to our sessions as an opportunity to feed their children at no cost. In these instances we work with families to support their access to services and organisations that can provide assistance. With this issue still being so prevalent within our communities, Off The Streets will be continuing to provide support in terms of food and refreshments, as well as familial support.

Over the past three months, Off The Streets as a project has expanded further to fit the needs of our children, young people and their communities. We now facilitate twelve sessions per week in three areas. These sessions have been greatly received by participants, stakeholders and families within Swffryd, Llanhilleth and Brynithel. We facilitated a questionnaire for parents and carers to give their honest feedback on Off The Streets work and how it impacts their children. A few examples of questions asked and responses given are as follows (all statements are written personally by surveyed individuals, some words have been added for clarity) -

**Question - How do you feel your child/ren benefit from engaging in Off The Streets sessions?**

- ***"Gained confidence, helped them try new experiences, makes new friends, helped them socialise."***
- ***"They love it. It's brought out confidence in my middle child more. The usgirls session my oldest loves. It's helped bring out a child's individuality more."***



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- *"Gives a safe place for her to meet up with her friends as well as learning skills"*
- *"Socialising with friends, getting off their devices, gaining confidence, trying new foods, new activities, it's free!"*

**Question - Do you feel that Off The Streets benefits your community? (Please state YES OR NO and explain your answer)**

- *"Yes, children have a place to go socialising instead of hang around the streets causing problems."*
- *"Yes, absolutely there are no other provisions like it within the [the] community, that include the whole family ethos"*
- *"Yes, there's loads for the children to do safely and supervised. Foods provided and drinks some children in the area haven't got consistent [consistent] food with the. Way of life right now. And this is free for parents who are struggling so all children could go and not be left out."*
- *"Yes. Not only does it. Keep kids off the streets and out of danger, but it also helps kids, learn new activities, have new experiences that they might not have helped [had]. Kids understand the rights and wrongs of things like bullying. They always support the community when there's a [e]vent, and if the family needs help, they are there to help families."*

**Question - How do you feel Off The Streets services could be improved?**

- *"Maybe more for the mums while we're there, activity's, education"*
- *"I'm happy with the service, they do so much. The only negative thing is not having an indoor venue in Llanhilleth, means during the winter months the children will miss out."*
- *"It would be so much better if there was an indoor space for the children to use in Llanhilleth when the weather is bad"*
- *"Maybe more resources, and maybe the child led activities or choice or trips."*

As well as surveying parents and carers, we also facilitated a questionnaire with our children and young people. Participants were provided with the opportunity to voice their opinions and their honest view of Off The Streets work and how they feel it could be improved. As above, few examples of questions asked and responses



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given are as follows (all statements are written personally by surveyed individuals, some words have been added for clarity) -

**Question - What do you think is good about Off The Streets?**

- *"Free food. get to come here with friends. Having a scrum."*
- *"Playing football safe"*
- *"They provide everything a youth club should; Activities, Food and Drink, Sheltered Area and Love and equality to all the children and young people"*
- *"Spending time with mates, free food and drink and playing sports like rugby"*

**Question - What do you think could be better about Off The Streets?**

- *"More cooking"*
- *"Sometimes the behaviour, how people [people] behave can spoil sessions"*
- *"More planned activities"*
- *"Nothing its amazing"*

This feedback from our participants is invaluable and has been a vital source of our expanding efforts to further the impact that Off The Streets already has within the local communities of which we work in.

Off The Streets sessions for children and young people will continue to run over four days per week in our three working areas. These sessions will include a variety of workshops, activities and projects based on emerging needs and themes exhibited by our service users, the local area and global/economic issues. This work will continue to be a mix of Open-Access sessions, Youth Drop-In sessions, Additional Needs sessions, Community Sports sessions and UsGirls sessions. Although this is now our established model of working, changes and adaptations may take place dependent on needs being expressed by our participants and communities.

Off The Streets has forged such positive and purposeful partnerships with various organisations and stakeholders. Within the next financial year we will be looking to expand our work further into the local communities, facilitating sessions within and supporting local primary schools, ensuring that Off The Streets provides support and links pre and post school-day for our children, young people and their families. Helen Hickenbottom, the headmistress at Swffryd Primary School, is a great supporter of Off The Streets as a whole and welcomes our project into her school with open



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arms. Helen and her staff team have been vital in providing us with a safe space to facilitate our work within and is keen to support our work development, providing us with opportunities to access the school within school times for us to further support our children and young people, the school and their events.

It is important to note that pre-July 2023, Off The Streets face-to-face facilitation was just six and half hours, facilitating only four sessions. However, as of October 2023, session and activity facilitation is at approximately seventeen hours per week, equating to twelve sessions. This does not include the time that the team spends on events, administration, planning and evaluation based work - as a result, our staff are currently, and have been over the past few months, providing their time on a voluntary basis to ensure work such as this is completed.

With such an increase to our workload, our staffing of provisions needs to increase alongside this to ensure our project runs efficiently and effectively.

These are our estimated staffing costs for the next financial year.

1 Manager @ £20 P/H X 22 hours P/W - £440 Weekly	£22,880 P/Y
3 Youth & Community Workers @ £16 P/H X 16 hours P/W - £768 Weekly (£256 X 3)	£39,936 P/Y
1 Young Persons Engagement Worker @ £12 P/H X 15 hours P/W - £180 Weekly	£9,360 P/Y
EWC registration £45 X 1, £15 X 3	£90 P/Y
Training Budget	£1,000 P/Y
Volunteer Budget	£520 P/Y
<b>Total cost for financial year (1ST April 2024 - 31ST March 2025)</b>	<b>£73,768</b>

These are our estimated activity costs for the next financial year.

Activity Budget (for weekly sessions, projects and activities)	£5,000
Equipment Budget (for asset-based purchases, equipment needed to facilitate our sessions, projects and activities)	£1,000
Food Budget (for providing free refreshments at all of our weekly	£5,000





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sessions, projects and activities)	
Event Budget (for financial support towards one-off events and occasion-based events such as Christmas, Halloween and excursions)	£3,000
Total cost for financial year (1ST April 2024 - 31ST March 2025)	£14,000



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## **1.2 - Building procurement**

To further imbed our work within the community and to give Off The Streets a professional base, we will be looking to procure a building this year. Ideally we would like to base ourselves within Swffryd, Llanhilleth or Brynithel. Many parents and carers responded to an Off The Streets survey suggesting that an indoor space is much needed for our project. Further details of the questionnaire and relevant comments can be found within section 1.1.

We feel that our project would benefit hugely from having a multi-purpose building/area of which our project could utilise for storage, office space and as a safe venue for children, young people and their families to access. Currently in our working area of Llanhilleth, when there are bad weather conditions our sessions are often cancelled due to the lack of indoor space for our project to use. We have enquired at various locations including that of Llanhilleth Miners Institute and St. Iltyd's Primary School but have not as of October 2023 found any viable options regarding venue hire. This has been due to financial barriers and the unequipped nature of certain venues.

There are various factors for us to take into consideration when choosing a building for our project, including our proximity to local residents, our proximity of main roads and highways, ease of access for service users, overhead costs etcetera. As a result, our team is currently looking into local shops/units to rent, acknowledging relevant health and safety factors.

As of October 2023, Off The Streets has made enquiries regarding potential locations and costs. These are our estimated building procurement costs for the next financial year.

Building Rent Costs (12 Months, 52 weeks - 2024 to 2025)	£10,000
Building Overheads - gas, electric, water, insurance etc.	£6,000
Sign-writing	£500
Furniture procurement	£1,000



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<b>Total cost for financial year (1ST April 2024 - 31ST March 2025)</b>	<b>£17,500</b>
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Although we are looking for a stable base within one of our working areas to provide ourselves with a professional and accessible space, Off The Streets would still facilitate work within our aforementioned areas of work. As a result, there will still be room hire fees involved for the venues that we facilitate our work within, to further our projects reach and to engage with more children, young people and their families.

These are our estimated room hire costs for the next financial year.

Room Hire @ Swffryd Primary School £20 P/H X 5 hours P/W X 50 weeks	£5,000
Room Hire @ Brynithel Community Centre £12.50 P/H X 7 hours P/W X 50 weeks	£4,375
Llanhilleth RFC (includes access to gym and hire for events, covering both inside the RFC and use of the pitch) £10 P/H X 3 hours P/W X 50 weeks	£1,500
<b>Total cost for financial year (1ST April 2024 - 31ST March 2025)</b>	<b>£10,875</b>

This is our overall cost of all above sections for the financial year of 2024 to 2025.

<b>Complete total cost for financial year (1ST April 2024 - 31ST March 2025)</b>	<b>£116,143</b>
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### **1:3 - Community Work, Events & Trips**

Off The Streets will continue to organise and deliver our own community events-based, as well as supporting our partner organisations in facilitating their special occasions and events.

During the six week summer holidays, Off The Streets worked closely with ALCC to facilitate weekly cinema trips for children and young people of the ALCC's wards. The trips saw a significant uptake from participants of our project and those who were new to us. One Monday we attended The Metropole, Abertillery with over eighty children, young people and their families to attend a film showing. We received great feedback from the guardians and the children and young people who felt that the trips were a great addition to their school holidays, providing safe, accessible and free opportunities.

For a second year Off The Streets held a Summer Fete in the community of Llanhilleth, working alongside Llanhilleth RFC for further reach and access to facilities. As a project, we were lucky to receive a grant from ALCC to support this event. It helped to make a great impact on the success of the event and enabled us to provide a wide range of free activities and experiences for children, young people, their families and the wider community of Llanhilleth. Our event saw over five hundred people attend, in turn supporting not just Off The Streets but also local businesses and community-based vendors, Llanhilleth RFC and its rugby team.

As of October 2023, the second annual Firework Fest firework display at Llanhilleth RFC has been planned for Saturday 4TH November 2023. Last year's event was a massive success and, as a project, we have continued to receive compliments of the event throughout the year. Community members have also continued to request us to facilitate the event again.

Over the past few months, Off The Streets has aimed to provide our children and young people with accessible and affordable excursions.



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Working collaboratively with Aneurin Leisure Sports Development enabled us to access funding for our UsGirls programme. From this we were able to offer our participants an all-expenses paid excursion of their choice. Our young people chose to go horse riding which saw our staff take seventeen girls, aged ten plus, to Manmoel Equestrian Centre free of charge including food and travel.

We have also worked closely with Dragons RFC since July 2023. From this partnership, Off The Streets were provided with over thirty free tickets for a rugby match at Rodney Parade. We used funds raised from the Summer Fete to fund travel and lunch packs for our attendees so the trip was at no cost for our children, young people and their families. Off The Streets staff also donated their free time, unpaid, to facilitate this trip.

As a team we feel that it is crucial that our participants be encouraged and enabled to access fun and interesting opportunities outside of their frame of reference. Many of our children and young people come from disadvantaged backgrounds, not often able to attend events outside of their communities due to profound, generational poverty.

Total funds we are requesting in order to continue our community events and excursions for our children, young people and their families are stated within estimated Activities Costings within 1.1.



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## 1:4 - Monitoring & Evaluation


Off The Streets will continue to provide ALCC with quarterly reports regarding our work and progress. These reports will contain updates relating to each of our working areas, work being planned and delivered, alongside notable changes, accomplishments, service user comments/feedback etcetera.

Beginning in September of 2023, Off The Streets will be implementing new monitoring systems in order to evaluate our work and to understand what our service users think, want and need, as well as tracking improvement or adjustments to their interpersonal skills and abilities. We are striving towards recognising and documenting the base-line and, ultimately, changes that participants experience when engaging with Off The Streets. Parts of this data and information will be used within our reporting to ALCC also.

Staff will also be providing professional feedback on specific individuals that engage with Off The Streets. This feedback will include staff members personal, professional views and acknowledgements of our children and young people's progress and engagement at Off The Streets.

This reporting will be undertaken and detailed in a confidential manner, with individuals personal details not being shared.

**\*See example of our Case Study reporting proforma.**

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<b>Off The Streets Child &amp; Young Person Case Study Proforma</b>	
Give some background on the child or young person you have chosen as your study. (The child or young person's age, which session/s they attend, how long they have been a participant at Off The Streets)	
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What notable changes have you acknowledged in this child or young person? (Maybe they have developed skills, built their confidence or made new friends)	
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In what ways do you think Off The Streets has benefited this child or young person?	
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Please be sure <b>NOT</b> to use a child or young person's name within this case study. Please refer to the individual as X.	
<b>DO NOT</b> use any information that could be seen as a breach of confidentiality about the child or young person - no personal details or informing characteristics to be shared.	
Please be honest and enthusiastic - give as much detail about the child or young person's progress and engagement as possible.	

This report is intended to outline the work completed by the Abertillery detached team between August 23 and October 23, it will also reference work carried out since the start of the financial year.

The detached team have continued to successfully build on positives relationships with young people in the community along with local businesses, trusts and external organisations such as the Police.

The detached team have established set days that they are available in the community, these being, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday evenings from 6pm – 9pm. The young people expect to see the team out on these days and will often approach them on the street to ask what they have planned for the coming weeks. The detached also have a good social media presence and will advertise up and coming events on Facebook.

During July the detached team ensured young people were aware of the summer programme that was being delivered by the youth service in August, the detached team specifically supported with cinema trips, transporting young people from Abertillery to Brynmawr, they also support Brynmawr fair, where Abertillery young people attended. The detached team also had regular evening events at the youth centre to make pizza's, have BBQs and run workshops e.g. drug and alcohol.

During the Summer holiday programmes the youth service including the detached team worked with other organisations who were invited to bring their young people along to workshops, we found this very successful and aided collaborative working with other youth teams in the area.

The detached team also supported The Skateboarding Academy with running skateboarding sessions on a Friday evening during the summer holidays, this was well attending by younger young people locally and for other towns in Blaenau Gwent.

After 2 successful evenings working with street doctors, the detached team will be looking to book further session in

On a Thursday evening the team used the youth service van during the summer, the young people were able to use this space to play on the PlayStation, listen to music, sit on the bus to chat and take part in any other activities available. On average between 20-30 young people attended every week, they have asked for the van to be available during winter months.

The local police have attended some evenings with the team and engage with young people to work on better communication and trust between the young people and police staff. They have also built great relationships with local shops and the leisure centre which they visit regularly to check in. The leisure centre staff have said how much they appreciate the support they have received and would be more than happy to send an email in support of the work the detached has directly impacted them in a positive way and broken-down barriers they had and possible prejudice they towards young people.

The team have encouraged young people to explore their talents by having music and mics available for them to sing/rap etc. from doing this the YPs have decided they would like to do a talent completion which is currently ongoing. They are also currently working with a local beat boxer and music producer to encourage them with this and offer support, young people have been invited to a local music studio to work on their own music to encourage them off the streets and how they can express themselves and emotions in a positive way.

Whilst the detached team have been on the streets they have been approached by young people who have expressed an interested in becoming more healthy and wanting to engage in the

community in a positive way, the team suggested going to the local sport centre to try swimming, badminton and the gym etc. a barrier for this was money – it was agreed that detached would fund a month for them and support them in these sessions by liaising with the sport centre team to offer support to them whilst they were at the centre.

On a Monday evening Matthew Griffiths runs a football session in Abertillery on the 3G pitch, on average between 20 and 25 young people attend, since April 2023 over 600 young people have attended these sessions.

The detached team since April has engaged with over 1,200 young people, this is an average of 15 young people per session.

The youth service has recently run a consultation with young people to identify the needs in the area, this included the detached team, following this it was clear young people wanted more opportunities for rugby. The youth service has liaised with Gwent Dragons who will now be running an 10 week rugby trial in Abertillery with the view to continue if it is successful.

On Saturday November 4<sup>th</sup> we will be running our open for youth evening provision this is normal in Ebbw Vale sports centre but as trial to tackle ASB in a positive way we have brought it to Abertillery sports centre.

The youth workers have also made referrals to other agencies for young people that have confided in them about alcohol/drug issues, they have also had to attend multi agency meetings to support young people at risk of exploitation, the team have acted as advocates for these young people.

The team have also had to submitted multiple DTRs due to safeguarding issues and whilst out on detached.

The youth service has recently had a restructure where all full-time youth workers now work 2 evenings a week, this had helped to bridge the gap between evening workers and day workers, the detached team can now access support that is need for young people in the day more easily.