



WAM
YOUTH

ANNUAL REPORT 2018





WELCOME

With a plethora of statistics, news reports and personal stories telling of cuts to funding in services for children and young people in the UK sat alongside a widespread concern of lack of appropriate and timely support, it is easy to feel despondent and that what we can do is such a drop in the ocean.

When reporting success it can be tempting to focus on numbers and easy to measure quantitative outcomes. But in doing so we risk overlooking the significance of *being that one person for one person* and missing the often unseen impact that long-term relational investment into a child or young person's life can have. At WAM we prioritise the building of trusted, transformative relationships in every project or service that we run.

Gemma Madle

Sometimes this means we see incredible changes in young people's lives, but more often than not the changes may not seem obvious or measurable. However as you can see from some of the stories in this report, long term relational support changes lives, not always in an obvious sense but because it involves commitment and consistency and real investment of self for those involved it also lays foundations for future change in a young person's life long after they have moved on from WAM. Join us in celebrating the incredible impact that our staff and volunteers have had on the lives of the young people we've supported this year and cheer on the young people themselves for being willing to step into their futures.

GEMMA MADLE

Director of WAM Youth

OUR VALUES

Here at WAM we believe in the power of relationship and the necessity of positive, healthy relationships for every child and young person to be able to fulfil their potential. All our work rests in our organisational values which are unashamedly inspired by the Christian faith basis of our charity.

we will seek to understand the circumstances, life experience and concerns of each child and young person we work with, withholding judgement of their behaviour, so that we are best able to help them reach their unique potential

COMPASSION

we will be consistent in our relationships with young people. We will always believe in their value and potential, even when they may push against us

COMMITMENT

we are committed to reflective practice and review and evaluate our work regularly because we believe every young person we work with deserves the best we can offer

WILLINGNESS TO LEARN

WORTH

we believe we all have an inherent value and worth, that every person deserves to be treated in a way that reflects this belief and that being treated with value helps us to value ourselves

we maintain a deep sense of hope that transformation is always possible

HOPE

OUR APPROACH

Here at WAM we are like builders, we source and share resources to help young people make good foundations in their lives and to restore and build resilience. To do this effectively we need to be present to young people and be consistent in what we offer them. Only then we can build trust and build confidence which provides a platform for young people to build resilience and flourish.

BE PRESENT

We are present to young people in North Gloucestershire through our spaces, places and people. Our staff and volunteers aim to be welcoming, inclusive and approachable. Being present both as an organisation and as individuals for a young person places value on them, affirms their worth as they are now, not just in who we see they have the potential to be .

BE CONSISTENT

Good relationships take time to build and we do our best to provide long term, consistent services because we believe young people deserve the investment and the effort. This is why we've been providing youth groups in Winchcombe since 2014 and why our mentors will work with young people for up to 12 months.

BUILD TRUST

Trust requires vulnerability so we need to create safe spaces for young people to feel able to trust us to support them. Our presence and consistency are key factors in proving trustworthiness and our values create a culture which says to a young person that "you are enough as you are, we do not require anything of you, but we believe in your and your potential to overcome and to achieve"

BUILD CONFIDENCE

Once trust is established we start to see a young person's confidence grow as they become more able to face the challenges they are experiencing, more willing to try new things or see another perspective. The relationships we provide to young people help to empower them to step more confidently into their futures.

OUR PROVISION

In 2017/18 WAM Youth.....

ran 3 weekly **YOUTH GROUPS** for 60 young people

provided **MENTORS** for 28 young people aged between 7 & 17

trained and placed 5 **NEW MENTORS**

had over 160 young people attend our **SCHOOL HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES**

delivered **RELATIONSHIPS AND SEX EDUCATION** to 300 young people

supported 8 young people with long term **1:1 OUTDOOR EDUCATION**

provided **OUTDOORS SKILLS SESSIONS & CAMPS** for 60 young people

took 8 young people on an action packed **SUMMER RESIDENTIAL**

worked with 9 **SCHOOLS AND AGENCIES**



OUR IMPACT

M suffers from social anxiety and he isn't attending school. He has some education provided at home from the Hospital Education Service. He lives with mum and was been referred to WAM for weekly mentoring sessions. At the start of his mentoring in the first three weeks he left the house four times, three of these times were to meet his mentor. His mentor has worked with him for four months and he is now intending to return to school to study A levels in September, on top of his school work and homework, has developed a healthy sleeping and eating pattern, is exercising regularly, able to leave the house for social activities including attending a friend's birthday party and in his words is feeling "good".

WAM WAS PRESENT THROUGH MENTORING



**WAM WAS CONSISTENT
EACH WEEK**



WAM'S MENTOR BUILT TRUST WITH M



**M BUILT CONFIDENCE AND MADE POSITIVE LIFE
CHANGES**

**WAM WAS PRESENT
THROUGH 1:1 OUTDOOR EDUCATION**



**WAM WAS CONSISTENT
EVEN WHEN J REFUSED TO ATTEND FOR
SEVERAL WEEKS**



**WAM'S STAFF BUILT TRUST OVER AND OVER
AGAIN WITH J**



**J BUILT CONFIDENCE AND MADE POSITIVE LIFE
CHANGES**

J was referred to WAM by his school when his behaviour became too unsafe to manage. He spent a couple of weeks in the summer holidays working with WAM's outdoor education team, learning some bush craft skills and traditional forestry. His school then placed him with WAM for two days a week in the new term. He refused to attend for half a term but the WAM team kept on turning up to collect him and to try to encourage him to attend. Eventually he agreed to come away on a camping residential trip with a group of WAM young people and from this point on he started attending his sessions consistently. He was then placed with WAM full-time and spent over 1 year working in the woods learning many skills and starting to raise his aspirations for his ability to achieve. There were ups and downs during the journey and he eventually decided he was ready to move on near the end of Year 11. WAM was able to provide evidence of his achievements, write him a truthfully glowing reference and let him step out into the wider world of work and independent life. He is now working on as a construction labourer, an outcome that was very different to the one many professionals had feared for when he was first referred to WAM. In the words of his Anti-Social Behaviour Youth Worker "After many rejections from conventional schools after a year at WAM he seems to have found the place and consistency he needs."



OUR IMPACT

R was one of WAM's first mentees. She was a young carer for her mum and attended our youth group for several years. R struggled with school attendance and behaviour in school and has had a lot of support from WAM staff and volunteers over the last 4 years even when her behaviour at youth group presented challenges for the team. She managed to sit her GCSE's despite her mum having a major operation during her exam time. WAM has been able to help her get to college, visit her mum when she's been in hospital and provide her with volunteering opportunities. She is now working in the kitchen of a local pub and enjoying working life. Life is still not easy but R has built some resilience through her experiences and the support she has received.

WAM WAS PRESENT THROUGH YOUTH GROUPS & MENTORING



WAM WAS CONSISTENTLY AVAILABLE OVER 4 YEARS



WAM STAFF WERE A TRUSTED SUPPORT TO R



R BUILT RESILIENCE AND HAS TRANSITIONED INTO ADULT LIFE AND REGULAR EMPLOYMENT

WAM WAS PRESENT THROUGH MENTORING



A WAM MENTOR WAS AVAILABLE CONSISTENTLY FOR L



L TRUSTED HER MENTOR TO HELP ENCOURAGE HER TO STEP OUT OF HER COMFORT ZONE



L BUILT CONFIDENCE AND HAS HAD SOME AMAZING NEW EXPERIENCES

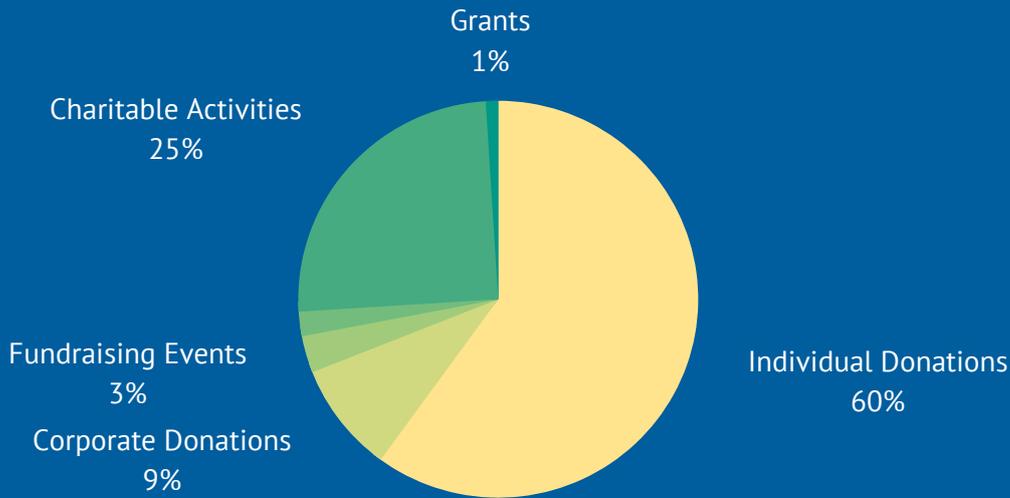
L was referred by Families First (an early intervention initiative of Social Care) when she was 15. She had already received mental health care from CYPS after two attempts to take her own life. They were seeking the support of a consistent adult as other services were all withdrawing their support. WAM was able to provide L with a supportive adult that stayed present whilst other services were stepping back. WAM's mentor supported her through her end of Year 11 at school, into the start of her apprenticeship and she is now working as a Healthcare Assistant in the NHS.

L said her mentor enabled her to have more of a social life and specifically get over fear of travelling on trains and public transport. This gave her more confidence and feel more able to go to places with her friends. Her mentor encouraged her to give new things a go even if she felt they were out of her comfort zone. She discussed a dream to volunteer abroad with her mentor but didn't think she would ever be able to have the confidence to do that. However in 2018 L spent a month in Puerto Rico volunteering in Disaster Relief Work. She said her mentor was outgoing, bubbly and supportive and without her help L doesn't think she would have had one of the most amazing experiences of her life or be doing the job she now loves!

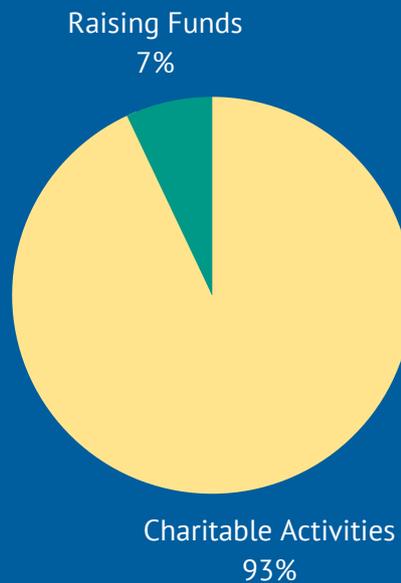
FINANCIAL STATEMENT

INCOME

WAM's Total Income was approximately £250k for 2017-18, £125k of which was specifically to purchase our Woodland Site which remains an asset. The vast majority of the rest of the funds was spent directly on the projects that we run.



EXPENDITURE



Thanks to the following organisations that have supported us financially this year: Encounter Church, Cleeve Hill 41 Club, Winchcombe Youth Hub, Winchcombe & Cheltenham Cycle Clubs, Gloucestershire Community Foundation, Winchcombe Churches Together, Winchcombe School, Gloucestershire Police and Crime Commissioner's Fund, Co-op Community Fund, Tesco Bags for Help and the many individuals whose donations have made our work possible.