

Issue 9.

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Supporting the community through radio

Gateway978 is a community radio station in Basildon run by volunteers. The station also runs a radio club for young people to learn about editing, broadcasting, radio software, presenting, producing and working as a team. (picture taken pre Covid restrictions)

The radio club successfully applied to the VVU Community Grant Fund and was awarded £9,000 to develop its work throughout lockdown. The fund has allowed Gateway978 to reach out to more young people and make the adaptations needed to be Covid-19 secure. For example, purchasing headsets and microphones, making the studio Covid secure and purchasing a new server so the young people can upload content from home. The server also means they can all meet virtually every Wednesday for a wellbeing session – the chance to play games, chat and have some fun.

Terry, aged 14 said: “I struggle at school and have autism. Joining Gateway radio club has started to help me overcome shyness, improve myself and learn how to edit and give something back on a community radio station. What’s not to love!”

The group – usually about 30 young people – meet virtually on a Tuesday to plan out a radio programme and then over the week will pull this programme together for broadcast on the Saturday. All the young people get a chance to try out every aspect of production including running the radio desk and some presenting. For those who want to take their participation further there is the opportunity to do an accredited media qualification, an opportunity that has been made available to more young people thanks to the VVU funding.

The radio club has been a huge success over lockdown with new people joining the group – this may be a self-referral or signposted (for example) by school or probation. The station’s listenership is up 40% during lockdown suggesting a thirst for community news and interest.

The young people have really welcomed the consistency of the club during lockdown; with the radio club helping them develop new skills, raise self-esteem, confidence and wellbeing, and improving emotional and mental health; while at the same time making a positive difference to the local community.

Tom, aged 15 said: “Joining Gateway was the turning point for me. I was thrown out of school and made bad choices. Music inspired me and Gateway helped me develop my skills that helped me move into music producing. I have played on Radio 1 Extra and have continued in what I want to do.”

For those who want to listen you can find the station on www.gateway978.com

Presenting at the Youth Endowment Fund

On 21 January, members of the VVU presented to the team at the Youth Endowment Fund (YEF), on the experience of being one of the 18 'Violence Reduction Unit' areas. This included how our approach has developed; how we deliver in partnership; examples of our local work (including detached youth work in identified localities delivered by voluntary sector organisations) as well the opportunities being one of the VRU areas brings in tackling serious youth violence.



The [Youth Endowment Fund](#) (YEF) is an independent charitable trust, set up in early 2019, to deliver a £200m 'Youth Endowment Fund' as part of the government's long-term plan to tackle serious violence.

A key element of the YEF's approach is to fund, support and evaluate promising programmes working to prevent children and young people involved in violence. Last week, the YEF launched its [Evidence and Gap Map](#) - mapping evidence on what works to keep children safe from involvement in violence – a useful resource for all of those working to impact on serious youth violence.

The YEF launched its first grant round in May 2019 awarding £18.1m to 24 projects, working with 36,000 children across England and Wales. The YEF has also had a Covid-19 grant round (awarding £6.4m to 129 organisations) as well as providing 'capacity building' grants (awarding £2m to 45 organisations) A further round of YEF funding is expected in the first part of 2021/22.



Still time to listen!

So far over 17 youth/school groups have signed up to run our youth voices project but there is still time to take part, and room for lots more groups. We would love to hear from as many young people as possible in order to shape future work.

Please get in contact with Rachel Brett rachel@ecvys.org.uk if you have a youth group that would like to take part in our listening project around youth violence and vulnerability in Essex and play a role in deciding how the VVU should look to prioritise its work for the next

coming year.

Our second listening project, the community listening project, has been open for just over a week and people engaging have the chance to nominate a community group / school to receive £500! Please [take a look](#), any local resident can take part and it takes on average under two minutes to complete. Every opinion is important to us as we consider our spending priorities for the next year and beyond.

If you would like to find out more about any of the items in this newsletter please get in touch katie.canning@essex.gov.uk Follow us on Twitter [@EssexVVU](https://twitter.com/EssexVVU)



Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner for Essex

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