



Carlisle Churches
Youth Project
"Investing in young people"

THE NEWS ON THE STREET

Newsletter

Advent 2023

An update from Jo ...

Youth and family centre:
37 Stewart Street
Carlisle ML8 5DZ
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Opening hours:
10am – 9pm Mon-Fri
10am – 4pm Sat

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*Street Level is an
ecumenical project
established and supported
by six Carlisle churches:*

St Andrew's Church
St Athanasius' RC Church
St John's Church
Kirkstyle Baptist Church
Kirkton Church
United Reformed Church

*Street Level is supported
by funding from Choices,
the churches community
shop, Hamilton Street,
Carlisle*

How have you found the first 6 months?

My first 6 months in post have been very quick! I started just before the start of the Easter programme quickly followed by the Summer programme. It has been a great opportunity to establish a daily presence of a Street Level member of staff in the centre and to build relationships with colleagues and regular young people who attend. I have also been able to formalise some of the Street Level policies and procedures which will be an ongoing process as well as establishing volunteer training in partnership with Carlisle YFCL.

Where is the focus of your time at the moment?

On a weekly basis most of my time is taken with Face-to-Face work and prep for these sessions. Over the October week programme Street Level with Universal Connections were able to offer an outing each day for different groups. Street Level was able to fund outings to ice-skating, Rollerstop and the Skypark at Braehead. In addition, there were 9 sessions available at Street Level so in total there were 129 engagements with young people and families.

I have been involved with Carlisle Young Carers group for many years as a Street Level sessional staff member and I am happy to be continuing with this group. They are an amazing group of young people who show great resilience in their everyday

lives. Everyone in the group has a caring responsibility in their home for a parent or sibling so the group gives them a safe space each week to come and have fun. They can spend time with others living in a similar situation, so coming along to group can give them a sense of belonging with their peers. The Group also gives them the opportunity to try new things that may not be possible to do with their family. For those who have been in the group for a few years, it's amazing to see their journey from where they started to where they are now and it's an absolute privilege to be part of that.

The P7/S1 transition night has always been well attended however over the Summer numbers in this age group dipped. Thankfully with some promotion in primary schools after the Summer break these numbers have increased again. There are some young people who attend faithfully every week and thoroughly enjoy their time at the centre with new friends they have made. This is the new generation of Street Level and it's great to hear the young people talk about older relatives and even parents that used to attend Street Level. It certainly keeps us on our toes to find new and innovative ways to keep the activities exiting and engaging.

In addition to this I have had the opportunity to network within the local community

groups and with the churches involved in funding Street Level. It's great to make these connections and moving forward with ways we can complement each other's work to best meet the needs in the local community especially for young people. These connections are something I hope to continue to strengthen over time and with further involvement.



How might things develop moving forward?

Funding is one of my main priorities and although we are not quite in the New Year the Summer break will be here before we know it. Not only do we require funding to be able to offer trips and activities over school holidays, but we also require additional funding for resources for the weekly groups for young people.

It's great to have lots of regular young people at Street Level but I think it'd even better if there was more variation in the young people that do attend. Realistically I know not everyone will want to come along to Street Level, but I would love in the future if there was a slot on the weekly calendar, that those who want to would have a time they were able and willing to come along.

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Newsletter	Street Level	Pentecost 2023
<h2 data-bbox="108 241 801 297">Help us help our young people</h2> <p data-bbox="108 324 552 703">We've registered Street Level with easyfundraising.co.uk, which means over 7,000 brands and major retailers will now donate to us for FREE every time you use #easyfundraising to shop online. In only a few weeks, some of our supporters have raised £60 to fund our work. These donations will help SO MUCH, so please sign up to support us – it's completely FREE and doesn't take long. Go to https://tinyurl.com/wah4556j or scan the QR code below.</p> 	 <p data-bbox="576 665 1018 840">Also, for the next 12 months, we are going to be supported by the Co-op Local Community Fund. If you are a Co-op member, you can make a difference by raising funds for our project every time you shop at the Co-op (not Scotmid).</p> <p data-bbox="576 855 1018 1059">Download the Co-op app or go to www.coop.co.uk/membership and choose us as your local cause today. Under their "give a gift" scheme, the Co-op has promised to match any donations made before 8th January so your donation is worth twice as much!</p>	<h2 data-bbox="1040 241 1391 297">We're listening</h2> <p data-bbox="1040 356 1485 710">When we have concerns or worries, it is often helpful to speak to someone who will listen without judgement. Carluke Listeners offers a one to one, confidential listening service and now provides a trained Listener at the weekly Family Fun Group run by Youth Families and Community Learning service operating out of the Street Level youth centre. The Listener is available for one-to-one confidential sessions or more informal listening according to need.</p> <p data-bbox="1040 730 1485 994">Carluke Listeners have been providing a safe, effective listening service within the Carluke community for over 10 years. The service is free and available to all on request by contacting Carluke Listeners' dedicated mobile phone number (07434 843518) or by emailing this address: Carlukelisteners@outlook.com.</p>
<h2 data-bbox="108 1160 496 1209">37 Stewart Street</h2> <p data-bbox="108 1240 552 1471">If you regularly pass the Street Level youth centre on Stewart Street, you might have noticed it's looking a wee bit brighter. As well as giving the outside a lick of fresh paint, we've also been busy with the paint brush inside with doors and radiators and the café bar receiving attention.</p> <p data-bbox="108 1491 552 1637">New flooring has been laid in both the café bar and in the youth team office and we carried out a full refurbishment of the Street Level office before Jo took over as Project Lead earlier in the year.</p> <p data-bbox="108 1700 552 1845"><i>If you are a practical person with some DIY skills and have a few hours to spare, then you can help us by doing a few odd jobs to keep our youth centre running smoothly.</i></p> <p data-bbox="108 1863 552 1951">Email joanna.streetlevel@outlook.com or phone her on 07726 784830 if you think you can be of assistance.</p>	<h2 data-bbox="576 1160 879 1209">A testimonial</h2> <p data-bbox="576 1240 1018 1906">"Before I started going into Street Level I felt that I had very little control over my emotions and I was just generally spending a lot of time at home. I believe that Street Level has genuinely changed that about me for the better because I quickly realised that it was a safe space to talk about how I'm feeling and even find solutions to how I'm feeling as well. I've become more confident and grown as a person. I can now confidently talk to new people and try and help them feel more confident too. My next step ... is to simply be the best version of myself and I truly believe that this is all down to the support of the staff in Street Level."</p> <p data-bbox="576 1930 847 1964">Young person, aged 17</p>	<h2 data-bbox="1040 1160 1449 1209">Awards ceremony</h2> <p data-bbox="1040 1240 1485 1361">Street Level with Universal Connections hosted its annual awards ceremony on 22 November. Around 180 people attended.</p> <p data-bbox="1040 1377 1485 1464">The event was hosted by two of our young leaders, Chloe and Orrin, who did an outstanding job!</p> <p data-bbox="1040 1480 1485 1664">The evening consisted of 20 awards celebrating the achievements of the young people and their families over the last year. The event also featured top performances from both Chrissy Larkins and the You See Dance group.</p>  <p data-bbox="1040 1993 1374 2020"><i>The Street Level with UC staff</i></p>