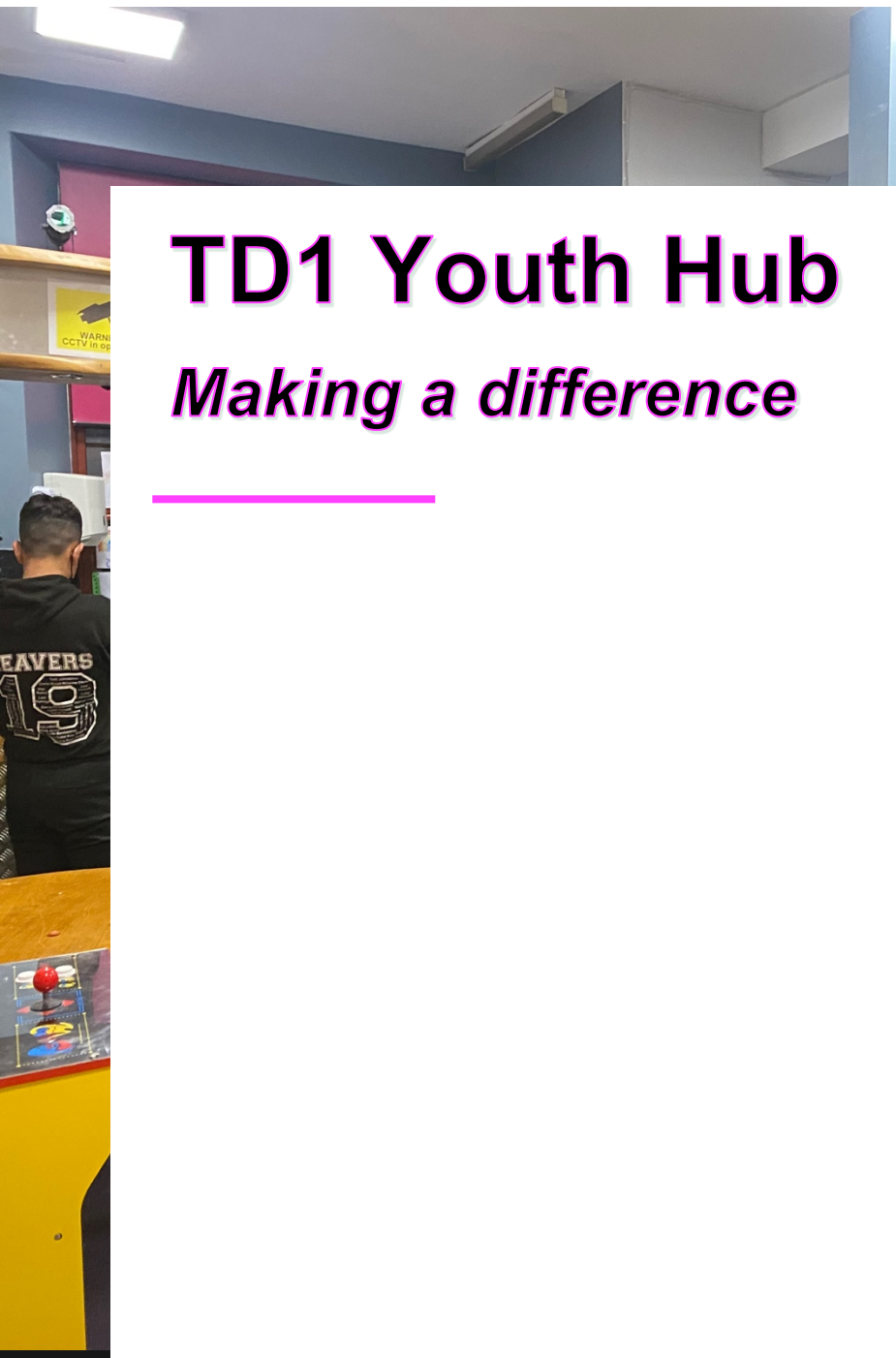


TD1 Youth Hub

Making a difference

FEBRUARY 2021

Looking Back : An impact report about the difference TD1 Youth Hub has made 2 to 5 years later in young people's lives

TD1 YOUTH HUB

What Difference Has It Made?

Voices of young people aged 17 – 25 year old

TD1 Youth Hub has been providing youth work opportunities in Galashiels since 2012, since then we have worked with over 2,000 young people, during this time we have seen many life changing moments for young people, often after they have exited a specific project or piece of work. When they reflect back they recognise the impact that TD1 Youth Hub has had on their lives and those "anchor moments".

Whilst we know our work has been positive for most young people, we wanted to demonstrate the lasting effect of youth work and how it continues to impact young people.

In 2015 we were successful with receiving funding from Thinking Differently Programme, which was a partnership of 5 grant making foundations (The Robertson Trust, The Tudor Trust, Joseph Rowntree Foundation, Comic Relief and BBC Children in Need). This funding was about trialling innovative and preventative interventions to tackle alcohol related harm.

In 2017 an evaluation was published by Arrivo Consultants which demonstrated the success of our overall approach to working with young people, much of the learning from this project was implemented in how we work throughout the organization. Mainly:

- Working with young people's reality
- Being a trusted source of real information
- Working with the young person not the issue
- Relationships
- Creating positive peer groups
- Being a trusted organisation

We wanted to speak to those young people who benefitted from this approach, as mentioned, this goes beyond the Thinking Differently funded project and is about how these approaches work and create lasting change. This report sets out to the findings of our follow up with these young people.

We sampled 50 young people who were all aged 17-25 year old, who, mainly because of their age, had stopped using TD1 services, but had been regular users over a number of years. We maintain contact with as many young people as we can, mainly through social media, but also the active part we have in our community we see young people out and about. We invited them to fill in a Survey Monkey questionnaire in January 2021. Most of these young people hadn't received any TD1 input for 3 years, however were all still happy to help and contribute. The sample was not intended to be representative and participation was voluntary.

We wanted to go beyond the statistics and understand what the impact was for these young people who used TD1 Youth Hub, and these are their comments.

FEEDBACK FROM THOSE SURVEYED

If you could send a message to funders about how important their funds had been what would you say?

The money that TD1 gets given does not go to waste, it gets put to great use and goes a long way in ***helping young people.*** Without TD1 this would result in many youths being out in the street and potentially causing trouble. Young ***people are thankful that they have a place like TD1*** to go to and would much rather go there than be out on the streets drinking etc

Td1 is a great place for younger kids who do have much confidence in themselves or don't have many people to talk to td1 will always ***point you in the right direction*** give you as many chances as possible until you get it right they would never judge you they will be by your side until you have completed it thats what they did with me. Thank so so much for helping td1 out.

Even from the smallest to the largest of worries, TD1 will help any young person. **Creating memories, friendships, confidence,** new skills, and just letting young people have a voice which they want to be heard by. The funding from everyone helps keep this charity alive, young people wouldn't be able to do any of this without the help of funding.

Keep funding them. They truly change people's lives.

Without TD1 young people would be loss without it as they give a lot of support not just in the hub but by going to schools and speaking about ***important issues,*** they give young people a lot of opportunities as well which is really good.

Thank you so much for the things you have done for **td1,** the money giving ***funded countless trips*** for me and my friends and we enjoyed every one of them thank you from the bottom of our hearts n I speak for not just me but countless others to

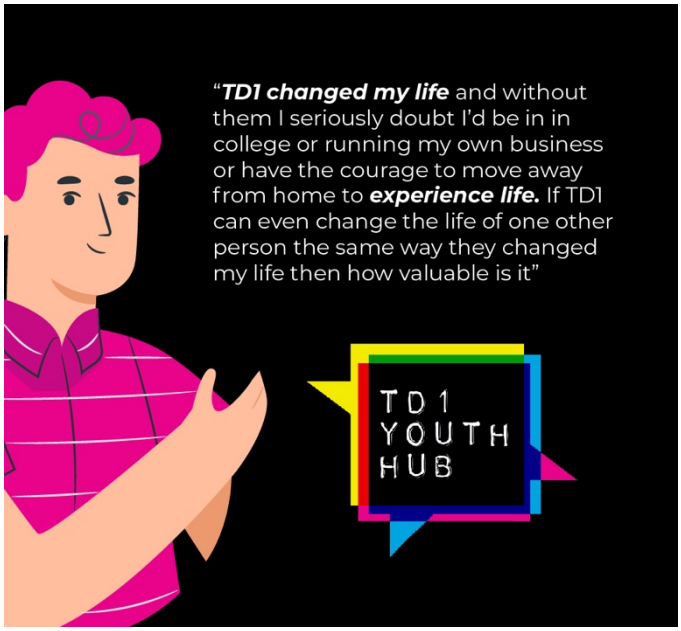
If u have kids or wee ***grandkids*** please try and get them to go to td1 youth hub as it's a great place to go and the staff are brilliant at what they do and you get to do things that you wouldn't believe you can do. And it's so much fun.

If you want to help lots of young people do things they otherwise wouldn't be able to do without the ***amazing youth club,*** funding helps with this so much being able to do lots of trips, activities and many other things.

Reflections

Whilst this report is only a small snapshot, it is clear from the survey respondents that we achieved a response from everyone asked and gives us confidence that the impact of lasting change for these young people

It is clear that TD1 Youth Hub has created life changing experiences for many young people and increased their confidence this is indeed very welcome. However moving forward we would focus on how we deliver the message of considering risk as this was lower than we would have expected, however most of the survey respondents were young people for whom risk in their lives was a normal thing.



We also recognise that 25% of those surveyed are currently "doing nothing", this is a concerning statistic, especially with the recovery from the Covid pandemic likely to make employment more difficult. This is something which TD1 will be actively looking to engage with and support not just these young people but the current group of young people aged 15-17 who will also be seeking employment.

It is important to note that TD1 Youth Hub through our approach is fulfilling the majority of the National Youth Work Outcomes (Outcomes 1, 3, 5, 6 & 7) through our approach to engaging with young people. It also strengthens the findings in the report "Impact of Community Based Universal Youth Work in Scotland" about the importance of a trusted adult in young people's lives, this comes over clear not just in response to being asked the question, however also young people's specific feedback where they talk about youth workers"

The recovery period from the Covid pandemic is going to be very difficult for those who are most marginalised and isolated from supports. This report gives the organisation confidence moving forward that our approach not only has short term positive impacts, but longer term impacts as well

Funding for the third sector is a constant cycle and often the deepest impacts of the young person's involvement in a project does not become clear until much later on, it is absolutely vital therefore that we evidence trust in our method of engaging and supporting vulnerable and hard to reach young people. From starting with youth work principals of starting where the young person is at, we are able to build lasting, positive and effective relationships which influence change and support growth in each young person.

Investment in young people and youth work is absolutely vital to creating long term positive changes for young people, those we work with don't work in short term one year cycles, often the work can be a slow and a gradual shift over a number of years to support the young person to make the positive choices and changes in their lives to support them to live a fulfilled future.

We believe this report vindicates our approach to working with young people, it demonstrates the necessity of community based youth work and it underlines the impact that youth work can have on young people's lives.