

**Broadclyst Parish Council Yearly
Youth Work Report
Year 2 Report- April 2025- March 2026**

1. Executive Summary

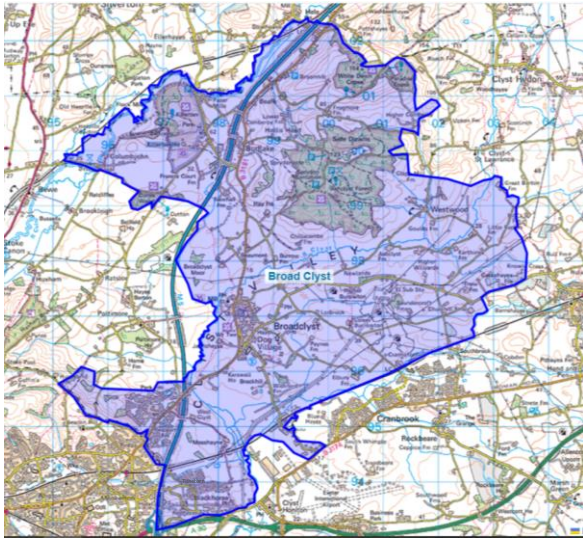
This report outlines the second year of youth work delivery across Broadclyst Parish, covering the period from April 2025 to March 2026. During this year, the youth work provision has continued to grow across Broadclyst, Westclyst, and Tithebarn, with increasing numbers of young people engaging regularly in activities, trips, mentoring, and leadership opportunities.

The year has seen significant progress in building trusted relationships with young people across the parish. Increased consistency in delivery and greater visibility within the community have enabled the youth work team to establish itself as a safe and supportive presence for many young people.

Across the year, 170 individual young people engaged with youth work provision, with 132 sessions delivered across the parish. New initiatives included the development of a young volunteer programme, expanded partnership working with schools and community organisations, and the introduction of monitoring and evaluation processes to better measure impact.

While challenges remain — particularly around volunteering, venue provision, and sustaining attendance in some groups — the overall direction of the project continues to be positive. The work delivered this year has strengthened community cohesion, increased opportunities for young people, and laid strong foundations for future growth.

2. Geography of the area



Map showing area covered by Broadclyst Parish

As part of our research into the area, we reviewed a range of surveys and statistical data from recent years, including the 2021 National Census and the 2019 Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD). From this research, we identified the following key information:

- According to the 2021 Census, the population of Broadclyst Parish is approximately 8,000 residents.
- Approximately 11.9% of the population are aged between 10 and 19 years old, equating to roughly 880 young people.
- Around 39.2% of residents experience deprivation in one or more areas, which is below the national average. With approximately 2,800 households within Broadclyst Parish, this equates to around 1,097 households. Overall, Broadclyst remains one of the least deprived areas in the country.
- One area measured within the IMD is income deprivation affecting children aged 0–15. Broadclyst Parish performs below the national average in this category. This suggests that, although overall deprivation levels are lower than average, a greater proportion of deprived households include children and young people.

3. Stats

The statistics below provide a snapshot of the work delivered across Broadclyst Parish during 2025–26 and demonstrate the number of young people reached through the provision. A significant amount of staff time has also been invested into establishing and developing new youth work projects, as reflected in the second table.



Young People Statistics 2025–26

Area	Age Group	Individuals Worked With	Young Volunteers	Sessions Run	Highest Attendance
Broadclyst	10–14	45	4	42	33
Broadclyst	14+	29	4	42	33
Westclyst	Under 10	4	0	39	26
Westclyst	10–16	72	0	39	26
Tithebarn	Under 10	4	0	9	14
Tithebarn	10–16	16	0	9	14
TOTAL		170	4	132	—

Delivered Hours and Work Allocation 2025–26

Area of Work	Description	Hours
Delivery	Running youth clubs, setting up activities, session delivery, and pack down	781
Administration	Registers, data logging, spreadsheets, parent communication, and record keeping	220
Preparation Time	Session planning, term planning, and purchasing resources and food	282
Staff Development	Training courses, meetings, and staff development	166
Social Media	Managing youth work social media and promoting activities	37
Advertising and Marketing	Creating and distributing posters and flyers	92
Project Management	Partnership meetings and staff management	126

4. Overall story from 2025-26

4.1

Our second year has continued the progress established during Year 1. We have continued to tailor the youth work provision to the needs of each individual geographical area. Each area is discussed separately within this report; however, several overarching themes have emerged across the parish.

4.2

In August, Shannon informed us of her decision to move on from the YMCA, resulting in a further recruitment process. As part of this process, we once again involved young people through audio-recorded feedback and participation. In December 2025, Graham Harry was appointed to the role. Graham brings lots of previous youth work experience, particularly within youth club settings, and began working with us in January 2026, ensuring continuity of service.

4.3

Joint trips and activities were once again offered across the parish. Highlights included a trip to the pantomime at Exeter Northcott Theatre and an evening at the YMCA building in Exeter, where young people made pizzas using the outdoor pizza oven and took part in forging activities.

4.4

Towards the end of the year, we began a volunteer recruitment campaign across the parish to help strengthen the sustainability and resilience of the youth work provision. Our long-term aim is to establish a reliable volunteer base that can help maintain continuity of service during periods of staff absence.

4.5

In July 2025, young people once again attended Parish Council meetings to share the impact youth work has had on their lives and wellbeing.

"I have been going to youth club for nearly a year now and have really enjoyed the time I've spent with the workers and other people here. The people here have made me feel welcome and able to open up. I normally struggle with making friends, but since coming to youth club it has helped my social skills as well as being fun. The environment is very family-like and the workers welcome everyone with open arms."

— Rory, aged 14

4.6

This year we also began implementing more formal evaluation and monitoring processes. These include feedback tools, spider diagrams completed by young people, and feedback gathered from parents regarding the positive impact of youth work on their children.

4.7

Throughout the year we have seen increased cohesion across all areas of delivery. The consistency of the provision has enabled us to build strong relationships with young people that extend across the parish. Young people from Broadclyst have introduced us to friends in Tithebarn, while others who previously attended Broadclyst now attend sessions in Westclyst.

As our visibility and availability have increased, more young people across the parish now recognise us as safe and trusted adults. Over the last year we have become a much more visible presence within the community, helping young people feel safe, supported, and valued.

5. Broadclyst Story & comments

5.1 Story of Broadclyst

5.1.1

Broadclyst youth provision continues to be a valuable asset to the community. In June 2025, we welcomed a new group of Year 5 pupils and transitioned our Year 8 young people into the older group. Although there was some initial resistance to this transition, attendance gradually improved and many of the young people are now regular members of the older group.

5.1.2

The older group has become increasingly independent, with young people taking greater ownership of activities and group responsibilities. When asked whether they feel they have responsibility within the group, older members are more likely to respond positively than their younger counterparts. We have also overcome many of the transition challenges identified during the previous year. Now that both groups have been established for over a year, young people better understand the purpose and benefits of moving between age groups.

5.1.3

The reintroduction of steering committees within both the younger and older groups has enabled us to create more personalised term plans. Activities are now more closely tailored to the interests of each age group. For example, the younger group particularly enjoys games and themed events such as "Human Among Us" and taste-testing activities, while the

older group prefers baking and cooking sessions. This approach has led to greater engagement across both groups.

5.1.4

This year also saw the launch of our young volunteer programme. We now have four young people from the older group volunteering regularly within the younger sessions. They assist with preparing and delivering activities, running the tuck shop, and building relationships with younger attendees.

5.1.5

Young people across the parish increasingly recognise the youth work team as trusted and safe adults. One example involved a young person known to us from Westclyst who injured herself outside the Broadclyst youth club. She felt comfortable entering the youth club to seek first aid support and assistance contacting her parent. This reflects the strength of the relationships developed through consistent youth work delivery and demonstrates the trust young people place in the team.

5.1.6

We have also experienced an increase in safeguarding disclosures, particularly within the older group. While concerning in itself, this also reflects the extent to which young people feel safe within the youth club environment and trust staff to respond appropriately. This has led to more conversations around online safety, sex and relationships, and other topics relevant to older young people.

5.2 Challenges

5.2.1 Attendance in the Younger Group

Maintaining attendance within the younger group has become increasingly challenging. Although numbers increased following the intake of new Year 6 pupils in September, attendance has fluctuated considerably during recent terms. We are continuing to explore ways to sustain engagement and encourage young people to return consistently.

5.2.2 Growth of the Older Group

While there is a strong core group of regular attendees within the older session, there has been limited growth in participation. The challenge now is to attract new young people into the group and help them feel welcomed and included.

5.3 Future Priorities

5.3.1 Young Leaders

We aim to continue developing the leadership skills of our young volunteers by introducing a structured Young Leaders Programme. The intention is for young leaders to take a more active role in planning and delivering activities, helping to organise session timetables, and developing confidence and leadership skills.

5.3.2 Advice and Guidance

As members of the older group mature, they are increasingly seeking advice regarding work experience, employment skills, relationships, and personal wellbeing. A future area of development could involve creating a more structured advice and guidance programme, potentially involving external organisations and specialist workshops. We have also begun exploring opportunities for young leaders to undertake accredited first aid training.

6. Westclyst Story & comments

6.1 Story of Westclyst

6.1.1

At the beginning of the year, we continued detached youth work sessions at the skate park. These sessions attracted a wide range of young people from different age groups. Due to the open-access nature of detached work, it was not always possible to limit participation to a specific age range, meaning younger children also regularly engaged with the sessions.

6.1.2

On 10 June 2025, we launched a regular youth club within the primary school. Following discussions with the school, we were given access to the art classroom, a Year 2 classroom, and a small playground area. We also gained access to the nearby council-owned field, which enabled us to deliver larger outdoor games such as football. Attendance grew quickly once the youth club became established within the school setting.

6.1.3

During the summer months, the field became a particularly popular feature of the provision, especially for football activities. The group attracted a wide age range of young people from a variety of backgrounds.

6.1.4

The rapid growth of the Westclyst provision demonstrates the clear demand for youth work within the area. Previous detached work also helped establish relationships with local young people, meaning that attendance was strong from the very first sessions within the school.

6.1.5

As attendance increased, we reached the agreed supervision ratio of 10 young people per adult. This occasionally required us to ask young people to wait outside until space became available. As a result, we are continuing to recruit additional volunteers to safely increase capacity.

6.1.6

Due to behavioural concerns and limited staffing capacity, we later restricted access to the second classroom and field area to ensure all young people could be adequately supervised. This decision enabled staff to maintain safe and effective oversight of the sessions.

6.2 Challenges

6.2.1 Behaviour

As the youth club is still relatively new, establishing consistent behavioural expectations remains a challenge. There have been occasions where young people have been asked to leave due to inappropriate behaviour. Staff continue to work on setting clear boundaries and encouraging positive behaviour within the group.

6.2.2 Balancing Different Needs

The group includes young people of different ages, personalities, and interests. Some prefer energetic physical activities such as football, while others prefer quieter creative activities. As attendance continues to grow, we are increasingly required to run multiple activities simultaneously to ensure all young people feel engaged and included.

6.2.3 Volunteers

Additional volunteers remain a key priority for the Westclyst provision. Ideally, we would like three volunteers available each week to increase capacity and support the development of a separate 14+ space within the second classroom.

6.3 Future Priorities

6.3.1 Developing a 14+ Space

If sufficient volunteers can be recruited, we aim to reopen the second classroom as a dedicated 14+ space. This would provide older young people with greater independence while allowing us to develop both younger and older groups simultaneously.

6.3.2 Detached Youth Work

We would like to continue some detached youth work within Westclyst, although balancing this alongside regular club delivery remains a challenge. Detached work was instrumental in helping us establish relationships with young people before launching the school-based provision.

6.3.3 Partnership with the School

We are continuing to strengthen our relationship with the school and would welcome opportunities to support wider school activities and initiatives in the future.

7. Tithebarn Story & comments

7.1 Story of Tithebarn

7.1.1

Over the past year, we delivered a range of detached youth work sessions and two pop-up youth clubs within the Science Park. Attendance at the pop-up sessions was particularly positive, although detached engagement declined towards the end of 2025.

7.1.2

We were able to use the Science Park dome free of charge for the pop-up sessions. While these events were well attended and enjoyed by young people, the venue was not financially viable as a long-term base.

7.1.3

Detached work initially enabled us to build positive relationships with young people living in the area. However, over time attendance declined and young people became less visible within the community spaces we were visiting.

7.1.4

Towards the end of the year, we adopted a more community-focused approach in Tithebarn. Becky began meeting with local residents interested in supporting youth work, as well as young people connected through social workers. The aim is to strengthen local relationships and build future volunteering opportunities from within the community itself.

7.1.5

We also improved our advertising and communication systems through local partnerships, community Facebook groups, posters, and dedicated mailing lists for Tithebarn parents. This has improved our ability to communicate directly with local families.

7.2 Challenges

7.2.1 Venue Provision

A lack of suitable infrastructure continues to be the greatest barrier to sustainable youth work delivery within Tithebarn. Several potential venues were explored during the year, but all were ultimately unsuitable due to cost, availability, or time restrictions.

One example was the offer of the shooting range facility, which required us to vacate the building by 6pm. This was considered impractical, as many young people travel home from schools outside Tithebarn and would not realistically be able to attend before this time.

7.2.2 Community Engagement

There are local residents interested in supporting youth work through volunteering or referrals; however, without a stable venue it is difficult to provide consistent opportunities for involvement.

7.3 Future Priorities

7.3.1 Community Partnerships

We have contacted Strawberry Fields Café to explore the possibility of hosting a monthly board games evening for young people. The proposal would involve providing drinks through the café while offering a safe social space for young people to meet.

7.3.2 Detached Youth Work

We are planning to reintroduce detached youth work in Tithebarn as the weather improves and new community spaces, including the football pitch, become available.

8. The year ahead

8.1. 8.1 Challenges

8.2. 8.1.1 Volunteering

8.3. Volunteer recruitment continues to be a significant challenge. While several individuals initially expressed interest, many later decided that the role was not suitable for them. We also experienced difficulties completing DBS processes for some potential volunteers due to documentation issues.

8.4. Transport and accessibility have also affected volunteer retention. Ideally, we require at least one regular volunteer for Broadclyst and a minimum of three for Westclyst. Recruitment and retention of reliable volunteers therefore remains a key priority moving forward.

8.5. 8.2 Future Plans

8.6. 8.2.1 Schools Work

8.7. With Graham joining the team, we have increased our engagement with local schools. Conversations have begun with both primary schools and the secondary school regarding opportunities to support pupils through additional programmes and activities. This year also included a six-week wellbeing course delivered within schools by Children's Wellbeing Practitioners.

8.8. 8.2.2 Summer Programme

8.9. Additional funding has been secured from the Parish Council to support a summer programme of activities. In partnership with the Community Projects Team, we are organising a range of free activities including:

- A three-day sports camp at the secondary school
- A heritage crafts day at YMCA Exeter, St David's Hill
- A trip to Quaywest Splashdown

8.10. These activities will take place during the summer holidays and will be free for participating young people.

8.11. 8.2.3 Evaluation and Monitoring

8.12. We are continuing to develop systems to measure the impact of youth work on young people's lives. This includes tracking individual development journeys and gathering structured feedback from young people and parents to help improve the quality of delivery.

8.13. 8.2.4 Safe and Consistent Presence

8.14. Young people increasingly recognise the youth work team as a trusted and consistent presence across the parish. Moving forward, we hope to increase this visibility further through greater consistency within youth clubs, expanded detached work in Tithebarn, and increased involvement within schools.

8.15. **8.2.5 Young Leaders and Volunteers**

8.16. Now that the young volunteer programme has become established, we are exploring ways to provide more structured development opportunities through a Young Leaders Course. This programme would offer leadership opportunities, practical skills development, and increased responsibility within sessions.

9. Expanded Work

As we look ahead to 2027, we recognise there are additional areas of work that would significantly benefit young people within the parish but are currently beyond our staffing capacity.

9.1 One-to-One Mentoring

We have identified a growing need for targeted one-to-one mentoring support for some young people. We are exploring opportunities to pilot this work; however, expanding mentoring provision would require additional staffing capacity.

This support would involve regular sessions with individual young people to help them identify personal goals, build resilience, and develop confidence and life skills.

9.2 Parenting Courses

Graham has brought significant experience and knowledge to the team, including a strong interest in delivering parenting courses. This is an area we would like to develop further in the future, providing targeted support for parents of young people within Broadclyst Parish.

9.3 Detached Youth Work

Although the youth clubs are now established, we recognise there are still young people across the parish who remain disengaged from youth work provision. Expanding detached youth work would allow staff to engage with young people who may struggle to access traditional youth clubs or who have disengaged from services for other reasons.

A dedicated detached youth work team would help us reach young people on the fringes of the community and create new opportunities for engagement and support.