

**THE
BRONTE**

BRONTE ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT

JANUARY 2025-JANUARY 2026



The Bronte Youth and
Community Centre

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Between January 2025 and January 2026, The Bronte Youth and Community Centre continued to deliver safe, inclusive, and inspiring opportunities for young people and the wider community. Through a combination of core youth provision, targeted projects, Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programmes, and community events, the Centre supported young people to build confidence, develop new skills, and strengthen positive relationships with peers and trusted adults.

This reporting year presented significant challenges, as renovation work to our original building meant we were unable to operate from our usual space. Despite being based offsite for the entire year, youth provision remained a priority, and delivery continued without interruption. Attendance figures throughout this period clearly demonstrate both the quality of the youth work delivered and the strong demand for our services, even under constrained circumstances.

Operating offsite resulted in a reduction of weekly provision, from four evenings per week to two (Tuesday and Thursday evenings), due to limited access to hired spaces. This reduction created challenges for staff and young people alike, particularly at a time when the need for accessible, consistent youth provision remains high. Nevertheless, young people continued to engage positively, showing resilience, commitment, and a strong sense of belonging to The Bronte.

With the reopening of our Bronte building approaching, there is a shared sense of excitement among staff, volunteers, and young people. Thanks to continued funding support, we are preparing to expand our provision back to four evenings per week (Monday to Thursday), alongside an introduction of our weekly Friday night Safe-Night Café drop-in sessions. This marks an important step forward in rebuilding consistency, reach, and impact.

The funding received during this period enabled us to respond flexibly to emerging needs, reach a growing number of young people, and expand opportunities through trips, residentials, and celebratory events. Demand for both Junior and Senior sessions remained consistently high, with strong engagement levels and an increase in new members across both age groups. This report demonstrates how investment in The Bronte Youth and Community Centre has translated into measurable outcomes for young people, meaningful community impact, and strong foundations for future growth and sustainability.

THE BRONTE WHAT HAVE WE BEEN UPTO THIS YEAR?

Junior Sessions

Our Junior Sessions have seen remarkable growth and engagement over the past year, representing the largest proportion of overall participation across all our programmes. In some months, these sessions recorded up to 200 overall contacts, highlighting the strong demand and value of this provision for younger members of our community.

The sessions run every Tuesday and Thursday evening from 5:00 to 7:00 pm, providing an affordable and accessible after-school opportunity for children, with an entry fee of just 50p. This low-cost model ensures that financial barriers do not prevent families from accessing enriching activities.

Open to all children aged 5 to 10, our Junior Sessions operate on an open-access basis, welcoming new participants at any time. The activities offered are diverse, engaging, and designed to support both personal development and social skills. Sessions include arts and crafts, sports, and creative play, providing opportunities for children to explore their interests, develop new skills, and build positive relationships in a safe and supportive environment.

The consistent attendance and high levels of engagement demonstrate the importance of these sessions in the lives of young children in our community. They not only provide a fun and safe space after school but also contribute to early social development, confidence building, and a sense of belonging that underpins long-term positive outcomes for participants.



Senior Sessions

Our Senior Sessions were introduced at the start of 2025 to provide young people aged 11 and above with a dedicated space to thrive and develop. These sessions were designed to ensure that older participants have a tailored environment where their needs, interests, and voices are fully supported.

During this year, Senior Sessions have run alongside the Junior Sessions, sharing the first hour with younger participants before moving into a dedicated final hour. While this arrangement was a necessary adaptation due to limited offsite space, it did not hinder engagement. Attendance and participation among this age group have remained consistently high, demonstrating both the demand for and the value of this provision. When we return to our renovated Bronte building, Senior Sessions will operate at separate times entirely, allowing for a fully tailored experience for older young people.

The activities offered are diverse and purposefully designed to support personal growth, wellbeing, and social development. Seniors participate in arts and crafts, sports, and both mental and physical wellbeing activities, all with a focus on building self-esteem, confidence, teamwork, and resilience. Importantly, young people are encouraged to voice their concerns, ideas, and needs directly to staff, enabling us to tailor projects, activities, and programmes in response. This collaborative approach ensures that sessions are relevant, empowering, and responsive to the realities of young people's lives.

Through these sessions, seniors have not only enjoyed engaging and fun activities but have also benefited from structured opportunities for personal development, learning to navigate challenges, strengthen social bonds, and develop skills that contribute to their long-term wellbeing and success.



“Theres never any pressure on you to go, you get a choice and i always choose to go to The Bronte”.

THE BRONTE WHAT HAVE WE BEEN UPTO THIS YEAR?

HAF Programmes

Our Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programmes enable us to deliver high-quality provision during school holidays and half-term periods, offering young people a safe, structured, and engaging environment when regular routines are disrupted. Each programme provides nutritious hot lunches, a wide range of activities, and opportunities for trips and new experiences, supporting both young people and their families during challenging holiday periods.

The HAF programmes continue to be extremely popular, and in 2025 we recorded our highest levels of engagement to date. Our Summer HAF programme was particularly successful, with July marking our busiest month, logging 440 attendances and welcoming over 20 new young people, alongside many familiar faces returning from previous programmes. This blend of returning participants and new members highlights both the consistency of our impact and the programme's ability to reach new families within the community.

HAF provision plays a vital role in helping young people stay connected, build confidence, and reduce isolation during school holidays. Although attendance is entirely voluntary, many young people actively choose to take part, demonstrating the value they place on the Centre as a safe and welcoming space. The programme allows participants to reconnect with familiar peers while also forming new friendships, supporting positive social development at a time when structure can often be limited.

The programme also provides essential support to parents and carers, particularly those who may struggle with the cost of childcare during school holidays. Our HAF provision is free for children and young people eligible for benefit-related Free School Meals and offered at a very low cost for others. With breakfast and lunch included, alongside a full day of enriching activities, the programme offers excellent value and peace of mind for families.

Activities delivered throughout the programme were varied, creative, and engaging, ensuring there was something for everyone. Onsite activities included drama and dance workshops, karaoke, arts and crafts such as tote bag design, plant pot painting and jewellery making, gaming, sports, roller skating and scootering, computer game design workshops, and visits from a mobile zoo, alongside many other fun and enriching experiences.

In addition to onsite provision, young people benefited from a range of offsite trips, including visits to the watersports centre, an open-top bus tour of Liverpool, Zorb football, Gulliver's World, and Jungle Parc. These experiences allowed young people to explore new environments, build independence, and develop confidence while creating positive and lasting memories.

One parent shared their experience:



"It has been a massive help whilst I have been at work. My daughter has mentioned how many friends she has made and how fun the activities are. It's a really great place to be for the kids."



THE BRONTE PROJECTS

PROJECTS

DETAILS

OUTCOME

Growing Sudley

This project gave young people the opportunity to experience nature and the outdoors, taking part in gardening and forest school activities. Thanks to [insert funder name] funding, young people were able to explore the natural environment in a safe, supportive setting.

Young people learned new skills and knowledge around nature and gardening, while also being encouraged to try new activities and take safe, managed risks, such as lighting a fire. Although this was a short, three-session project, it successfully sparked ongoing interest and has directly inspired the development of a gardening project at The Bronte.

YPAS Mental Wellbeing

An 8-week project focused on mental wellbeing, self-care, and healthy coping mechanisms, providing young people with a safe and supportive space to explore their emotional wellbeing.

Young people were supported to express their thoughts and feelings around low mood, self-esteem, confidence, and anxiety. The project equipped them with practical coping techniques, helped to build resilience, and contributed to reducing stigma around mental wellbeing by encouraging open and honest conversations.

Podcast Project

Young people used the facilities at FACT to learn about podcasting, including understanding different roles, recording techniques, editing, and producing their own podcast episodes. Thanks to Skelton Grant funding, we are now able to purchase our own podcast equipment, allowing this project to continue and develop throughout 2026.

Young people developed strong communication, listening, and interview skills, alongside increased confidence and a willingness to step outside their comfort zones. Through the podcasts, they explored and discussed important topics such as why youth clubs matter, social media, and its impact on mental wellbeing. Due to the positive response and high levels of engagement, this has become an ongoing project, with young people now confident to interview their peers and members of the wider community.



"I like coming to the bronte because it gets me out of the house and off my phone." - Shane aged 12

"What i like about the bronte is that you get so many opportunities to do different stuff that is outside your comfort zone". - Ciara aged 12

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YOUNG PERSON CASE STUDY

Background:

When this young person first joined The Bronte Youth and Community Centre, they were very quiet and withdrawn, and initially felt most comfortable staying close to staff members.

This provided them with a sense of safety and reassurance while they familiarised themselves with the environment. At this stage, they found it challenging to engage with other young people and often chose to observe activities rather than participate.

Support:

With time, consistency, and the development of trusted relationships, staff began to notice gradual but meaningful changes. Through gentle encouragement and a welcoming, inclusive atmosphere, this young person started to push themselves beyond their comfort zone. They began taking part in activities, interacting with peers, and forming positive friendships within the group.

Impact:

Over just a few months, their confidence and independence have grown significantly. They now actively engage in sessions, communicate more openly, and demonstrate a strong sense of belonging. This is further reflected in their behaviour, as they regularly help tidy up after sessions without being asked, showing responsibility, pride in the Centre, and respect for the shared space.

Wider impact:

The impact of this change extends beyond the Centre. Their parent has shared how much more outgoing, confident, and self-assured their child has become since attending The Bronte, highlighting the wider and lasting effect of the Centre's youth provision on their wellbeing and personal development.



OVERALL HIGHLIGHTS



FUNDRAISING

Throughout the year, young people and staff have actively taken part in a wide range of fundraising activities to support The Bronte Youth and Community Centre. These initiatives required dedication, teamwork, and a willingness to give up personal time, with many participants volunteering their weekends to help raise vital funds. Fundraising activities included bag packing events, our music event, the Cathedral Abseil, and the Santa Dash, collectively raising a significant total of £13,751.56 to support the Centre's ongoing work. Encouragingly, young people are already generating ideas for future fundraising initiatives and exploring ways to give back to the wider community. This ongoing enthusiasm clearly demonstrates the strong sense of commitment, belonging, and purpose they feel towards The Bronte Youth and Community Centre, highlighting the depth of connection young people have with the organisation and its mission.



RESIDENTIALS

During this reporting year, we delivered multiple residential trips to our much-loved Playaway centre in Yorkshire, an experience that continues to be one of the most valued elements of our provision. These residential trips offer young people the opportunity to step away from the pressures of everyday urban life and immerse themselves in a rural, natural environment, providing space to relax, reset, and connect in meaningful ways.

Away from social media and daily distractions, young people are able to fully engage with their peers, build friendships, and create lasting memories. When reflecting on their time at The Bronte Youth and Community Centre, residential trips are consistently highlighted by young people as their most memorable and impactful experiences. Residential trips play a crucial role in supporting young people's personal development and wellbeing. Throughout the trips, young people are encouraged to develop independence, confidence, and teamwork skills as well as contributing positively to both physical and mental wellbeing.

The combination of challenge, responsibility, and enjoyment makes these trips a powerful tool for growth, learning, and long-lasting positive impact.



THE BRONTE WITH THANKS

To our individual donors and subscribers, thank you. Your continued support, encouragement, and faith in our work mean more than words can express. Your commitment allows us to keep our doors open, create safe spaces, and provide life-changing opportunities for young people.

Because of you, our provision continues to grow and flourish.

We also acknowledge with deep appreciation the grants received from the following charitable trusts and grant-making organisations who have invested in The Bronte Youth and Community Centre over the past financial year. We are extremely grateful for the trust you have placed in us and for your investment in our young people and community. Your support allows us to continue delivering safe, inclusive, and impactful youth provision, as well as develop new and engaging projects that respond to emerging needs.

Every contribution, whether large or small, plays a part in shaping brighter futures. On behalf of our staff, volunteers, families, and especially our young people, thank you for standing with us and making this work possible.



BHP

**BETTER
YOUTH
SPACES**



Foundation

THE CLUB'S OFFICIAL CHARITY

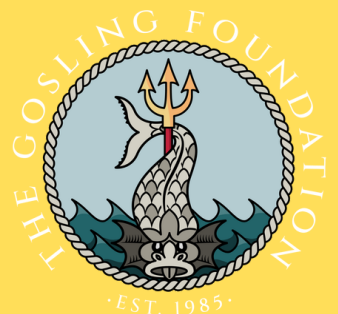


Community Football Fund



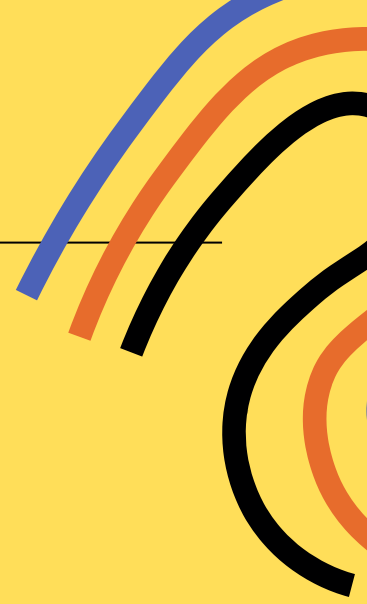
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WE'D LIKE TO THANK ALL OUR FUNDERS AND ORGANISATIONS FOR THEIR GENEROUS SUPPORT.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Bronte Youth and Community Centre cannot operate independently. We rely on supporters, funders, and partnership agencies to achieve incredible outcomes that you can see in this report. So too everyone who has had faith in our work, belief in supporting young people and has helped in realising the potential of young people - thank you!

