

## Cosplay 2025 Case Study



Jamie, a young person who has been part of Imagine This since 2018 (and who latterly sat on our Youth Council) has pioneered the beginnings of a dedicated Youth Cosplay development this year. Not only has Jamie led two highly successful Cosplay events, they have also managed to secure two successful funding bids to further develop this unique and impactful opportunity for young people in Torbay.

Here's Jamie explaining what Cosplay is (and what it means to young people) in their own words:

'Going to events in cosplay was, quite honestly, the highlight of my younger teenage years. Working for months on a costume of a character which means so much to you, then being able to showcase that hard work with people who also have such love for the art of cosplay... it was a reminder, for me, that people tend to take themselves far too seriously, and getting to goof around with people is what makes life beautiful.

Moving down to Torbay in my 20s, the closest similar thing I could find was all the way up in Exeter. When I got involved with local youth work and Imagine This, I began discussing the positive potential for a Torbay Comic Con!

After some data gathering, we came to the conclusion that we needed to take baby steps before jumping headfirst into a full out convention with stalls and vendors and such, so instead, I said: 'Well, the heart of conventions are the attendees, so why not just have a safe space for cosplayers to mingle?' And so, the idea for the Cosplay Gala was born! I honestly couldn't be happier and prouder of our first ever Cosplay events.

I want to say that it was the admin team at Imagine This who really need the credit - risk assessments and public communications are the aspects behind the scenes that don't get enough recognition. I had the more creative tasks, which were front and centre on the day, to be appreciated, so I really want it to be known this wouldn't have been possible without the whole team behind me. I'm so thankful for every one of them."

With the ongoing support of Imagine This and the success of Jamie's bids to the Community Fund and Neighbourly, we can't wait to see where Youth Cosplay goes next in its development.