

More Space to Hang Out



Date	Tuesday 26 November 2024	Time	11 - 11.30
Attendees	Emma, Neil & Jodie (Windmill Centre & Acorn Centre), Niel Eades (Acorn Centre - Chairman of Trustees), Paul Scott (Fuel Youth CIC), Katie Chivers (Trustee for Torbay Communities & YMCA South Devon), Lisa Money & Jo Morrell (Imagine This Partnership Managers), Rebekah Daws (Partnership Administrator)		

Agenda

- Partner Updates & Developments
- One Space Idea
- Acorn Centre
- Fuel Youth

Summary

The meeting began with introductions from the group, including representatives from the Acorn Centre, Windmill, Fuel Youth, and the One Space group. The purpose of the "More Spaces to Hang Out" impact group was discussed, with a focus on bringing together youth workers and young people to inform the strategy for Imagine This. **Emma** noted that the recent offer from LocalMotion to support people to attend these impact group meetings is massive for them.

Emma provided an update on the youth sessions at Windmill, noting increased attendance and engagement. **Neil** and **Jodie** then shared details on the Acorn Centre's Monday youth sessions, detached youth work on Wednesdays, and the involvement of additional partners like Sound Communities.

Paul, previously part of Nova Street, introduced the new Fuel Youth CIC. He shared their priorities around detached youth work across areas where they have existing relationships, supporting schools to better engage YP that aren't engaging, and supporting 16-25 year olds, especially those with care experience. **Paul** also mentioned he was very keen to help develop the Youth Work skillset in Torbay. He noted that Fuel Youth is still new, having just written their policies and looking for funding but they are really happy to be part of a group like this. **Emma** suggested connecting with Maria (YMCA) around provision in the Parkfield area, if they hadn't done so already.

Jo reflected on the NYA's "sufficiency paper," which outlines the minimum standard for youth work. It recommends having two full-time youth workers per secondary school catchment area. **Jo** highlights the stark contrast between this ideal and the current reality in their area. **Paul** shared that his master's dissertation focuses on attitudes toward youth qualifications and professional youth work. He questions

the practicality of recommendations like those from the NYA and invited input from the others in the group. **Lisa** offered to support Paul by participating in interviews and suggested involving the broader partnership to add valuable perspectives to his research.

One Space

Katie provided an overview of the *One Space* initiative, a youth-led effort to create a community café that serves as a one-stop hub for young people in their area. The café would provide a safe, welcoming space offering peer-led support, professional services (e.g., careers advice, benefits guidance), and activities. **Jo** highlighted that this project addresses gaps in existing services, particularly for young people transitioning into adulthood, where navigating various systems can be overwhelming. Each member of the group contributes their unique expertise to the initiative, emphasising youth co-design. **Lisa** emphasised the importance of the peer support element. Lisa noted that while professional services like CAMHS are essential, sometimes all a young person needs is a safe space and a supportive peer to talk to, which can be incredibly impactful. **Jo** added that the initiative aligns with similar youth work models and mentions collaborations with experienced practitioners like Paul and Holly, who can bring valuable insights to the group.

Jo outlined the current progress of the *One Space* initiative. While the group of young people driving the project has designed it collaboratively and secured backing from Local Motion, the next step is moving from planning to implementation. A key focus has been on establishing the group's values, which will guide further development. To this end, a value-setting session led by Nev Connor from Ubuntu is scheduled. The project will involve identifying necessary professionals, providing training for young people, and preparing for the launch of a trial location. This effort aims to transform the system into one that is more accessible and supportive for young people, marking it as both a social action project and a broader movement. The group is in the final stages of a collaborative design process, engaging with various 16–25-year-olds, such as care-experienced individuals, asylum seekers, and young parents, to gather feedback on what they would want from *One Space*. This ensures the initiative is shaped by the needs of its target audience.

Paul asked about external support, outside of this impact group and LocalMotion. **Jo** commented, while there is verbal backing from the 'friends of *One Space*' group and interest following the recent conference presentation, the group need to solidify these commitments in writing. **Lisa** mentioned the support the group's presentation received at the conference but emphasised the need to maintain the youth-led nature of the project. While adult stakeholders are encouraged to support, care needs to be taken to avoid adults overshadowing or taking control, ensuring young people lead decision-making. **Emma** highlighted existing resources at the Windmill & Acorn, including benefits advice, counselling, and transition services, which could complement *One Space*. This opened the question of whether Torquay might be a better initial pilot site than Paignton, given its infrastructure. The team plans to pilot *One Space* in one location and use the insights gained to refine and expand the model. The ultimate goal is to create a sustainable and scalable system of accessible support hubs for young people.

AOB

Paul noted that Fuel Youth's vision and values can be found on their [Facebook](#), if anyone is interested in taking a look and even chatting about it.

Lisa wraps up the meeting by emphasising the importance of collaboration and communication among group members. She noted that this is the final meeting before Christmas, with monthly meetings resuming in January. While the meetings provide a chance to share updates and learn from one another, she highlights that the real progress happens through ongoing efforts outside of these sessions by partners. **Lisa** encouraged partners to maintain open communication and leverage connections within the group. She and Jo are available to help link people or provide support as needed. Additionally, **Lisa** mentioned the upcoming launch of the *Imagine This* website, a long-anticipated development, with updates on it expected soon. **Jo** wanted to remind the group of her role in identifying collaborative funding opportunities based on the needs expressed by young people. She mentioned the CAF bid for the Environment Impact Group and encouraged the group to share ideas for other potential funding bids that could benefit the wider partnership.

The meeting concluded with a recap of the key updates and a discussion around the Parkfield youth centre situation. The group agreed to revisit an idea around this impact group taking on those current conversations in the new year.

Action	Owner
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