

# More Spaces to Hang Out



<b>Date</b>	Wednesday 28 October 2025	<b>Time</b>	11-12.30
<b>Location</b>	The Windmill Centre, Torquay		
<b>Attendees</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maria Goodwin (YMCA South Devon)</li> <li>• Holli &amp; Emma (Windmill Centre)</li> <li>• Paul Scott (Fuel Youth)</li> <li>• Katie Chivers</li> <li>• Lisa Money, Jo Morrell &amp; Rebekah Daws</li> </ul>		

<b>Agenda</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deep thinking around developing a Torbay wide youth offer and supporting community spaces</li> </ul>
<b>Summary</b>

## Welcome

**Lisa** opened the meeting with thanks to **Emma** and the Windmill Centre for hosting. The group met to explore how community spaces across Torbay can better support youth and play offers, building on ideas around shared resources, sustainable youth work, and a potential floating youth team model.

## Purpose and Framing the Conversation

- **Lisa & Jo** emphasised the goal of turning collective expertise into clear purpose and action - something definable and fundable.
- **Paul** noted the need to identify key people, factors, and places to ground the project.
- The group agreed that this initiative should both dream big and remain anchored in local realities.

## Understanding Young People's Needs

The discussion began with what is already known about young people's preferences and challenges in Torbay:

- Young people (YP) want to feel valued, heard, and safe - safety being the foundation for any engagement.

- Local access is vital: Windmill YP dislike travelling into town due to cost, poor transport, and safety concerns.
- Free food remains a key engagement tool (**Katie**).
- Some YP want involvement in designing spaces; others see it as "work" (**Emma**).
- Needs and preferences differ across areas (e.g., Paignton YP prefer town despite safety concerns).

## Defining 'Community Spaces'

The group co-created a working definition of community spaces as:

"Places where young people are welcomed, have access to free things to do, feel safe and valued, and can develop. Spaces that are inclusive, intergenerational, and rooted in community."

Examples discussed:

- Windmill Centre's wellbeing sessions (model for intergenerational activity).
- Great Parks as a key location for inclusion in future plans.

## Strengthening Existing Provision

- The group agreed on the need to build capacity within existing provision before creating new spaces.
- **Emma** highlighted the importance of sustaining trusted relationships and expanding capacity.
- **Jo** and **Paul** noted funders' tendency to favour new initiatives - the group aims to hold both: strengthen what exists and fill service gaps (e.g., Watcombe).
- "Resources" include **staffing, spaces, funding, materials, procedures, and shared policies**.

## Shared Practice and Collaboration

Discussion on shared practice and skill-building:

- Pooling resources such as training, volunteers, evaluation tools, and materials.
- Creating opportunities for joint training, reflection, and volunteer development.
- Rebuilding local youth work capacity through shared teams and community-based training.
- Inclusion of partners such as Nexus Games and other local initiatives.

## Floating and Core Youth Work Teams

A key part of the discussion focused on **how to deliver consistent, relational youth work**:

- Consensus that trusted relationships are at the heart of good youth work.
- Proposal for a core team based in each community, supported by a floating team to boost capacity, deliver detached/mobile youth work, and connect spaces.
- Importance of familiarity and consistency: floating team members should attend community events to build recognition and trust.
- **Jo** proposed engaging community members through volunteer youth work training.
- **Holli** supported the model as a way to keep young people safe and expand reach sustainably.

## Sustainability and Funding

- **Maria** shared that a bid is in progress for a youth work detached café van, supporting mobile delivery.
- The group agreed that sustainability and long-term commitment are essential, preferring consistent work over short-term projects.
- **Emma** raised the need to look at sustainability in staffing and infrastructure.
- **Jo** noted the relevance of the upcoming **National Lottery Youth Work Fund** and how this initiative could align with it.

### Towards a Torbay-Wide Youth Offer

- The group explored the potential for a **Torbay-wide, long-term, adaptable youth work model**.
- The vision includes:
  - Strengthening what already works.
  - Building a shared, trained workforce.
  - Embedding youth voice and co-design where appropriate.
  - Connecting spaces through a floating team approach.
- **Paul** expressed **Fuel Youth's** readiness to act as an employing body for youth workers and invest significant capacity in this vision.

### Next Meetings

- **Follow-up session:** Tuesday 26 November – update and briefing for those who couldn't attend.
- **Main meeting:** Monday 2 December, 9:30am-1pm at The Windmill Centre – to refine action plan and next steps.

**Meeting closed** with thanks to all participants for their thoughtful contributions and commitment to shaping a stronger, more connected youth offer for Torbay.

Actions	Owner	Timeline
Map existing community spaces and capacity gaps (e.g., Watcombe, Great Parks)	Paul & Emma	Before next meeting
Explore training framework for volunteer youth workers	Jo & Holli	Ongoing