



The CUBE – Young People Thriving

A small Sunday evening group of local young Christians meet fortnightly at The CUBE and are supported by adults from our local churches. They have been meeting since September so it is still early days but the aim of the group is to be a safe space where local young Christians can explore their faith with others and find ways to express it through their communities.

Adrian White leads the group and this September he will be starting formal training in Christian youth work with the *Institute of Children, Youth and Mission*. This has provided The CUBE with a new opportunity to explore how we can build on our Christian role in local schools.

Gary Brown and Nick Cook are both leaving The CUBE and we are in the process of recruiting. We have been given a window in which we can reflect on where we have been and rethink how we need to adapt for a new season. We have had an inspiring few months with trustees, staff and support team working together and, out of much humour and coffee, an organisational structure has emerged that I believe will support our vision of seeing young people thriving in their communities.

Our drop-in provision continues to challenge and encourage. While it is a popular and much needed space for young people the diversity and numbers often leave us scratching heads and dealing with tough issues. We are continuing to work out how we can limit the impact these issues have on the centre, especially for younger members. One change we are considering would see different types of provision for different ages.

It is sad to say but the counselling service we provide is greatly over-subscribed and we know only touches the surface of need in Market Harborough. Living in a prosperous town does not protect young people from mental health issues and we are looking for additional funding streams that will enable us to extend and protect this service.

Finances are a challenge and we very much need to develop our sustainability as we near the conclusion of The Bowdens Charity funding. We will end the year in deficit if we do not maximise the income from our premises, build up our *Friends of the Cube* members and find new funding streams for our youth projects.

Jean Molcher and I are delighted that our team of trustees has been increased with Stephen Haward and Pam MacKenzie. Their experience and understanding has already proved to be of great benefit to us. However, with Nick moving on we will be short of a Treasurer, a valuable asset that is proving hard to find. Keep your ears to the group and if you just happen to find someone with a heart for the work of The CUBE, please point them in the direction of Nick Cook. He will be delighted.

Over the last seven years Gary Brown's vision for the young people in Harborough has seen The CUBE become a valuable and respected provision with its own purpose built space. The CUBE building is the envy of many a youth worker who has crossed the threshold and we should be thankful for Gary's gift to think *BIG* and persevere. We pray every blessing on him and his family as he follows God's call to a new adventure.

Working with young people can be amazingly rewarding but it is also amazingly hard work. Sometimes it takes everything we have but to see one young person get a job, feel accepted, take one small step or achieve something new is a thrill for all involved. The task is great and the workers are desperately few so please keep us in your prayers and consider whether you may have a role to play at The CUBE.

Dawn O'Connell

Chair of Trustees

Harborough Youth and Community Trust