

£449k National Lottery boost secures future of High Wycombe youth hub

Five-year funding for Action4Youth's The Junction youth centre

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Action4Youth has been awarded £449,732 from The National Lottery Community Fund to support the delivery and development of The Junction, its drop-in youth centre based in High Wycombe, for the next five years.

Located in the library at the Eden Centre and open every day from 4–9pm, The Junction offers a free, safe space for 11–18-year-olds from across the local area. Since opening in 2022, attendance has steadily grown, with around 1600 visits every month as young people come to socialise, build skills and access support.

The Junction provides a wide range of activities designed to improve wellbeing, fitness, life skills and aspirations. Young people can take part in cooking and fitness classes, sessions to build financial literacy and practical life skills, as well as make use of a dedicated recreational space that encourages peer-to-peer connection and integration across High Wycombe's diverse communities.

Experienced youth workers are on hand every day to provide crisis support, mentoring and guidance that many young people cannot access elsewhere. The centre's consistent presence and positive offer have also played a part in reducing anti-social activity in the local area, by giving young people a welcoming space where they are seen, heard and supported.

Increasingly, The Junction is being shaped and led by young people themselves. They help design and deliver sessions, take responsibility for parts of the centre and play a central role in planning activities that reflect their interests and needs, making The Junction a genuinely youth-led service.

Paul Dyne, Centre Manager at The Junction, said:

"This donation will allow us to continue the amazing work we have been undertaking with the young people of High Wycombe (and surrounding areas) for the past 4 years. Allowing us to fulfil our dream of becoming a centre where the young people not only attend but manage and run themselves (with the assistance of the staff), making this a truly young people led youth service."

For Action4Youth, the five-year commitment from The National Lottery Community Fund represents a major investment in the charity's work with disadvantaged and vulnerable young people. It will enable long-term planning, further development of programmes at The Junction and continued support for local young people at a crucial stage in their lives.

For more information about The Junction, visit: www.action4youth.org/the-junction/

For media enquiries, please contact:

Action4Youth Press Office

Tel: 0300 003 2334

Email: office@action4youth.org
