



SWAY Annual Report September 2017 – August 2018

Introduction

It has been a very full and eventful year for SWAY. In what follows we hope to sketch out a picture of our charity over this last year that gives you an insight into where we have been and where we hope to go.

The year saw us come to the end of our Council funding in March, which has focused our minds and energies on funding and the future. It has given us a new dynamic and energy in the operation.

I would say that we are at an exciting juncture in our development, with some terrific opportunities opening out for us but also some challenges that we must face with faith in the God who we believe can guide and inspire us every step of the way.

Our team is led by Andy Dorning, ably supported by Andy Evans, Katelyn Collins (now moved on to further work with YFC nationwide) and Jennie Burke as our Family Worker. Of course, behind them are a team of volunteers that allow SWAY to reach so many young people and their families in the South Wight area. I believe it is an exciting team; one that has grown and developed over the year.

It is a team that is fully supported by an active and energetic team of Trustees. SWAY is a vision that was founded out of concern for youth work in the two churches, Niton Methodist and St Mary's Anglican of Brighstone in 2014. That partnership continues to carry forward the youth work for the area and that vision is still burning, still relevant and still needed. Allow

us to tell you how we have sought to meet this need and fulfil this ministry over the last year.

A General Overview of SWAY aims and objectives

SWAY is a charity motivated and grounded in a clear understanding of the Christian faith as understood by all the major denominations. Our particular field of ministry is with young people. We aim to act as a resource for young people up to the age of 25 living on the Isle of Wight by providing advice and assistance and organising programmes of physical, educational and other activities.

Our aim is to see young people developing their skills and talents, and helping them to become more independent and responsible. We aim to provide opportunities for young people who are out of employment or not in education to engage in work experience through our social enterprise. Our tag line – providing hope and focus for the youth of South Wight – aptly sums up our aim in SWAY.

SWAY was founded by the two Churches (including the other Churches of the Brighstone Benefice – Brook, Mottistone and Shorwell) and remains supported by those two Churches. It is their action arm of mission among young people, but increasingly among families which stand in need of support and help.

SWAY in action 2017 – 2018

What follows now is the story of this year in terms of groups, activities and events: the name of the group, when it meets and usual numbers are given for a better understanding of the vital work that has been undertaken.

Regular Groups and Events

<u>Group</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Numbers</u>
Rock Solid group (in partnership with YFC)	Monday	10 – 12 year olds	Niton	15 - 20
Chale youth drop-in	Wednesday	10+ year olds	Chale	4 - 12
Roots	Thursday	12+ year olds	Niton	10 - 12
Pulse	Friday	9 – 12 year olds	Brighstone	6 - 12
Attitude	Friday	12+ year olds	Shorwell	6 - 20
Youth Alpha	Sundays from January to Easter	12+ year olds	Various Homes	7 from the whole area
<u>Event</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Numbers</u>
Bonfire Night	November	6 – 18 year olds	Brighstone	60 including some adults
Night Hike	November	9 – 18 year olds	Brighstone	40 plus some adults
Christmas Tree Festival	December	12 – 16 year olds	Brighstone	16 helping to run Santa's Grotto plus Stars of Wonder
Rend Collective concert	February	10 – 16 year olds	Hedge End	13 attended a Rend Concert/Worship evening

Pearl Evening	May	13 – 16 year olds	Pearl Centre, Brighstone	7 helped with the running of the evening
Corfe Camp	June	9 – 16 year olds	Corfe Camp	60 young people camping, 100 attending the BBQ 30 young people attending Newtown Church
Football Tournament	July	5 – 16 year olds	Dunsbury Farm	25 young people attending and 6 adult teams taking part
Summer Activities – kayaking, fishing, ice skating and climbing	July/August	9 – 16 year olds	Various venues	60 places over 4 separate activities over 2 weeks with transport provided
Wales Trip	August	11 – 17 year olds	North Wales	17 young people plus 6 adults
Work Experience	Throughout the year	16 – 25 year olds	Chale	5 young people have been involved at Wight Heat
Family Support	Throughout the year	All ages	South Wight	Jennie has offered effective support to 12 families through our contact with young people

Passport 4 Independence

As part of the personal development programme, the P4I (Passport for independence) has continued. This is a flexible learning experience for young people. The experience for young people from the age of 13 years consists of a series of Visas relating to knowledge and skills that help young people live successful lives. There are 15 topics covered by the Visas, including healthy living, managing conflict, and the world of work. (Look at www.p4i.org.uk for more information). The programme has proved very helpful to youngsters who are not coping with regular school.

Andy Dorning's interview

How busy has this last year been for you in SWAY? Compared to the first 3 years?

This year has been by far our most productive year. The charity is now getting known across the area and has established good relationships with local organisation's, Parish Councils and Churches. We are starting to see a cycle of young people volunteering within the Charity and local community.

Each year the project is growing and this has been shown in increased attendance at youth groups and various events – Corfe Camp was the biggest yet with nearly 60 camping on the Saturday.

In my personal life, we have welcomed a new addition to our family; Zachariah Trentz Dorning born 23rd May 2018. This has been a very special time for us as a family and we have been blessed to have lots of support especially when coping with the tiredness that accompanies a new born baby and lots of sleepless nights!

Name some of the breakthroughs in the charity?

The introduction and employment of our Youth and Families worker, Jennie Burke, has enabled us to work more closely with parents, helping them to make a difference to their home environment which has then seen an increase in participation or re-engagement within the community.

What have been some of the highlights?

Seeing young people volunteer through the year from tree planting to the Brighstone Christmas Tree Festival.

Our trips and outings this year have been really positive. We went to see the Christian band Rend Collective in Hedge End, which the young people really enjoyed. Our yearly Night Hike was again popular and enjoyed by all who came. Our Corfe Camp weekend, where we had over 100 people attend and our summer activities have been busy. These events are so important in building relationships with young people.

One young person has completed both visas and their Passport for Independence.

The Alpha course went really well; it ran from January to Easter, held in different people's homes, where a meal was provided.

The Pearl night and the football tournament were both successful and great opportunities to talk to people about the charity and seek wider support.

What have been some of the challenges?

Transport around the villages has been a challenge, with young people finding it difficult to get to certain activities in the evenings.

Use of the Village Hall and the Community Hut as pop-up youth centres has been a challenge because of the set-up time before a session.

Finding adult volunteers; we do have a very committed group of volunteers, but as the Charity grows we need to grow our volunteer base.

The continuing struggle to seek out financial support and grants.

Has your faith grown? If so, in what ways?

My faith has grown over this year by seeing how God has been faithful and has provided for us over these 3 years. We have seen our working relationship with the Council improve and we have gained new support from people who have helped by either volunteering or contributing to the project financially.

The development of the Wednesday morning prayer mornings at the Exchange has been a real encouragement to myself and the team.

Andy Evans's interview

Tell us where you are in your training with SWAY/YFC?

I have just recently finished my second year of studying theology and youth and community work at Moorlands College. In this time I have worked with SWAY and Isle of Wight Youth for Christ, doing various things to do with youth work, such as planning and running sessions, helping to organise and run events, preaching and many more day to day tasks that help towards the work of SWAY and YFC. This coming year will be my final year at Moorlands, and also my final year here on the island with SWAY and YFC. At the end of my time, I shall (hopefully!) have a degree in theology and youth and community work and a good reference for the future (providing Andy and Pete are nice enough to give me that of course!). Overall, I am very content with the way these first two years have gone and look forward to this final year!

In what ways has SWAY helped your faith to grow?

Seeing young people come to know and accept Jesus as their Saviour is a huge driving force in not only my ministry, but my faith and life. It is the reason why I want to be involved in Christian youth work. SWAY has allowed me the opportunity to tell young people about Jesus and to journey with them through exploring the Christian faith. SWAY has given me opportunities to develop how I communicate the Gospel to young people,

which has grown my confidence to do so as a result. I know that I am fully supported at SWAY, through prayer and in a vast number of ways that people have chosen to bless me. God's providence has been overwhelming for the charity and also for me personally since I have moved to the island.

Have you seen young lives being affected by the work of SWAY? Can you give us some examples?

I have seen young people's faith grow throughout my time at SWAY. The majority of young people I work with have no church background and I have seen them explore Christianity and be more open to talking about it. Practically, I have seen young people growing in their responsibility as young leaders. We have one young person who, although he constantly takes the mickey out of me for any small thing, I have been blown away by his development and his attitude and his willingness to help and take on responsibility has been a real asset to the SWAY team. I think that the opportunities that we have given him to volunteer has helped considerably in his development. I have seen many other young people who have grown in confidence due to a variety of volunteering opportunities. It is great being able to invest in them, and they are an incredible blessing to us during events.

Is the ministry of SWAY important for our area? If so, can you say why?

You may not see it on a Sunday morning, but I believe that SWAY's ministry has been very important to the young people across the SWAY area. Most of them don't attend church regularly, and would probably not even consider Christianity or talking about Jesus without the input of SWAY. The majority of young people do not want to go to church on a Sunday morning and so reaching them in different ways is something that we aim to do. I firmly believe that young people are searching for God but don't realise it; so this is a time where there are opportunities to invest in young people and to tell them that they are loved and valued by the One who knows them and created them. SWAY's ministry aims to give young

people hope and focus and I believe that is vital for everybody, regardless of their age.

Jennie Burke's report

The role of Youth and Families Worker for SWAY has been a new and developing appointment.

It was quickly acknowledged that some of the young people that SWAY had been working with had issues that needed more support than Andy and the team could offer, and therefore a Youth and Families Worker was appointed.

Initially the role required training: courses in safeguarding, mental health, Early Help referral procedures and drug misuse were undertaken and continue to be part of personnel CPD.

The process of engaging with the young person and their family requires Andy to identify a need. The Families Worker then contacts the family and a meeting is arranged to talk informally, usually in a public place or in the home.

The Family Worker then makes an assessment of needs and considers how SWAY may be able to support or alternatively signpost to other agencies.

The ways in which we have supported families are varied, such as meeting with the parent in their home, meeting at a coffee house or at The Exchange. This stage can result in referring parents to SENDIASS (Advocacy group for young people with special needs), a referral to

CAHMS, a TAF (Team around the Family) being called via the school, a referral to Frontline (debt counselling), a referral to Early Help (IOW Council Strengthening Families Programme) or a referral to a Family therapist. The Family Worker is also required to work with Social services who might also be making assessments of the family.

Unlike many of the other agencies SWAY does not put a time limit on our involvement with the family. We continue to support and befriend as it seems appropriate.

We have been acknowledged by the IOW Council for the work we have been doing with families. We have been identified as a Champion for the 'Strengthening Families Programme' (Early Help). This has resulted in us receiving some funding to continue the work we do (£1,000 awarded).

Key performance indicators at a glance

- 12 families being supported
- 14 hours per week (funded)
- 1 family stepped down from Level 4 social care
- 2 families referred to Local Area Coordinator(Public Health)
- 4 Families in session with a Family Therapist (working voluntarily for SWAY)
- 3 Personal supervision sessions with a clinical therapist
- 3 Families referred to SENDIASS
- 3 Families with TAFs in place working with the young person's school.
- 2 Families referred to Barnardos.

The role of a Family Worker has been a new venture for SWAY and I hope this report has shown that this role is both valued and has added value to the Charity.

I have thoroughly enjoyed the past year's encounters. It has been a steep learning curve, but I believe that with our support these families have been able to address issues, receive help and been empowered to move forward.

Andrew's financial summary

Up until this March we have had the benefit of a Youth Offer Grant from the IW Council. This has provided a significant proportion of the funding required to pay for the paid Workers of SWAY. In addition SWAY has been supported by regular giving from the Brighstone Benefice of Churches and Niton Methodist Church, as well as grants from Niton and Whitwell Parish Council. We have also been very generously supported by individuals. The local Methodist District and Circuit has generously supported the work confirming a grant for the next three years.

Although the current financial year, which will end on the 31st August 2018, has not yet concluded, we can predict that the total cost of running SWAY's operations for the year will be approximately £55,000, which can be broken down as £44,000 for staffing, £6,000 for administration and £5,000 for activity costs. The year is expected to break even, approximately. £15,500 of funding was provided by the Isle of Wight Council, an income stream that ended finally in March this year and is no longer available. Other funding has come mainly from the churches around the area that SWAY serves (£21,000), but also from the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Community Fund (£5,775), gifts from various individuals (£8,000) and from fundraising events (£3,000); a proportion of the activity costs have been recovered from the young people themselves.

Jo Richards report on SWAY Enterprises

Wight Heat has had a total of six young people attend for work experience consistently for up to 3 months, one day a week. Two completed the 'World of Work' visa, part of the passport4independence. Others did not complete this or it proved too much of a challenge, but gained valuable experience at Wight Heat.

The offer of work experience remains despite Wight Heat reverting back to the ownership of myself. Sway Enterprises Ltd has been registered as a dormant company and will explore ways and means of developing a social enterprise to support the work of SWAY and create a funding stream.

Peter's view of the future

As you can see 2017-18 has been a very busy year for SWAY. In order to raise our profile further and give young people and families a reference point of contact, we established a web-site earlier in the year. We aim to put reports on it, notices about events, trips and groups. We aim to keep it informative, up to date and helpful. The address for this is www.southwightyouth.org

Looking to the future, we can see enormous opportunities to serve young people and their families. We can also see the need for increased support. We are very grateful for all the support and help that has been provided during this last year and we trust that God will lead us on and into greater usefulness and effectiveness in the coming year.

However, as has been mentioned before, the Council partly funded us in the first 3½ years. This support amounted to £105,000 over that time, which meant £30,000 a year. We do not have that funding support now and so that amount of funding needs to be found elsewhere. We have been

applying for grants wherever it was felt appropriate and we shall continue to do so in the coming months. We hope to obtain further grants for SWAY, but the situation remains that without adequate funding the work cannot continue. Will SWAY still be here in a year's time? We certainly hope so and have some big plans and visions, but all will depend on the funding.

We ask you to stand with us in this vital work to give hope and focus for the young people and families of South Wight. We sense God's call of us in this ministry. We hope that there will be many who will also see the need and support and enable us to continue what God has started.

If you want to help in the work of SWAY, whether by volunteering, praying or giving, then please do not hesitate to contact either

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