



Aims and objectives of TRAIN:

To reach out to those most vulnerable young people in Didcot who are on the streets, not in school or education, struggling with their school work and on the edge of exclusion, most in need of support and guidance or are the most hardest to reach.

We provide detached youth work on Didcot's streets. The aim is to find the young people and essentially to build trust with them through a non-judgemental approach we use to be able to relate to them. We then help them build the confidence and the desire to engage in meaningful activities which provide positive alternatives to other higher risk activities that they can very easily be drawn into. This helps them in their development, their view of their community, approach to life in general and ultimately their own assessment of their life opportunities.

Summary of what DTC grant of £4500 has helped contribute to:

I am very pleased to report that TRAIN is continuing to provide a very good service to the young people of Didcot and in doing so supporting our community. Alice and her team have been working extremely hard and with great skill addressing key issues for young people through the breadth of services they have been delivering. This has ranged from Mental to Physical health and from education, in the areas that are riskiest or potentially most harmful.

I was especially pleased with having the opportunity to again attend the Christmas Midnight Skating event at Oxford Ice rink. I was able to witness first-hand the development and progress of many of our young people since last year's event. That gave me a very visible monitor of the progress that so many of the young people had made and was a very rewarding experience. It is a great credit to the "team" and also to the young people.

Another key event I would like to mention is the annual Celebration which was sponsored by soha. This was the second year we have recognized the many achievements of our young people and all the Trustees, Staff & Volunteers were delighted with not only the fact we were able to recognize the young people's achievements, some of them also largely planned the event themselves and Lydia and Jaide were comperes.

The Trustees succession plan continues to be healthy and effective. Carolyn Fishwick, Treasurer, provided sterling support from the start of her election and at the AGM handed over to Nicole Guest whose transition has been seamless. Noora Firaq stepped up from Volunteer to Governance Trustee and Luke O'Neill Lead Business Development has temporarily bridged the gap when Laura Dennis resigned from the Operational Lead role. Nicky Platt, Ian Pickering, Liz Wood and myself have been Trustees since 2015.

Ian will be leaving in late spring as Katherine Pickering will be providing Pastoral care for her

new Methodist Church Parish in Worcester. Grateful thanks to him especially for managing the change to CIO status of our charity which has come into effect from 1.04.18 since DTC awarded this grant. Our new name will be Didcot TRAIN – Inspiring Young People. Our logo will be almost identical in order that we do not have to re-brand and we are pleased to say our young people chose the name. Over the next few weeks we will make an announcement and will have the new adapted logo.

I would like to personally thank Didcot Town Council for the unrestricted nature of the grant which enabled us to pay salaries and operating costs and the prompt payment that they made once their decision had been given. Having dependable support from DTC and other key sponsors is the only reason we can exist to be able to in turn support, encourage and protect our young people and to provide the caring community we all want to live and participate in. We also feel greatly supported by the depth of goodwill and positive comments and encouragement given by DTC.

Brian McNamee
Chairman

December 2017

So far this month TRAIN has been busy with a wide number of activities and events before we officially close for Christmas for a couple of weeks.

Last week our Young Leaders were invited to a very prestigious event at Blenheim Palace by Oxfordshire Youth to celebrate their 70th Anniversary. Given the location and formality of the event TRAIN was very impressed with the young people; their attitude, behavior and engagement was fantastic and it was positive experience for them to attend such a unique and fancy benefit!





In the same week TRAIN also held its 'Xmas Volunteer Open Evening' where volunteers were invited to have a mince pie (or two) snacks and hot drinks and let TRAIN thank them personally for their hard work and commitment which we very much depend on. The night was hosted by Carolina- Youth Worker Facilitator, Justina- Youth worker and Lydia- Young Ambassador where we presented our outlook for the first quarter of 2018 and informed on other projects and activities that we run which the volunteers may not know about. It was a lovely evening and watch this space for more news of a similar event in January which will aim to recruit more volunteers. We also were present for Didcot's Light Up event on Sunday 3rd where a wonderful family in Didcot decorate their house TO THE MAX for Christmas and donate all the proceedings to a charity of their choice- this year TRAIN were chosen and the family raised over £200 for us! Very impressed indeed!



Our final week (**TRAIN officially closes 18th December-January 1st**) started with a staff team Xmas day before we all go our separate ways for the holidays and also gave us a

chance to reflect on the year where we went from one member of staff to now 4 in less than one year (!) the success of our programmes (our Girls' Group is going from strength to strength) and thought about what's to come in January 2018.



We will finish the TRAIN year with a trip to Oxford ice rink this Saturday 16th where Oxfordshire Youth booked out the ice rink so that local youth organisations and charities can come together and take part in midnight ice skating! This is a much anticipated event and a chance for the young people to really enjoy themselves, have a go at something new and engage positively and safely (staff and volunteers will be present) during the night. Please have a look at our social media pages and website for pictures!

Well, that's it from TRAIN for 2017- it has been an eventful one to say the least; from trips to France, back-to-back summer programme, adding 3 staff members to the team, TV appearances and much much more but most importantly seeing the young people engage, develop and grow with the support of TRAIN is what we are all about. Undoubtedly there are constant challenges and hurdles to overcome as we work with some of South Oxfordshire's most vulnerable and disadvantaged young people however we continue to learn, collaborate and support each other which is vital in this sector.

So we say farewell to 2017 where we will rest and take some time out for ourselves and spend time with friends and family and be wide-eyed and bushy tailed for whatever's in store for 2018! :)

A huge thank you, to Didcot Methodist Church, you all- our supporters; TRAIN wish you all a wonderful Christmas and a very happy New Year.

Goodbye for now.

TRAIN X

January 2018

Hello all- Happy New Year! I hope you all had wonderful Xmas breaks.

We would like to extend a very warm invitation to you to please come along and participate in our International Dinner on Saturday 20th January 2018 at the Didcot Baptist Church in Wantage Rd. It will start at 7.30 until 10.30pm and we intend to make it a really enjoyable family evening.

We have created a delicious feast of a menu for your delight which will be lovingly provided by our international team of Youth Workers and Volunteers and served for you by TRAIN's Young Leaders and Young Volunteers. This will be a culturally enriching and entertaining evening with our young people demonstrating their excellent culinary and waiting skills.

The evening will be all about our young people creating a positive social experience, demonstrating self-help and showcasing their skills whilst fundraising for much needed funds for TRAIN. This will in turn help us to continue to deliver our valued contribution to our young people as well as give them the opportunity to demonstrate to you how they are positively responding to the support and encouragement that they are receiving.

We would be delighted to see you so do drop in to the TRAIN office on the Broadway and purchase or reserve your tickets, before they are all gone. They will cost £20 each and please feel free to bring your own soft drinks (we will provide tea, coffee and water) but please no alcohol permitted.

Very Best Wishes,

Brian McNamee- Chairman and Karo Dobrzycka-Youth worker

We will very likely hold another International Dinner event next year showcasing cuisine from other nations.

Dear Supporters,

We are giving out more awards than usual this year due to the high numbers of young people that have engaged with TRAIN and as a result we only have a few supporter spaces available. We would love to have you attend, please RSVP and let us know if you can make this special event.

Kind regards,

TRAIN...

Special General Meeting Change to CIO 20 February 2018

Dear supporter,

I am writing to let you know about a Special General Meeting that will take place on Tuesday 20 February 2018 at 7.30pm in TRAIN's office, 118 Broadway, Didcot OX11 8AB. The trustees and staff of TRAIN would like to invite you for refreshments from 7pm before the formal business of the general meeting starts at 7.30pm. The meeting will be followed by a regular monthly trustees meeting.

You may recall that at our AGM in September, and in our Annual Report, the trustees outlined their plans for setting up a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) to take forward the work of TRAIN. This will modernise TRAIN's structure and increase the number of organisations with whom TRAIN can contract. It will also introduce limited legal liability for trustees, which we hope will help in attracting new trustees. The trustees have now set up a CIO under the name "**Didcot TRAIN- inspiring young people**", following a suggestion from TRAIN's young people. The CIO was successfully registered with the Charity

Commission on 13 December 2017 (charity number: 1176258).

It is intended that the activities of TRAIN will transfer from the current unincorporated charity, "Didcot TRAIN Youth Project", once all the practicalities have been put in place. We plan to make the transfer effective on 1 April 2018, so that the CIO will be operational from the start of our new accounting year. The trustees of the new CIO are the same as the current TRAIN trustees and the objects of the charity are unchanged. The constitution of the CIO follows a similar approach to our existing constitution.

The trustees plan to transfer the activities of TRAIN from the unincorporated charity into the new CIO. In order to do this the existing unincorporated charity needs to transfer all of its assets into the new CIO and then be dissolved. The purpose of the Special General Meeting of the unincorporated charity is to pass a resolution to transfer the assets into the CIO and to dissolve the existing unincorporated charity. Once the resolution has been passed we will be able to move ahead with the practicalities of the transfer.

Please let me know if you are able to attend the Special General Meeting on 20 February. The trustees hope to see you then.

Yours faithfully
Ian Pickering,

TRAIN trustee

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February 2018 Newsletter

Dear Supporters,

I hope this newsletter finds you all well after the terribly cold and delayed Winter we had and with Spring around the corner TRAIN as always has been very busy during the first 3 months of this year.

#2Reachout Campaign

In January TRAIN was approached by Didcot Girls School (DGS) to deliver a short presentation during morning assembly to all year groups for the week. Alice, Carolina and Lydia- TRAIN's Young Ambassador created and delivered the presentation which was based around a campaign on ensuring young people were informed on where they can turn to when they're in need of support or guidance and different organisations in the area that could help them as well as positive online networks they could engage in by writing on a pre-cut out paper hand. By the end of the week we had reached out to 960 students and the assemblies were well received by the teachers at DGS. We are in talks of delivering similar

presentations with other neighbouring schools- Watch this space!



Loved this assembly ❤️❤️#2reachout
@DidcotTRAIN



Celebration event

February saw TRAIN's annual celebration event take place in Didcot Civic Town Hall with attendance from TRAIN staff, trustees, supporters, MP- Ed Vaizey, Mayor- Jackie Billington, Willem Voorvaart from Querubi, France, several other officials and of course the young people and their families who were all there to celebrate and recognise their achievements. The night was presented by our Young Ambassador's Lydia Halsey and Jaide Andrews. It was a wonderful occasion enjoyed by everyone and a source of great pride and joy for everyone involved especially our Young People and their families. It is such a privilege to work alongside all our young people and they continue to inspire us here at TRAIN- can't wait to see what this year has in store for us!

February Half Term

In addition to our Celebration Event February was also a busy month due to it being Half Term! TRAIN ran many activities, workshops and trips for the week which included Pancake detached, trip to Oxford to the Natural History Museum and Ice skating and finally a music session with expert musicians from local partner 'ReadiPop'

Volunteers

Lastly but by no means least TRAIN has re-vamped and updated the volunteer page which now includes brand new positions! If you, or anyone you know is looking to volunteer in a rewarding and friendly environment where young people are at the heart of everything we do then look no further!

For more information please go to our Volunteer page-

<https://www.didcottrain.org.uk/how-you-can-help/volunteering-with-train> -where you can find details on the specific roles available and much more on volunteering at TRAIN!

Many thanks in advance for your help in this.

MARCH 2018

Looking Forward

We are now preparing for the Easter break in April where we are planning trips to Coral Reef, Drugs and Alcohol Awareness sessions and much more! The following newsletter will include pictures and details of what TRAIN and the young people got up to!

Thank you again for your continuous support from everyone at TRAIN

[Easter Holiday Programme](#)



Easter is around the corner and so TRAIN has launched our Easter holiday programme! Designed to give young people aged 11 - 18 the chance to experience new exciting opportunities and the chance to develop important life skills such as to attend Swimming Confidence Workshops at Didcot Wave. It will combine swimming lessons, confidence building, and water safety. A massive thank you to [South Oxfordshire District Council](#) and [Didcot Wave Leisure Pool & Gym](#).

Did you know that around 400 people drown in the UK every year and thousands more suffer injury, some life-changing, through near-drowning experiences?

Putting this into context, one person dies every 20 hours in the UK. Drowning is also the third highest cause of accidental death of children in the UK. So with this mind sign up to our free Swimming Confidence classes!

We are also offering a vast range of other workshops and sessions including problem solving, drugs and alcohol, wellbeing afternoon, arts including tie-dye and dance, sports sessions, dodgeball, and basketball. Not only this, but we be continuing with our Detached and outreach sessions check out our social media streams to find out where we are.

The Easter Holiday programme has been a resounding success!