

Training to serve

During May and as part of our HeadSpace project we held a day-long training Course based around Mental Health Awareness in Young People. We were successful in applying for funding for the Course and, in partnership with locally-based Fairway Training and Sutton Coldfield Baptist church, we were able to offer it free to 14 delegates. Two of our own Venue visitors, AJ and Liv, were able to take part in the training, alongside gap* volunteers, other local youth workers and a number

of people interested in this area of Mental Health and Well-being. The feed back was very positive and delegates have been encouraged to be able to have some information and guidance on how they can help tackle this ever-increasing issue amongst young people. The training was designed to help support the gap*s HeadSpace project that aims to create a network of support for young people who are awaiting Mental Health diagnosis or counselling or are already under medical/psychological help and just need some regular support. If anyone feels this is an area they would like to get involved and help with, feel free to contact us as we are looking to repeat this type of training course in the future and would love to include you.



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The gap* Sutton Coldfield



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Sun, Run, Fun...

Sunday June 5th was the day of the annual Great Midlands Fun Run in Sutton Coldfield and some timely, sunny weather ensued that it was going to be a well attended event.



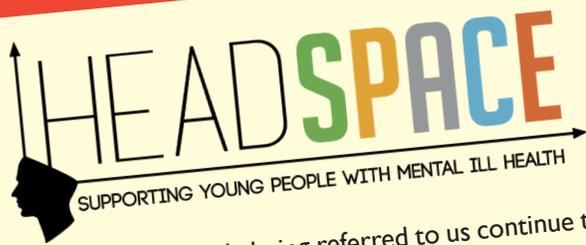
Over 6,500 runners had signed up for this event which included five people running in support of the gap* and eight gap* volunteers/supporters acting as Marshalls. All our runners did very acceptable times and the sunshine meant there were no shortage of encouragers along the route. The GMFR has always played a part as a way of raising funds for the gap* and we really do appreciate the efforts of both our runners and those who do the marshalling. Sadly we did not manage a team photo so a 'selfie' from Hannah and David is the best we have!



How we help...

Here at gapsville we are aware that the nature of our role often doesn't allow us to see all the outcomes of work we do with the young people we come into contact with. In this slot we hope to feature some of those we do get to hear about...

Chelsey used to attend the Venue a few years ago with her friends. She was a bright young lady and a loyal friend but her friendship group at that time were not the most focused of young people and maybe not the most positive influences on her. After a period of not coming up to Venue, Chelsey re-appeared last year to ask if we could help with her choices as she was about to finish school...we were honoured to have her come to us and to find out that since last coming to Venue she had made choices and changes in her life, focused on her school studies and was looking at what she could do when she leaves. After discovering she was very skilled at carpentry, we directed her to an apprenticeship through our partners, Jericho Foundation who took her on and gave her the opportunity to shine in this field of work including being under the tutelage of a renown wood sculpturer. She finishes her apprenticeship this year and already has some plans for what to do next. We at the gap* are extremely proud of her and the way she has made her own choices to improve her position, has gained confidence and is realising her own amazing potential. Go Chelsey!



Numbers of young people being referred to us continue to grow. We now have three gap* people supporting these youngsters and as new volunteers come on-board we will be looking to train some of them to be able to help in this much needed work (see overleaf). We are also eager to hear from other people who may be interested in joining us in this work.

ADAPT<ED

With four tutors onboard we are just shaping the teaching material ready for this project to have its first referrals. We are working in conjunction with the Princes Trust who are ready to supply us with suitable candidates. As we roll out this programme we will be communicating with local secondary schools, Police and other youth-related services. The objective is to get these particular young people up to Entry Level 3 Maths and English to ensure their ability to sign up to training, apprenticeships or employment.

The gap*, Our Place Community Hub, Farthing Lane, Sutton Coldfield, Birmingham B72 1RN

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THE VENUE NEWS

Life at the Venue is a very unpredictable affair as we never know what is going to happen from one session to the next. During one of our recent sessions our local PC and PCSO dropped in for a chat. One thing led to another and PCSO Bobby (yes that really is his name) challenged one of our visitors to a game of pool. Whilst both officers had laid their cap and helmet on the counter, two of our mischievous visitors decided to try them on for size and, not unsurprisingly, a selfie was taken! It was all done in good humour and they certainly made us smile.



We recently had a visit to the Venue by a lovely couple from Romania. Robert and Simona come from a town called Ploesti, and they work as part of a church there who specifically engage with the homeless, the

disadvantaged and marginalised as well as working in orphanages, prisons and care homes. They were on a week long fact-finding mission and besides visiting us they went to see the work of the YMCA, Food Banks and Special Schools for those with disabilities. During their visit to Venue Simona learnt the finer points of Pool whilst Robert engaged in an lengthy debate with one of our youngsters over philosophical and scientific issues!



At gapsville, we just love it when new people come aboard. One of our latest 'recruits' is the lovely Elysia who has started volunteering at the Venue. Elysia lives in Walsall but is currently studying at Sutton Coldfield College so popping down to Venue is very convenient for her. Elysia will be accompanying Hannah and two other young ladies to Soul Survivor this Summer... we think it is fab having her as part of the team.

As our recording Studio came nearer to completion we decided that some 'wall art' was called for. After seeing some of her work on social media we decided to give young Chloe Sterry an opportunity



to use her skills to permanently adorn our studio wall with one of her music related ideas...we are very grateful to her for her efforts.