



Directors report

The writing of the Director's Report each year is a tremendous opportunity to intentionally disconnect oneself from the project and admire our achievements of the past twelve months, dutifully informing our goals and aspirations for the coming year. I am so proud to say that we continually achieve, inspired by our wonderful team of staff, volunteers and other supporters. Building on the success of last year's adjustments for Covid restrictions, we have succeeded in operating in the most extraordinary of circumstances, fulfilling our mission statement to consistently be 'supporting young people's development through activity and achievement' by enjoying the absence of restrictions (whilst adhering strictly to guidance and safety protocol) and filling a calendar year with huge ambition and, most importantly, outcomes for our young people and community.

Some of our greatest achievements this year include the completion of a Gold Duke of Edinburgh's expedition in November of 2020. Seemingly such a long time ago, this enormous undertaking and its

subsequent success is a credit to the commitment of our young people who have worked tirelessly to achieve this part of their award, as well as the drive of our staff to make it happen. Perhaps more impressive still, and certainly more widespread, was the delivery of 1,000 wellness packages delivered to residents across the city in the winter of last year, providing much needed relief and support to vulnerable members of the citywide community. It fills me with immense pride to be part of an organisation that celebrates and champions both personal achievement and contribution to wider social issues, particularly in the face of what can undoubtedly be considered adverse circumstances.

I cannot compliment our staff and young people enough. In the spirit of recognising achievements, it is most appropriate to point out some of the figures I am perhaps most proud of this year. Twenty-eight socially distanced cooking sessions were provided for young people and their families in the month of February alone, the Easter programme saw twelve sessions delivered to sixty four young people, and a further sixty four activities were delivered to a frankly unbelievable ninety young people as part of our summer programme – simply astonishing.

It is not complacency, but appreciation for the talents of our people that I have almost come to expect the successes we seem to enjoy year on year. Rachel, our manager, is unfaltering in her ability to provide enriching and worthwhile experiences for our young people and their families. She is supported well by Clive, enjoying his second year with us, and by Hollie and Jennie, who we were very pleased to appoint this year. They are wonderful members of the team and have hit the ground running, popular among their colleagues and community alike, creating and augmenting positive relationships and demonstrating consistent effectiveness in their roles.

Working for Northbourne in the capacity that I am privileged to and playing what is an incredibly small role in this wonderful organisation continues to be a source of great pride for me. I believe entirely that we are immeasurably good at what we do and serve our community to the best of our ability in an industry faced with countless challenges, be they financial, regulatory, or otherwise. What is not a challenge, though, is serving a fantastic community and working alongside a dedicated and capable team. I am most grateful to all of you, and, as ever, give my utmost thanks.

Steven Carney, Director



Managers report

Northbourne has achieved so much this year, and much of it has been down to the continued support of our community, young people and the hard work of the staff.

As with many organisations we've had our fair share of challenges but with positivity and dedication we have overcome them and gone on to achieve some great things.

Our Juniors sessions have grown in popularity and we have met many new children who have become regular members of the Northbourne family. The same is true with our inters session, we have lots of new members who are now experiencing the benefits of taking part.

The Duke of Edinburgh award continues to be a popular choice of activity for the senior members, this year, in particular, has been challenging for both our organisation and young people involved.

The DofE has been great in allowing flexibility with the award to allow it to continue. We eventually made it out on an expedition this summer after a few cancelled trips. It was hard for the young people as they missed out on their Bronze expedition and went straight into silver so the expectations were high, needless to say, they all rose to the challenge and excelled in their teamwork, camp craft, map reading and survival skills. A great achievement for this group of 18.

Looking forward to the year ahead we have lots of exciting things planned, we will be looking to provide more volunteering opportunities for young people to support their development, increase our community offer and expand our session delivery to meet arising needs. Alongside this we will be working with our staff team and Directors to ensure we are providing the most appropriate service, by coming together and planning and evaluating our current offer, making changes and improvements and identifying new opportunities.

Juniors

FOCUS
ON

Our junior sessions offer 3 opportunities for children 8-11 years to take part in after school activities. This year we've been able to offer a wide range of activities from cooking, arts & crafts, football, issue based sessions, Challenges and games.

Football

We've brought back the weekly junior football session due to popular demand and also to get everyone moving again after activity levels reduced during lockdowns and while restrictions were in place. The football session is a great way to give children the opportunity to play, to socialise with others and also develop skills needed in other areas of life. This is not a football team, it is a fun session that encourages players of all levels and abilities to come together and play. And many learn lots of new techniques and skills as they attend each week. It's great to see how much the children develop over time their patience, teamwork and attitudes all have improved through engagement in the session.

"Football has taught me how to stay calm and how to work with others" - young person aged 11.

Cooking

We always get asked for cooking sessions, we like to think the children enjoy developing their skills but we all know it's the tasting at the end which is the most enjoyable part. Joking aside, the groups have shown great improvement in their cooking abilities, and it's been a challenging journey for many of them. We have been able to gradually increase the complexity of the recipes each week as skills and confidence in the kitchen grow. During COVID it was a really useful activity to deliver and we were able to safely deliver it to small groups, giving each child their own cooking station and set of utensils to work with. Children told us that they have learnt new cooking terminology, tried new foods, improved their chopping and cutting skills and can read a recipe with greater ease.

"I've helped out more at home because of the cooking sessions" - young person aged 11.

Other activities

When we are not cooking or playing football our junior members tell us what they want to do. Each week we offer something which they suggest and work together and all try it out. Some of the things we have done are tie-dye t-shirts, DJing, Mosaic, fire pit, toasting marshmallows, memory & problem-solving games, wellbeing workshops, relations and friendships workshops and lots more. All activities are designed to build skills, develop confidence and allow young people time to make their own decisions and develop both personally and socially.

"I like how we say what we want to do and it happens. I enjoyed DJing with Adam as i'd never tried this before." - young person aged 9.



Inters

FOCUS
ON

Our inters sessions is aimed at young people 11-14 years, it runs twice a week and offers young people a range of activities for their personal and social development. Each week sessions have two themes, project work and issue based. As well as free time to choose their own activities and enjoy their time at Northbourne.

Workshops at Northbourne

This year we have delivered several workshops for our Inters. We have done this because after Covid we realise there have been a lot of changes, a lot of interruptions in young people's lives and we need to adapt and recognise that moving forward some young people may need some extra support. In partnership with young people we have identified issues and created workshops to aid COVID recovery and to benefit the young people. The main focus of our sessions this year have been wellness, emotional wellbeing and coping techniques.

"The workshop was not boring, it was fun, and we could look at things which have worried us because of COVID. Lots of people have been scared after COVID but we have been able to talk to each other and youth workers to help us cope." - young person aged 14.

Key Projects

Using the key frameworks many of our inters take part in planning, doing and reviewing a project as a small group. This can include planning trips and days out, running a fundraiser, providing activities for the community, or buying resources to be used at Northbourne to share with other young people and improve their experiences. The Key framework allows young people to develop a very important set of skills, young people tell us they use these skills beyond the work they do at Northbourne.

"I've enjoyed doing the Key project, it was fun to spend the money and have control over doing this ourselves. It was hard as well as we hadn't ever been given this responsibility of spending so much." - young person aged 12.



Seniors

FOCUS
ON

Our senior sessions run 3 evenings per week and include 2 Duke of Edinburgh sessions and 1 drop in session. It's open to young people 13+ offering a range of planned activities, support and a space to socialise and be with others.

Whilst DofE remains our most popular activity for seniors we see the importance of being able to offer a more relaxed drop-in session for those who maybe aren't engaged in the award or want time out to try out new activities or just relax in a safe space with friends.

Music Project

Some of our senior members have been working with DJ and Music tutor Adam Cogdon. In the workshops each week we have offered opportunities for music production, Djing and recording tracks. Each young person chooses their own journey and what they want to take part in. We have seen young people learn a host of skills around equipment set up, recording, music-making as well as other personal development aspects such as increased confidence and self-esteem. One young person, in particular, has recorded 10 tracks with Adam and is showing great improvement in his skills and understanding of music production.



Summer Activities

This year we saw our highest level of engagement in summer activities from our senior members. They grasped the opportunities to take part in things outside of their regular sessions such as the DofE award. The group had a lot of input on the types of activities on offer and this showed as they filled all of the spaces and enjoyed lots of outdoor activities and social time. The trips included surfing, escape rooms, bowling, bike ride, beach BBQ and games and much more.

"I couldn't believe we were offered all of these trips for free, I loved them all and really enjoyed and benefited from taking part. I can't wait for next year."
- young person aged 15.

"I've always wanted to try Surfing and after I have, I am looking to go myself on a more regular basis."
- young person aged 16.



STAFF

TRIVIA



RACHEL

Time at Northbourne: 5.5 years
Years as a youth worker: 18 years
Pets: 1 Dog, Freddie
Likes: Restaurants, Films & Theatre
Favourite food: Wagamamas
Special skill: Problem solving
Dream Holiday: Caribbean



HOLLIE

Time at Northbourne: 7 months
Years as a youth worker: 2 years
Pets: 1 dog, Ella
Likes: Sight-seeing with family & Ella
Favourite food: Sunday dinner
Special skill: Relating to young people
Dream Holiday: Bahamas



CLIVE

Time at Northbourne: 1.5 years
Years as a youth worker: 8 years
Pets: No pets
Likes: Keeping fit & restaurants
Favourite food: Parmo and Pancakes
Special skill: I can make people laugh
Dream Holiday: Japan



JENNIE

Time at Northbourne: 7 months
Years as a youth worker: 12 years
Pets: 2 cats
Likes: Concerts, I love music and singing
Favourite food: Chinese
Special skill: Not getting stressed!
Dream Holiday: Fiji

Community development

In April 2021 we received funding from The Newcastle Fund to support our community in ways in which they identified. We've always been closely connected to those around us but this gave us a greater opportunity to work with small groups, families and young children to support them to thrive.

After a difficult year, the community workshops have allowed different people from the community to come together and socialise again. We currently run two community workshops one being for adults only, another for those with children under 4 years. We have a consistent core group of 6 adults and 3 children.

We started our project by asking the community what they would like to see and do to ensure the project was very much user led.

The adult workshops were about enhancing creativity and socialisation skills, and addressing loneliness or isolation. The group participated in activities such as wreath making and making their own bath bombs and candles. Resna, our neighbour, led a cooking workshop with the adult group where she guided them through her own traditional chicken curry recipe.

For the toddler workshop, we focused attention on the sensory development of the children. Children who were born during lockdown, or just before haven't had the chance to sense different textures. In our activities, the children created sensory bags and bottles with the help of their parents. We have noticed a lot of children during lockdown have become shy and have strong attachments to their parents which has a knock on effect on their socialisation and communication skills.

Two parents commented on how since attending our toddler workshops their child's skills have developed.

'Archie is very much a quiet child who is shy until he gets to know people and become comfortable around them. After our 1st session he got to know Hollie and Jennie really well which brought his confidence out and he has become much more sociable. We both enjoyed the sessions as for us it was about meeting new people and socialising!'

'it has helped John mix with other children and share items better and it's given me time to mix with people which is something I haven't done much over the past year and half.'

During summer our minibus broke, some of the group asked if they could help volunteer their time to fundraise funds for the minibus which shows their dedication to Northbourne, and has given us new direction for September onwards.



The Duke of Edinburgh's Award

At the start of the Covid Pandemic in 2020, Young people had missed the chance to go on their bronze expedition due to restrictions, lockdowns and not knowing when the restrictions would be eased. However, it did not mean that the award just stopped, it allowed young people more time to complete the other DofE sections and prepare for their upcoming expedition whenever this was to be.

“I would’ve never thought that I could do anything like this”

We’ve been extremely lucky to be able to continue the Duke of Edinburgh award at Northbourne and work around restrictions to continue delivery with young people. In summer 2021 after a few cancelled expedition dates, young people participated in a DofE expedition at Hadrian’s Wall in Northumberland. We were able to offer the expedition to 18 young people.

“I have learnt so much in a short amount of time”

“I enjoyed the scenery and being able to go outside and enjoy nature for a bit”

During the expedition, young people had to showcase their Map reading skills to navigate different routes around the Northumberland section of Hadrian’s wall, walking an average of 10 kilometres a day whilst carrying a heavy rucksack full of camping equipment. Young people also had to set up camp, and pitch tents to camp overnight and cook meals outdoors with outdoor cooking equipment. The young people learned how to work as a team as well as develop leadership skills and settle disagreements in different parts of the expedition.

The young people who took part in the expedition have completed all sections to achieve their DofE Bronze Award and are on the road to completing other silver sections to achieve their silver award by 2022.



This year 4 young people completed their Gold awards. This was a great achievement as they managed to do it even with the challenges of lockdown and restrictions in place. They persevered and remained focused and motivated to stay on track to complete their award. Read about Rhys and his Duke of Edinburgh experience.

Why did I start the DofE in 2017?

I started the award back in 2017 as I knew it was a highly respected award, starting the award would show my character as I am strong-willed and willing to put hard work in to stand out. The award has since benefitted me in many ways including as a reference on my university application and various jobs I’ve applied for.

What is something I’ve learned since taking part in the award?

I’ve learned many valuable and transferable skills since starting this award, however, one that stands out above the others for me would be my communication skills. It takes a lot to take charge and direct a group on your navigation day, and communicating all details and plans is so important in whether you will have a smooth day or a stressful tedious one.

Why should others take part in this award?

Personally, I believe this award is more than just a stepping stone for use in life, such as university entrance etc. For most young people, this will be their first time living independently, and planning meals and being in charge of your own wellbeing is a challenge. This award will be a small glimpse into adult life and being prepared early can never be a bad thing.

Why did I decide to go all the way to Gold level?

For me, my decision to do this was based on the fact I genuinely enjoyed the first two awards and I enjoy completing things to their fullest potential. So, I always knew I’d get to the Gold level. There were times when I had low morale and wanted to quit and not pursue the Gold however, my enjoyment of the DofE meant I was happy to complete all stages.

Skills I’ve developed.

Naturally, over the course of the awards, you will pick up a multitude of new skills and improve upon old skills. Personally, the skill I saw the most improvement in was my leadership skills. Having to direct a group of people is a daunting task, however completely doable and enjoyable once you’ve got your bearings.

Has the DofE award helped me in any way?

Having the DofE awards allows you to talk about skills and experience you’ve gained, greatly increasing your chances of acceptance in higher education or employment. The awards also benefit you in other ways gaining you useful life experience, whether it be cooking alone or being responsible for yourself and your well-being. The award is great for someone young to take on as it provides room for personal growth and new experiences.

Summer



What a summer... after the previous year we had with Covid and lockdown, we were determined to make this summer extra special and we certainly did achieve this.

We had a full solid 6 weeks of activities for everybody, starting with a community trip to Whitby. 14 families came along to Whitby totalling 54 people, a lot of the families hadn't been to Whitby before, there were lots of memories made. The weather was glorious, beach games went down a treat as well as the seagulls trying to steal peoples chips!

We delivered 40 trips altogether as well as a street party at the end of summer. The trips included bike rides, escape room, beach bbq, ice skating, trampolining, bowling, ocean beach, surfing, picnic in the park, mini golf, and beach days. We also visited a farm, snow tubing at Whickham Thorns, did a ghost tour at Chillingham castle, and visited York and Beamish. Took 2 coaches to Edinburgh zoo.

In our fourth week we went to Seahouses hostel. We took the juniors for the first overnight stay, visited the beach, went for fish & chips and a little adventure walk, then the second night we took the inters. This was an amazing experience for both groups, to spend a night away from home, be with their friends and have a really relaxing fun time. The young people coped very well, making lots of new friendships and memories.

We ended the summer activities with a street party, although the weather wasn't on our side, this didn't stop the fun.

We had organised circus acts to come along, allowing people to join in with circus activities, face painting, music, which was organised by one of our neighbours - Haz, Success for all brought their learning bus - exploring how to make musical instruments, using crafts. Protecting eggs, wrapping them up and letting them fall out of the top window of the bus.

The tombola went really well, everyone participated in this. There was pizza, wedges and chicken, went down a treat, everyone got stuck in. Brilliant day had by all.

We had 90 young people booked on our system for trips throughout the summer not including their families for the community trips. We have covered approximately 1,200 miles! Wow!

The feedback from the community and the young people has been amazing. We often heard a few times from young people, "I've never done this before".

"Today was absolutely amazing, thank you so much, the animals were great, especially the otters. Thanks xxx"

Shelly

"Great day, lovely weather, all the kids totally enjoyed themselves. Thank you so much"

Tammy

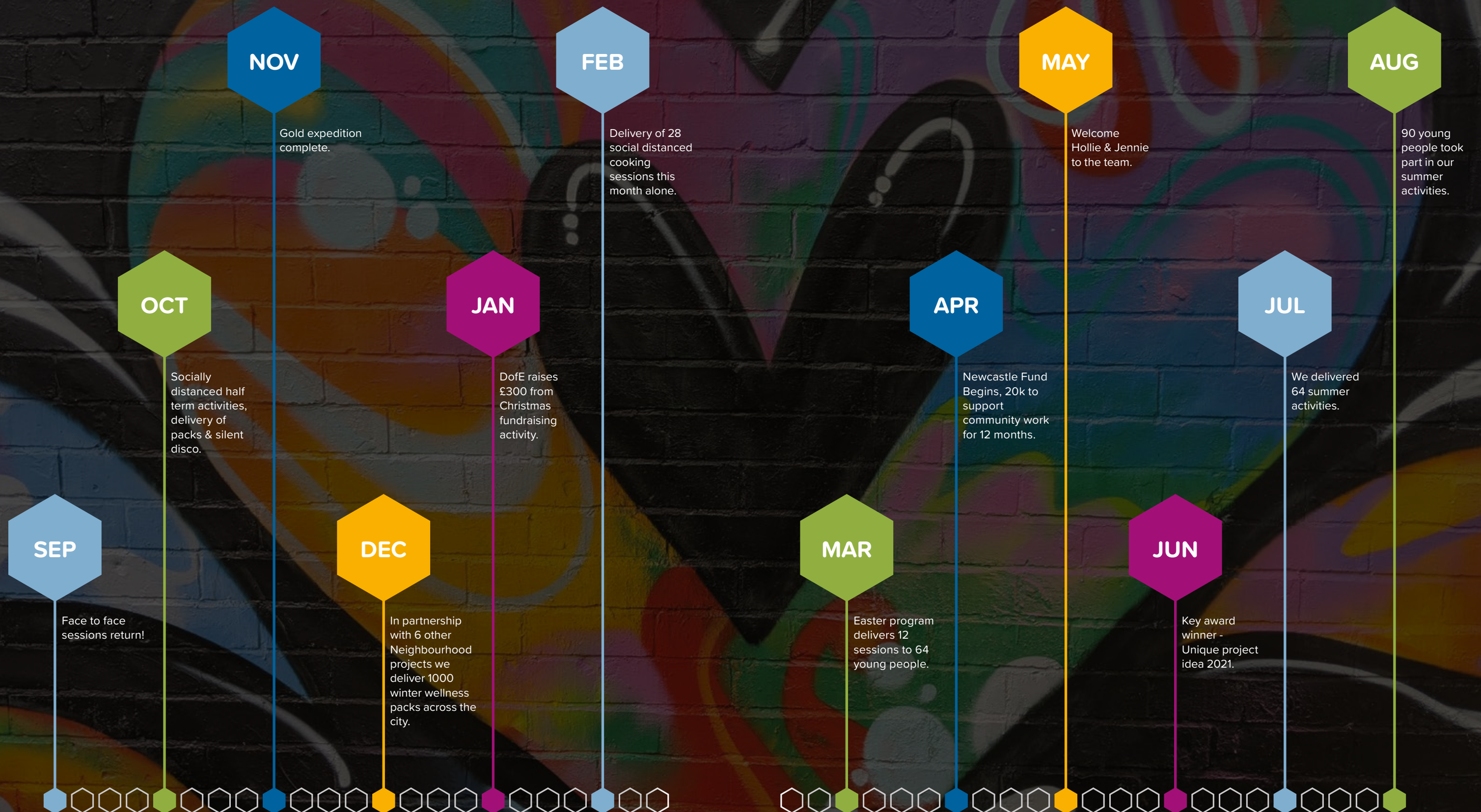
"The best part of the day for me was seeing all the kids having fun - thanks for such a good trip"

Paula

"My favourite part of today was seeing the pandas and monkeys because they were so cute xx"

Alfie

A year of achievement



What our young people say

Rebecca

Hi, my name is Rebecca and I've been attending Northbourne Youth Club for 4 months. I like coming to the club to spend time with new people but on the first day, I talked to everyone like Olivia, Alfie, Sophie, Kenzie and Luis. In summer 2021 I enjoyed every one of the trips but my most favourite trip was Seahouses because it was really fun and I enjoyed playing hide and seek because we hid in the minibus and none could find us.

Kenzie

Hi, this is Kenzie I have been attending this club for 4 and a bit years I really enjoyed Seahouses especially when we all had a rave in the bedroom listening to bad boy chiller crew I also liked ocean beach it was mint me and Luis had the best time on all the rides and on the ghost train Whitby was also fun except the time I went in the sea and got stung by a jellyfish don't worry though nobody weed on me.

Luis

Hi, I'm Luis and I really enjoyed coming to the club this year as the many fun activities were around although it was handled safely. The summer was the best part of the club and the sea houses were the best as we all enjoyed it. I am an inter and I've been attending Northbourne for 5 years. It's been good since I've been coming also getting along with people. I've learnt how to make new friends and get along with people also learning new stuff in life.

Alfie

Hi, I'm Alfie and I've been coming to the club now for six years. I know I'm old right haha. I love coming to the club because I have friends I can socialise with when I feel up to it. My favourite trip was Seahouses because I won in the hide and seek and we went to the beach and had fish and chips. When I come to the club I do my key and talk to Rachel and Hollie and the rest of the staff and do some jokes because I'm an actor. To sum it up I absolutely 10 out of 10 love coming to the club.

Northbourne in numbers

2242

Number of attendances.

43

Number of new participants.

136

Number of individual young people engaged.

97

Number of holiday activities.

324

Number of youth sessions delivered.

2

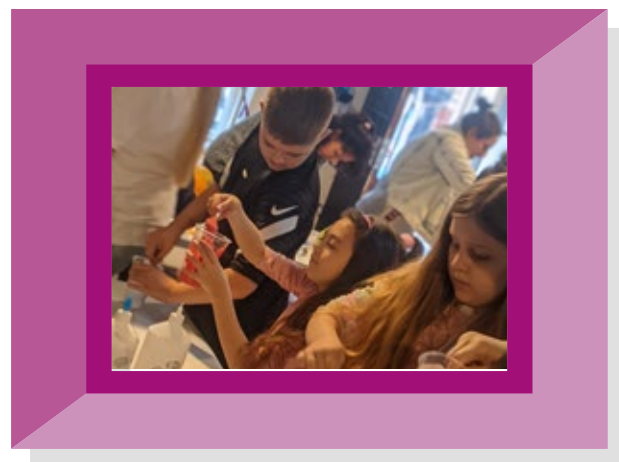
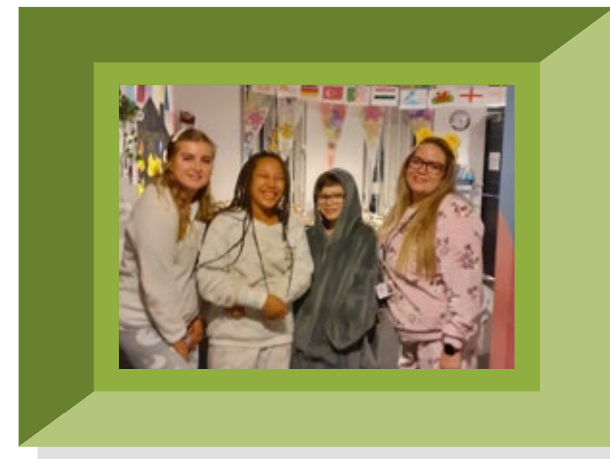
Number of new directors appointed.

52

Number of young people engaged in DofE.

38



Number of community sessions delivered.





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Northbourne Youth Initiative would like to take the opportunity to thank everyone who has supported us during this 12 month period. We are always grateful to our supporters, both continued and new. It goes without saying that the work we do could not be achieved without the kind donations and grants which we receive. No matter how big or small the donation, it's all put to good use, benefiting the children & young people we work with. Some of our supporters include those shown below.

