

# OUR IMPACT 2024 - 2025





# What a year we have had in 2024 - 2025!



## Our Vision

*To create safer more connected communities, where young people can be heard, use their voice and develop new skills through opportunities which enable them to thrive.*

## Our Purpose

*Motiv8 places young people at the centre of all we do, providing a trusted relationship through a Youth Work approach. Motiv8 ensures the right provision is available at the right time, in a way that is right for each young person, wherever they are on their journey.*

Even after working in youth work for more than 25 years, 16 of those with Motiv8, I'm not sure even I could have predicted the year Motiv8 would have in 2024 / 2025.

Starting the year as interim CEO, transforming a new youth space, simplifying our model through the 8 strands, confirmed in to the Chief Executive role permanently, political change, a maternity leave, difficult decisions after public sector funding was withdrawn, offering new services and onboarding new trustees as we grew our board, and then expanding our delivery space in Havant as well as delivering our largest ever Christmas campaign and securing our first £1million grant in the spring. Our 25<sup>th</sup> year was one of challenge but also one of change.

This isn't unlike what many of the young people we work with face. Motiv8 is a warm, welcoming place for anyone regardless of their story. We do not judge and we will never define someone by who they are at a low point in their lives. Instead we build on what is strong, not what is wrong. While proudly local and with the size to offer consistent quality, we have spent a long time creating a service that can offer the right support, at the right time, in a way that is right for each young person.

No matter the challenge I have never been worried. Motiv8 has a wonderful team of dedicated professional youth workers, each of whom understands the transformational difference the trusted relationship they create can make. They are led by a leadership team who work tirelessly to ensure people are safe, services are delivered in a way that is fun and inspiring, while always looking for new ways to overcome the barriers that stop people finding the path to a brighter future.

I am grateful also, to our trustee board and all our volunteers. Each add so much to our charity and through life times of experience compliments the work of Motiv8 to ensure we can realise our vision for young people even more effectively.

Looking back on the year I am so proud of what we have accomplished. This is the first time we have themed our impact report on our 8 strands. We believe this really shows the wide range of ways we can positively influence a young person's life and support families in need. We remain impact led and you will find the latest stats on the difference we have had on each page, but as an organisation committed to sharing power, you will also hear the voices of young people wherever possible.

Looking ahead 24/25 offers us a really strong place from which to keep developing. Our new three year strategy is already underway taking us through to 2028. We have ambitious plans to develop our places enhancing the space in Havant, and opening a fourth location, and we are further investing in developing our quality to go from good to great.

Thank you for taking the time to read this impact report. We hope that you are as inspired by the stories as we are every day. The world remains a challenging place for young people who can easily be overwhelmed by negativity and a feeling of hopelessness. Turning to Motiv8 is a very positive step and we will always celebrate young people brave enough to accept help and then begin to help themselves. Our doors are always open, and the kettle is almost always on, so if you would like to see the difference for yourself please get in contact!

*Kirsty*

## OUR IMPACT IN 24/25



5158

Young people and families reached across all our strands, in all parts of our communities



14,866

Hours of direct support given by Motiv8's expert professional youth work teams – more than 600 days and a 75% rise!



851

attendees were able to access free warm, welcoming, and weekly youth hubs in their neighbourhoods – a 5% increase



665

people in need supported through tailored one-to-one youth mentoring, health and wellbeing sessions, and youth voice programmes – a 7% increase

## SAFEGUARDING

Our response to each safeguarding concern takes an average of 3.5 hours, more than a hour longer than a year ago. This is due to a growing complexity in these cases, a more comprehensive process that leads to safer conclusion, and a growth in case numbers.

In 2024 we dedicated more than 750 hours to safeguarding, more than a month of time ensuring young people are as safe as possible.

## SUPPORT LIKE YOURS COULD BE THE DIFFERENCE...

Every gift - whether of time, money, or opportunity - will go directly into a project creating a life chance for someone in need. We firmly believe that it is by many people coming together, that remarkable change can happen.

However you can help, thank you in advance for believing in those often overlooked and playing your part in making brighter futures a possibility for all - [motiv8.org.uk/give](https://motiv8.org.uk/give)



# Our Year - April 2024 to March 2025

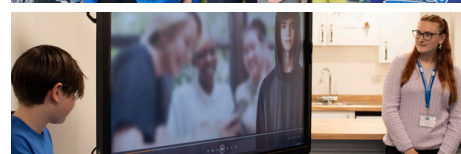
- Motiv8 hosted Children in Need (CiN) CEO Simon Antrobus at our Havant office. Simon saw first hand the difference made by CiN grants and partnership while also meeting young people and families and touring the local area.
- Motiv8 begins discussions with National Lottery.
- Motiv8 hosted its 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Golf Day. Welcoming 18 teams, £6200 was raised, most ever people and highest amount so far.
- Following a transformational redevelopment of the Cumberland Gate Youth Space, supported by charity partner Mountjoy, The Partnership Foundation and CIL, young people hosted a youth voice showcase officially opening the space.
- Following an open, competitive process Kirsty Robertson was appointed by trustees as Chief Executive. Formerly Gosport Service Manager and Head of Operations, Kirsty brings more than 25 years of youth work experience to the role.
- Motiv8 hosts a young person led #DDay80 Beach Clean ahead of the national celebrations in Portsmouth.
- In line with Motiv8's place based strategy the charity, with support of our property partner, completed the purchase of our Havant hub expanding from two small rooms into a space with a kitchen, large activity room, and 1-2-1 spaces.
- Central to our Youth in Community Strand throughout the summer we hosted HAF, Passport, and summer holiday programmes across Gosport, Havant, and Portsmouth.
- Motiv8's leadership team met to shape the coming strategy. Innovatively this was facilitated using LEGO Serious Play, a methodology Motiv8 will continue developing for youth work.
- Motiv8 becomes only the 2<sup>nd</sup> organisation to receive 'Approved Provider' status, allowing us to more effectively help those most disengaged with education across Portsmouth.
- Youth Advisor Binit received the Motiv8 award at the 2024 Portsmouth Youth Awards recognising his enthusiasm and positive attitude toward community work over the year.



April



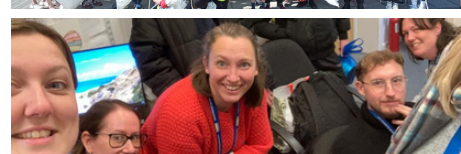
May



June



July



August



September



October



November



December



January



February



March



- Three of our Care Experienced Adults attended the Hampshire Virtual Schools Conference. Over 100 teachers were present as council members courageously shared their personal stories of being and leaving care, highlighting the stigma they faced, successes they achieved and how teachers can support in reducing stigma.
- Led by Motiv8 trustee Tim Caley, and reflecting on quarter of a century since we were founded, Motiv8: 25 Years, 25 Stories was published offering a reflection on the development of the charity in the words of those who worked within and were supported by the charity.
- Thanks to the generosity of partners and our community of supporters Motiv8's Big Give Christmas Campaign achieved £82,080. With gifts matched by pledgers and champions this was considerably higher than the initial £40,000 target and the £27,000 raised in the previous year. The campaign, and our year, was celebrated at The Queens Hotel, Portsmouth.
- Continuing our development of LEGO Serious Play (LSP) for a youth work setting, six Motiv8 youth workers from all areas met in Gosport to take part in a LSP training day with accredited LSP trainer Ben Mizen of Ideas Alchemy.
- Held around the day of our founding, Motiv8 hosted its first Brighter Futures Day. A day to wear blue, come together as a team to do fun activities, and raise awareness of the charity.
- As part of Portsmouth and South Coast Business Week Motiv8 hosted the first Third Sector Day bring together charities' and those interest in more effective partnerships for social value.
- Motiv8 secures the largest grant in its history - £1,030,000 from National Lottery Reaching Communities
- Looking to the future, Motiv8 prepares to launch 'Our Strategy 2025 - 2028'. This new young person informed strategic plan sets the priorities and commitments that will guide us.



## Our Strands: Youth Voice & Influence



We believe young people are the experts on young people. We share power with young people wherever possible and understand our responsibility to empower them to inform the thinking of decision makers, our own work, and the work of others.

Through the Care Experienced Children and Care Experienced Adults Councils, as well as ongoing projects and the inaugural meeting of the Motiv8 Youth Advisors, we have worked with **42 unique young people** over **413 hours**



15 youth advisors have been appointed from all areas to inform decisions that effect them

### Sharing Power

In line with our sharing power strategy, Motiv8 has been committed to recruiting Youth Advisors, a paid role, for some time. In 2024 this group came together for the first time drawing on all the communities we are a part of. A two year commitment from these 15 young people, this will help inform our practice where decisions directly affect them, ensure we reflect the changing needs of young people and offer a critical friend to those decision makers we are connected to. Each phase will also play an active role in supporting, recruiting and training the next generation of advisors. This group will meet monthly as well as supporting events.



### We Shall Tidy Them on the Beaches, And On The Common..

Led by our Youth Advisor Mackenzie, Motiv8 brought together an amazing group of more than 50 young people and volunteers to help prepare portsmouth for the national #DDay80 celebrations. Very passionate about the place they live, and after reflecting on how we keep this important legacy alive, young people led this effort. This allowed many local families to play their part, conscious of the sacrifice of so many made for us all. More than 88kgs of litter was collected on the day and the beach clean was supported by recruitment firm STR Group, ASDA, and Tesco, and coordinated with Southsea Beach Watch and Final Straw.

The group was also joined by D-Day veteran Arthur, then 99 years old. He and his family, alongside the Lord Mayor and Mayoress of Portsmouth, helped young people to clean up the beaches in Southsea, preparing the city as the eyes of the nation turned to Portsmouth.

Reflecting on the day, Motiv8 Youth Advisor Mackenzie shared - "We want to preserve the meaning of this day for young people - lest we forget. Today's beach clean has helped us bring together many different communities to not only memorialise such a significant event and to help keep our beaches clean."

### HAMPSHIRE CARE COUNCILS

Since 2023 Motiv8 have been facilitators of the Children in Care and Care Experienced Adults Councils. Commissioned by Hampshire County Council this is a vital opportunity for the lived experience to shape delivery and decision making. Among many ongoing projects these groups have a particular focus on Improving Communication between Care providers and those in Care, Reducing Stigma, and Improving housing options for those leaving Care.

In October, three Council members attended the Hampshire Virtual Schools Conference to discuss the council with Over 100 teachers, the majority of whom were Designated Teachers For Looked After Children.

Each highlighted their personal stories of the stigma they faced being in and leaving care, the successes they achieved despite these challenges and how teachers can support in reducing stigma. The group also premiered a powerful animation video, created using AI working with FilmCrew4U about reducing stigma in school settings. Feedback from teachers was that they found it thought-provoking and impactful and it will be used in schools across Hampshire to raise further awareness.



Recognising her contribution to the city and young people. Mackenzie, who alongside her role as a advisor to Motiv8 is also an ambassador for Hampshire and IOW Healthcare Foundation Trust and was Chair of Portsmouth's Youth Cabinet, received the Inspirational Young Person Award at the Inspirational Women of Portsmouth Awards 2025.

"Since moving to Portsmouth almost 3 years ago, I've achieved more than I ever imagined possible. I love Portsmouth because of the community I've become part of. I want to thank you all for following my youth voice journey. Young people can bring such a wonderful perspective to organisations and make such a large impact."



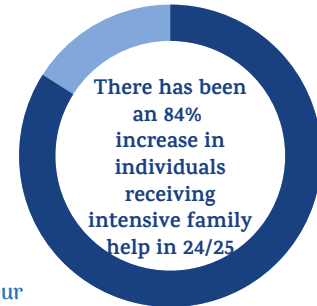


# Our Strands: Youth & Family



When we take the time to engage with all of those around a young person – at home, at school, and in the community – offering ongoing tailored practical advice, we can cultivate more positive outcomes, earlier as all become invested in the change.

Through our intensive Family support programme and parent and carer drop ins, **over 6537 hours**, Motiv8 have worked with **607 unique individuals** from **185 Families**. This represents **a 2/3rds increase in families supported in 24/25** and a **165% rise in hours committed** to family support.



## Support For All, Where They Are

We know that youth work, is most effective when it involves all of those in a child or young person's life. Motiv8 work with all in a family and all those who are supporting them. Our dedicated expert teams ensure that the young person's voice is always at the heart of these discussions however – doing with, not to. By developing trust in people and spaces over time and by being responsive to an ever-changing environment, we can ensure that there is a fuller awareness of the support available that they may otherwise be wary of.

In this spirit, in 2024 / 2025 we have held a series of parent and carer drop ins across Havant, Gosport and Portsmouth. Each offered a chance for families to share, better understand how Motiv8 supports their young people, and begin the process of accessing help or work through change while with professionals who can help them make sense in the context of their lives.

## What Parents said about our Family Support Parenting Workshops

“Thank you for the opportunity to share at the support group. It was good to learn I am not alone in my struggles, and it was helpful to hear different ideas and perspectives. I have been in touch with my sons college about check ins and hope to get a response at some point

“It was good and helpful. Nice to feel accepted and understood.

“Thank you for having us, was lovely to feel comfortable and normal

“Thanks for today I found it very helpful. All the ladies were lovely. I really found the chat with the lovely South African lady useful, her knowledge on ADHD amazed me, she got my son without even meeting him. I look forward to seeing you all on the next session.”

## The Difference, In Their Own Words...

“The support and friendship that Chris has shown to F over the last 2.5 years has been beyond excellent! She has worked at F's pace and when they have been having a bad day/week Chris has been happy to just sit and chat with them. Chris given suggestions on ways to help with their anxiety and depression. I hope you know what a difference you have brought to their life, and therefore our lives.

“F is now able to leave the home and are comfortable going into familiar supermarkets and spending small amounts of time alone in small shops. We are now able to go out for lunch/dinner, something which F hadn't been able to access since their early childhood.

“Nicki is professional, friendly and has such a natural caring nature. She listened to my advice on L's interests and used this to engage with L and actually had him communicating with her which is such a massive improvement for him.

“We didn't want either time with Motiv8 to end. The support from Jo was second to none. At the end of this we were really struggling and needed more support, the manager stated that they would continue to support us unofficially and came to the meeting with school and us. I have absolutely no complaints I just wish it was for longer.

“Layla built a therapeutic relationship with L and that enabled L to trust Layla and want to keep on seeing her. This has given me more confidence and resilience in everyday life.

“A's sister had mental health issues that were impacting A at home, Samara has helped A to understand her sister's issues and to talk about her feelings. A started to attend Lighthouse which she loves and now attends every week, she now talks to other members and is making friends. This makes such a difference to our family. We have so much to thank Samara for, she helped when no one else could. A has come out the other side having made so much progress. Motiv8 is a service like no other, they really care and help.

## Difficult Decisions

In spite of the dedicated work of the Motiv8 Intensive Family Support (IFS) team, sometimes like many charities, Motiv8 is beholden to the winds of political change.

In Autumn 2024 it became increasingly apparent that the block grant that funds much of this work at a county level was to be withdrawn as funding arrangements for upper tier authorities changed. With the team almost wholly funded through the grant, the decision not to continue funding meant it was increasingly unlikely the current level of delivery could be maintained.

In December 2024 Motiv8 were forced, after careful consideration of all the options, in to the difficult decision to place all of our IFS team on a path toward redundancy. A decision not taken lightly, Motiv8 committed to offering the greatest clarity possible at all steps and supporting the team through all decisions.

While Motiv8 were disappointed to see this team disband, four were able to be redeployed in to other roles within the organisation and the remaining team members were able to secure alternative employment locally.

Motiv8 believes wholeheartedly in the role of dedicated family support, alongside expert youth work provision, and has committed in our latest strategy to realising a dedicated family worker associated with team



# Our Strands: Youth in Community



Motiv8 works where the need is, reaching out across the community to share the support available and shape clear next steps. Through regular street-based youth work and participation at community and cultural events we take ourselves to the need.

Working across our communities is a vital part of Motiv8's delivery. Through school holiday programmes, Young Carers outreach, and street based youth work more than **3500 young people** have been reached over more than **700 hours of engagement**.



We reach an average of **10 young people every day** through community based outreach

## Better Choices. Brighter Futures

Gosport Choices programme, funded by the Violence Reduction Unit, offered group support to Young People who were involved in or identified as becoming involved in anti-social behaviour or serious violence and crime. The group took place over 8 sessions and included visits from the Police, Willow Team (exploitation support), Don't Go with the Flo (drug harm reduction), My Bnk (money management), as well as work around healthy relationships and exploration of future goals. This cohort then chose a community project focused on knife crime safety for other Young People through a graffiti-based art workshop, in support of Op Sceptre. We have seen positive outcomes across all cohorts supported this year, including a reduction in anti-social behaviour, improved engagement in education, changes to friendship groups, improved confidence and wellbeing, and feeling safe in the community.



## Out and About!

**Butser Ancient Farm With Community Rail**

**Madis Gras**



**Fratton Park**



**Portsmouth Pocket Park Opening**



**Community Festivals**



**Pitt Street Skate Park**



**'Detached' Street Based Youth Work**



**We have valued the funding and support from the Violence Reduction Unit in being able to run these vital sessions for Young People, to help keep them and the wider community safe.**

*-Vicki Llewellyn, Gosport & Fareham Services Manager*

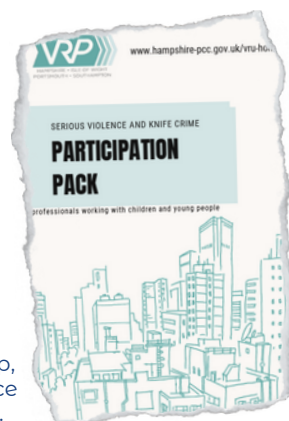
## The Power of Partnership

Motiv8 has continued to play an active role supporting the Office of Police and Crime Commissioner. Among a variety of roles Motiv8 holds, the charity represents the Voluntary, Community, and Social Enterprise (VCSE) sector as part of the Hampshire Violence Reduction Partnership (VRP)

Advising the VRP on behalf of organisations like us, we are working together to take a ground up approach that prevents serious violence and supports young people to make positive choices. This support is ongoing as we offer expert insight in to the development of school resources, addressing Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) in hotspot areas, and assisting police operations such as Sceptre and Nautical.

We are proud that Hampshire was one of only a few places in the country where knife crime decreased since 2022, 19%, attributed in large part to this community approach and interventions shared by young people.

We believe in early intervention, trusted relationships, and empowering communities to stay safe. Together, in partnership, we can break the cycle of violence and build a brighter future for all.



**Motiv8 are undoubtedly the 'go to' organisation for supporting young people and children who other support services fail to engage. Motiv8 is known for its professionalism, innovation and ability to really understand and champion the voice of the young people and children they work with.**

*-VRU Manager, H&IoW Office of Police and Crime Commissioner*



# Our Strands: Youth Health & Wellbeing



The wellbeing challenges faced by young people are complex. With an awareness of the context, trauma, and by understanding flexible coping mechanisms our 'Back to Basics' approach places control in the hands of young people

Wellbeing is a growing part of Motiv8's portfolio, responding to the growing needs of young people and their confidence in sharing how they feel. **294 individuals** have through lighthouse, Wave, LGBTIQ+, Listening Ear, and dedicated mentoring sessions accessed helped **over 1500 hours of support**



10% of all Motiv8 hours are spent on Wellbeing Support

## A Light In The Dark

Motiv8 has invested heavily in wellbeing support, equipping staff with the knowledge and tools to respond to the dramatic rise in the number and complexity of referrals in recent years. With waiting list's rising elsewhere we provide safe spaces and trauma informed guidance thus minimising risky behaviours.

Lighthouse Hub is run in partnership with Havant and East Hants MIND funded through The National Lottery, Reaching Communities. Lighthouse is a safe space for Young People to come to chat about their mental health, make friends & have a good time. A support offered importantly within their own community of Leigh Park - a place that has seen decades of underinvestment - offers a lifeline when most are waiting on formal help that could be years away, if it comes at all.



More than 200 young people have visited Lighthouse, many of whom were first time attendees in 2024/2025, and would go on to attend the majority of session in the year as well as parties and holiday programmes. Activities have included:

- Team building such as Egg Drop and other team-building exercises
- Mental Health Awareness- information on The Samaritans & other mental health organisations.
- Friendships - Young People looked at friendship difficulties and made "What Makes a Good Friend" Flower.
- International Youth Day - Young People looked at the difficulties of living as a youth today and wrote poems.
- Self-care in preparation for Self-Care Awareness Month
- Suicide Prevention Day - sharing Positive Thinking techniques and helping raise awareness of help
- Make your Own Body Scrub with natural ingredients and sand jars to promote mindfulness - promoting wellbeing



Thankyou for always being so kind and supporting over the last year. Seeing you all every Wednesday is the highlight of my week

My favourite thing about coming to lighthouse is being able to come here knowing there is always someone to talk to.

Thank you for all of the activities that you have organised. I feel that they have helped to boost my confidence.

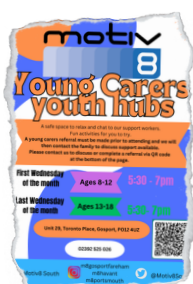
I come to Lighthouse as it is a place to escape and be with friends and unjudgemental people.

## Caring For Those, Who Care

In 2024/2025 Motiv8 was appointed as the provider for young carers services in Gosport and Fareham. The area with one of the highest concentrations of those under 18 supporting someone with additional needs at home Motiv8's young carer project supports 8 - 18-year olds from across the two boroughs.

These are young people who in addition to facing all the conventional challenges a young person may encounter, also could be helping to look after a relative with a disability, illness, mental health condition or drug or alcohol problem. This could be a parent, carer, or sibling.

Extra jobs can include cooking cleaning, shopping or helping siblings get to school. They may do physical or personal care or help with managing budgets or collecting prescriptions. It can also include giving emotional support when someone is upset.



We offer a safe space to relax and chat to our youth support workers with fun activities for all to try. By March 2025 we were supporting more than 60 families from across the region. The way Motiv8 are helping include

- Monthly support hubs for different age groups
- School holidays activities
- Support and signposting for families to additional help

## An Oasis Of Calm

One of the stories of 2024! We can't get our young people out of this room!

A key part of our Portsmouth Cumberland Gate renovation was introducing a dedicated sensory room. While our Youth Hubs are all about fun, this offers a quiet space for young people to chill out, relax. An oasis for those that need a little time, they can take themselves away from the "real world" for a short while, have 1-1s with a support worker or just relax with their peers.

Plans are already in place to replicate this in Gosport and Havant. Who else could do with a little break in our sensory room today?!





# Our Strands: Youth Skills



Our skills provision is aspirational, adaptable, and accessible. Delivered on young people's 'doorstep' these sessions and discovery days work across our network, drawing insight from all walks of life

Youth Skills can take many forms. From improving everyday abilities that will help make a young person's life brighter such as creative expression or cooking through to important opportunities to get physically active through sports they love or may not have experienced elsewhere  
**238 young people** have got involved with skills hubs **over 1275 hours**

3/4's  
of regular Motiv8  
Boxing hub attendees  
achieved their bronze  
GB boxing award

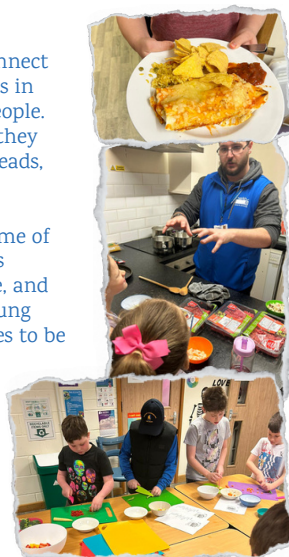
## Cooking Up A Storm

Cooking is one of the most important skills that we can share with young people. Meeting both the immediate need of hunger and developing vital abilities for those who often need to demonstrate greater independence or have additional caring responsibilities, cooking is a constant at our hubs. All sites now have kitchen to facilitate this and we will continue to develop these space to all greater numbers to cook together as well as allowing families to come together to use facilities they may not have at home.

An amazing example of this was our six week cooking courses held in Gosport funded by Connect 4 Communities. Ran across all our weekly hubs in spring 2024 this supported 50 unique young people. Among many meals, chosen by young people they made Fajitas, Spaghetti Bolognese, Pizza flatbreads, Chicken Noodles, Enchiladas and Meatballs.

We have been able to expand cooking in to some of our mentoring sessions and offer further skills including basic food preparation, food hygiene, and cooking level 1 Laser Learning Awards. One young person has begun creating a portfolio of recipes to be shared when they finish their 1-2-1 sessions.

My parents said I can start cooking at home once I've learned how to do it at Motiv8, I can't wait to make this! These were delicious! I'm going to ask my family if we can cook more this week!



## Getting Active!

Based at the new King George V Football Complex in Portsmouth funded by Portsmouth City Council and in partnership with the Youth Investment Fund Motiv8 has invested in sports delivery.

Supported by regular 'detached' community outreach to raise awareness, this provided skills development opportunities for Young People within their local community. Using boxing techniques to increase self-discipline whilst enabling other sports such as dodgeball and 'wide games' encouraging them to have fun in an informal and relaxed environment, increasing personal and social development.

Motiv8 Staff who facilitated the hub all completed their GB Boxing Tutor awards and sessions are delivered alongside a local external boxing coach who competes at a national level. This provides young people with a fantastic opportunity to see first-hand, the progress that you can make with a career in boxing, also creating links with other local boxing clubs for the Young People expressing an authentic interest in the sport.

Beyond just participation over the year 15 went on to complete the GB boxing awards up to Bronze with a further 10 completing preliminary award also.



## Arthur's Story - Rollin' Through Pompey

Funded by Heritage Lottery Fund and delivered with Pitt St. Undercover Skatepark, Rollin' Through Pompey hosted weekly two-hour sessions over six months designed for young people not in full-time education or employment who shared a passion for wheeled sports such as skateboarding, roller-skating, BMX, and scooter riding. During the workshops, the young people engaged in research, documentation, and the production of a short film exploring the history of skating in Portsmouth and cultural significance of wheel-based sports.

Arthur joined Rollin' Through Pompey new to Motiv8. Promoting the project, several street based youth work detached sessions were held at local skate parks including in Bransbury where we met for the first time. Arthur went on to attend every these sessions bringing with him friends, became actively involved, and played a significant role throughout the project. At the time, Arthur was not in education or employment and was living in accommodation for young people at risk of homelessness.

Arthur quickly developed a trusting relationship with the youth workers and demonstrated strong commitment by participating positively each week. With a keen interest in photography, Arthur collaborated with renowned local photographers and expressed that he would like to build a portfolio and start his own photography business. As well as a fun pro social experience this provided him with some stability and experience in photography, filmmaking, making a zine and eventually event planning.

He ended up loving photography and worked with local skate photographers during the project and then expressed his interest in starting his own photography business. Recognising Arthur's potential, the team applied for funding through the Motiv8 Youth Fund to provide him with a camera. Arthur was thrilled and used the opportunity to further enhance his skills. Since completing the project, Arthur has gained work experience at the skatepark, volunteered with local photographers to build up his portfolio, and frequently contributes by at Motiv8 events.

I'd say it's been one of the best groups I've worked with and I am eternally grateful for getting me the camera and having these opportunities for the first time, with kind and amazing people.



We are so happy with how far our son has come. He has been such an amazing lad at home. We have noticed such a massive change in him, thank you so much for all the support and encouragement you have given him.

-Portsmouth Parent

It's great to be able to give these Young People the opportunity to be involved in boxing. To see them grow a passion for physical activity in a safe, fun environment.

-S Boxing Coach

## Our Strands: Youth Futures



We know that when you believe in young people, give them role models, meaningfully listen, and offer experiences that inspire, they can thrive. Our Futures Programme offers hope to young people who may otherwise slip through the net.

Building on Youth Skills we know it's important to not just learn but apply what is gained in the context of young people lives. **24 older young people**, 14+ y/o, previously engaged in other strands have progressed into Futures support helping them prepare for training and the world of work.



Three of the eight attendees at a recent engineering discovery day have secured work experience within that company for Summer 2025

### Out Of The Workshop, In To The Factory: Harwin Discovery Day

We understand that young people can face multiple barriers to positive change, many of which might be beyond their control. This can leave them feeling stuck. After starting to accept help, it is important to be given a safe space to try new things and the time to find what works with a person they trust. These sessions harness skills strengths as they go on to set meaningful achievable goals.

Discovery Days are key to this, showing what is possible. As a key part of our ambitious but achievable alternative education pathways, these days always include face-to-face time with colleagues who share their lived experiences humanising next steps.

In February 2025, we had the pleasure of taking a group of young people from across Motiv8 to visit local engineering firm Harwin. Harwin specialises in reliable and high-performance technologies for demanding interconnection applications. Since our partnership began in 2024, Harwin has been incredibly supportive of Motiv8 participating in the Great South Run, backed our Big Give Christmas Challenge, hosted cake sales, and sponsored a Motiv8 All Staff Day



Fuelled by pizza and Harwin's exclusive chocolate, young people toured the factory and got a behind-the-scenes look at the manufacturing process for high-reliability electronic connectors, even observing their robots in action! We also visited the Harwin Academy, where we received an overview of the training their apprentices undergo and learnt about the transition from school to a training environment. There was also a short show-and-tell of the work the current trainees are doing. Following this a number of them secured work experience and will return again for summer placements. We will host further discovery days together in future years to further embed this positive youth future cycle and encourage ambitious but achievable next steps.



### Youth Fund: An Amazing Legacy

We were saddened to hear of the passing of our wonderful friend Cllr. Maggie Morgan in 2024.



A local Councillor and youth worker Maggie spent her career supporting and advocating for young people. Maggie spent years offering inspirational outreach and detached work that show many the importance of engaging with young people in their own communities.

From 2012 - 2015 we were fortunate enough to have Maggie join the organisation, leading on a project across Gosport and Havant supporting young people back into employment and education. A continued friend and supporter of Motiv8, with a heart of gold Maggie would always go over and above to support the many people she came into contact with.

In her memory Maggie's husband John, her daughter Abigail and all of Maggie's family chose to generously support Motiv8. Over £1000 was raised which went in to the organisations 'Youth Fund'. This is a pot overseen by Motiv8 Youth Advisors that any young people can request grants from. This might be to purchase items that will further their education, enhance their wellbeing, or allow them to pursue a skills they have discovered. All positive steps that will create life chances wherever young people are on their journey, something at the heart of everything Maggie stood for.

### Introducing Motiv8's Youth Futures Hub

In line with our Strands, supported by our enhanced youth hub space, and focused on supporting 16+ y/o young people taking their next steps, in Spring 2025 we launched our newest hub - 'Youth Futures'



Generously supported by the Blagrave Foundation this is a free, weekly, facilitated session for older young people often Not in Employment, Education, or Training (NĒET). Open to all this time allows them to explore skills, understand what barriers may exist to continuing their own skills journey, and offer time to complete practical tasks such as CV writing, job applications, or revision for workplace qualifications. We also host discovery visits during this time.

Held at Cumberland Gate in Portsmouth, Youth Futures also offers a regular time that our Youth Advisors can come in and share what they would like us to focus on, join supporter visits to Motiv8, as well as work on their own social action and community engagement projects.



# Our Strands: Youth Mentoring



At the heart of Motiv8 are the trusted relationships between youth workers and young people. Our expert teams offer someone who will listen when they feel stuck and a role model who believes in them as they begin to accept help and look ahead

Trusted Relationships are the cornerstone of Motiv8. At the heart of our values, **329 young people** have completed mentoring relationships during the year overcoming the barriers than to their referrals, equating to more than **3850 hours of delivery**



100% of young people and families supported would recommend Motiv8 to a friend in need

## Positive Trusted Relationships

### How twenty minutes of football led to starting a computing course at college

T's, a young person from Fareham, came to us through Children's Services and the Office of Police and Crime Commissioner for support around social anxiety and struggles with school attendance. T comes from a place of heightened vulnerability with multiple issues within the home.

Told in three parts- In T's voice, the voice of his mum, and the voice of his youth worker, C - below is the account of how this relationship developed and the importance of going at the right pace for each young person, at the right moment

- 1 The first session, T was very anxious, but agreed to walk round the block for 15 minutes. Second session we did the same, but pushed to 20 minutes and I brought a football. The 3rd session we managed 30 minutes and started to discuss areas out of their comfort zone, and others that they were willing to try with my support. T did really well, and was able to do a full hour by the 4th session. We then started talking about school.

School attendance has started to go up slowly, in a really positive push forward for the young person. We spoke about what they wanted to do when they finished school and made it our mission to apply to college before Christmas, which we achieved. T was invited to a course trial day and while really nervous, they managed to put those anxious thoughts to the side. T said they really enjoyed it, and is looking forward to starting their computing course in September



We managed to push through those barriers of different areas that they weren't overly comfortable in, and we accessed the Motiv8 office a lot for the sessions because this allowed the young person to play pool, football or any games that they could find. T said that they feel comfortable at the Gosport Motiv8 office and have enjoyed those sessions.



**The sessions have been good. I have gone to places that I wouldn't be comfortable before. It finished at a good time. I am back in school and I am going to college and in the future I want to do computing or game development.**

**I would tell someone like me that these sessions are good and they help you out a lot. It has boosted my confidence.**

-T, Fareham Young Person

I've seen a noticeable change in my son since he started the Motiv8 programme and I feel this is hugely down to the fact he built up trust and a good connection with C who has been extremely committed. We were referred by children services after a wait of several months. We hadn't heard of Motiv8 before and I wasn't sure what to expect but we are so happy with the support we had. Starting slow it has helped with his confidence that wasn't there before.

There has been excellent communication and support all the time. T and C have worked together extremely well. T's confidence is improving he has even gone to a college open evening and taster sessions which I don't think he would have done before support. I feel it has definitely had a positive impact on T. He started very anxious but eventually looked forward to his sessions. It's been amazing and I would certainly recommend it to other families needing support. **-T's mum**

With referrals up more than a third in the last three years, we are responding to the unprecedented rise in emotional health concerns, safeguarding, anxiety, and global issues such as the continuing effects of the pandemic.

Mentoring is at the heart of everything we do. It is the strong foundations for continued positive steps in other strands. Delivered by professional youth workers and underpinned by our exceptionally high quality and safeguarding standards each mentoring relationship is personalised to each individual.



## Impact, In Their Own Words...

When I first started I was nervous, during the support it became more fun. Working with Samara made the support comforting, it made a safe space where I can just be myself. It's been great having your support.

I came because my Dad told me to. I started with the Listening Ear sessions, then went to Tuesday hub. I feel welcome at Tuesday hub because everyone is weird like me and I fit in. It won't end as I will be coming to the hubs and other events. I have also been to watch Pompey football matches, I loved it.

They have moved appointments when needed, and they chose rooms and activities that I was most comfortable with. We have worked together on looking at things that might get me in trouble with the police and how to avoid this from happening.

It has made me see things from a different perspective and what consequences might happen if I get into trouble. School has got better, I can manage my anger better and my behaviour in the community is better. It gave me an escape and a safe place for something to do.

I feel way better, I can speak about my dreams. It's helped me with life choices. The weight I have felt from not having someone to talk to has been lifted.

# Our Strands: Youth Hubs



Motiv8 Youth Hubs guarantee a warm welcome, a warm safe space, and a warm meal within young people's own communities. Unique to each area, our youth hubs are places where young people can be themselves and have fun.

While we offer an increasing range of drop-ins, our free weekly Youth Hubs focused on having fun are at the core of our support offer. In 24/25 more than **253 young people regularly attended**, with many attending multiple sessions

There has been a significant withdrawal of traditional youth club spaces and trained Youth Workers across the country in the last 20 years. By training our own staff and investing in spaces at the heart of neighbourhoods Motiv8 is committed to ensuring that young people have access to a Youth Hub in their own communities where they can be themselves, thrive, access informal education, learn, play, and be creative.

Where others have stepped back we have stepped forward, making considerable investments in our youth spaces in 2024 / 2025 both in Portsmouth and Havant.

## Transformation!



Thanks to the generous support of The Partnership Foundation, Private Donors, and a Community Investment Levy (CIL) grant as well as made possible by the amazing support from Mountjoy in planning, purchasing, and project management, in 2024 we have transformed our Portsmouth Youth Space.

We now offer a dedicated young person's kitchen and two sound proof delivery rooms. This revitalised activity space is somewhere young people will continue to shape and offers a secure good place to meet within a community where this is not the norm, developing positive pro-social behaviours. It also supports our wider ambitions to offer early and lasting quality provision, create warm welcoming spaces and allowing us greater operational control over our delivery.

The space has also become a useful asset, both for hosting our own meetings - allowing us to properly bring all elements of our team together in our own space - and allowing professional colleagues and partner organisations to host their own meetings at the heart of the communities we work to support. This has included the Office of Police and Crime Commissioner, Portsmouth Mediation Service, and residents' groups.

## The Heart of Havant

From delivering our service from a church vestry, and then two small rooms, we have come a long way in Havant since 2011. Taking a 10-year lease on a formerly unused high street unit, in a ward in the top 2% for deprivation nationally we are furthering our ground up approach. Leigh Park was named one of Local Trust's six most 'left behind' places in the south given its rates of underinvestment and the future prospects of residents.

Our vision is to create a youth led community space with a large community café and teaching kitchen as well as dedicated rooms that could be used for one to one mentoring, a sensory wellbeing area, and a revived outdoor space where we will create a pocket allotment. Our inspiration is to cultivate a 'grow it, cook it, eat it' journey at the heart of Havant

A space for the whole community, this will not just be a fun youth hub centre but also a space to access resources, an oasis of calm when instability is rife, and somewhere offer structure to support day to day living and setting people up for future learning. We will make the space accessible redesigned in a way that is inviting for young people encouraging them to engage.

In short, a place, in their own neighbourhood, they know they can turn to.



Thanks to National Lottery funding, Motiv8 can commit to more than 250 free, warm and welcoming youth hubs until 2030

Since 2018 Motiv8 has benefitted hugely from the support of National Lottery Reaching Communities for its work in Gosport. In 2024 we presented a vision to simplify and scale our offer, based on the success of our gosport approach, ensuring a seamless level of support across all our activity areas - Portsmouth, Havant, and Gosport and Fareham - for youth hubs, emotional wellbeing, and staff development.

Through Motiv8 Gosport National Lottery Youth hubs

- 1208 directly engaged, 1067 for the first time
- 80% attended multiple sessions. Half attended more than 15 and a core group of 120 particularly vulnerable young people attended more than 50+
- 540 had an uplift in their emotional health
- 470 shared a notable improvement in their behaviour
- 239 families saw positive changes in their homelife

In a massive vote of confidence National Lottery agreed with Motiv8's vision and gave their largest ever grant of this kind - £1,030,000. This transformational funding secures Motiv8 Youth Hubs and Youth Health and Wellbeing programmes across Portsmouth, Havant, and Gosport for five years.



We work with thousands of amazing young people every year and this is a massive investment in them as much as it is in us. It's their voice that we want to champion and it's for them that we are committed to creating safer more connected communities in which they can thrive through all our youth led strands. I also want to say a huge thank you to National Lottery and all the people who buys lottery tickets for believing in this vision

-Kirsty Robertson, Motiv8 Chief Executive





[motiv8.org.uk](https://motiv8.org.uk)

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Motiv8 South



[info@motiv8south.org.uk](mailto:info@motiv8south.org.uk)