

## The Abingdon DAMASCUS Youth Project and Abingdon Town Council Report

Reporting on work funding for April 2025- March 2026.

The Abingdon DAMASCUS Youth project would firstly like to thank the Town Council for their support of our work in empowering young people in South Abingdon to make positive changes in their own lives and that of the community.

This year we have hosted a weekly youth drop-in under our mobile gazebo at the Caldecott Recreation Ground, engaging with up to 50 young people each session during the summer months. We host outside Reynolds Way shops during the winter months. The gazebo and chairs create a safe outdoor space for young people to socialise with friends, seek support from a qualified youth worker, engage in sports, arts and media projects and get a hot drink in the winter months. Under the gazebo we've helped young people write CV's, apply for jobs and delivered workshops on topics such as mental wellbeing, healthy eating and substance misuse.

This past year, young people partially enjoyed creating their own podcast, writing lyrics and producing music, all in their local park! We've worked with a local multi-media production social enterprise to help deliver this work.

Alongside this, we have offered one-to-one support for the most vulnerable young people who are at risk of exclusion from education or participating in criminal activity, or those experiencing severe mental health issues including having self-harm and suicidal thoughts. We also work alongside other organisations and sign post young people, referring them for specific support that might be needed from organisations such as The Abingdon Bridge and CAMHS. We also work closely with local secondary schools to ensure young people are safeguarded.

Please find photo's below taken at some of our sessions during 2025-2026.

Sports session at the MUGA in South Abingdon



Trampoline Trip



Winter Gazebo Youth Drop-in



Drone photo by young person during Media workshop.

