

The Abingdon Bridge

Registered Charity Number: 1160080

19 Bridge Street, Abingdon, Oxon OX14 3HN

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The Abingdon bridge end of year summary 2025/2026

17/03/2026

Firstly, we would like to thank Abingdon Town Council members and officers for their continued support. Your funding has enabled us to work with some of the town's most vulnerable young people, while also supporting others who are now showing a real willingness to give back and contribute positively to their community.

ABC – Act, Belong, Commit

Over the past year, we have continued to embed the “**Act, Belong, Commit**” (ABC) approach across our work in Abingdon.

- **Act** – Supporting young people to take positive steps through activities, outreach and engagement
- **Belong** – Creating safe, consistent spaces where young people feel connected and valued
- **Commit** – Encouraging young people to take responsibility, contribute to their community, and support others

We are now seeing ABC come to life in a very tangible way. Increasingly, young people who have previously accessed support are now stepping forward to help others — through volunteering, peer support, and involvement in our Junior Youth Worker and Youth Ambassador programmes.

“TAB helped me when I was struggling. Now I want to be someone that other young people can talk to — I want to give something back.”

Young person, aged 18

“Before I came here I didn't feel part of anything. Now I feel like I belong and I actually want to help out and be involved.”

Young person, aged 16

This shift — from receiving support to contributing to the community — is one of the most powerful indicators of long-term impact.

Delivery and Reach

We are proud to report that we have delivered on all of the outputs set out in our original grant application and, in many areas, exceeded expectations.

Engagement has grown significantly over the year, and we are now working with **over** 150 different young people per week across Abingdon through a combination of:

- Outreach programmes
- Open access youth spaces
- 1–1 counselling and wellbeing support
- Workshops and group work
- Gym and diversionary activities
- Youth Ambassador and Junior Youth Worker programmes

This consistent presence has enabled us to build trusted relationships with young people across North, Central and South Abingdon, including those most at risk as well as those now stepping into more positive roles within their community.

ABC in Action – Youth Voice

A key focus this year has been ensuring that young people's voices are heard and actively shape the future of the town.



National Support for The Abingdon Bridge



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We have facilitated a number of ABC in Action events, creating opportunities for young people to share their experiences, discuss local issues, and contribute to conversations about the future of Abingdon. These sessions have provided valuable insight into both the challenges young people face and their aspirations for their community. Increasingly, young people are expressing a desire not only to be heard, but to take an active role in shaping solutions and supporting their peers.

We are now moving closer to delivering an **Abingdon Youth Summit**, which will bring together young people, partners, and community leaders to share learning, celebrate progress, and shape the next phase of youth provision in the town.

Abingdon Youth Summit – Our Town, Our Future

We're really excited to invite you to the Abingdon Youth Summit – Our Town, Our Future.

This event will bring together young people, local leaders, schools, youth services, charities, health partners, and community organisations to listen, collaborate, and help shape a shared youth strategy for Abingdon.

Our goal is to create a collaborative space where young people and local decision-makers work side by side, ensuring that young people are at the very heart of shaping the town's future.

Date: Friday 5th June 2026

Time: 10:30am – 3:00pm

Location: Sophos, Abingdon

We would be delighted for Town Councillors and officers to attend and be part of this important next step in developing a coordinated and ambitious youth strategy for Abingdon.

We believe that the progress made this year demonstrates both the need for, and the impact of, sustained youth engagement in Abingdon. With continued support, we are confident that we can build on this momentum and help establish Abingdon as a town that truly listens to, invests in, and empowers its young people.



Thank you for all of your support
Yours sincerely
Gary Hibbins



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