

Autumn
2021



CONNEXIONS COMMUNITY HUB

Community News

'Some Kind of Normal'

As we gradually move away from the virtual world and life begins to return to 'some kind of normal' for everyone, in all walks of life and in all types of organisations. There is no doubt it has been an extremely challenging eighteen months for all, it has really been difficult, however, we've now emerged out of the other side with a more positive outlook going forward, and an opportunity to start again, stronger and bolder than before. With a general desire to do much more within our communities there certainly seems to be a strong sense of community around our town with a renewed sense of enthusiasm and support for local projects, and the wider community.

At Connexions, despite a complete shutdown of between four and six months at the height of the Pandemic, across the last twelve months we have continued to



do as much as we possibly can to support people, whether that be young people through youth socials or families and parents through our parent toddler group, community learning programmes, virtual activities, drop-in sessions and support groups, supported by Childrens Links.

Community Learning Initiative Connexions

One of our first steps back into Connexions was to continue the delivery of our community learning programmes...

As we move out of lockdown, we feel that community learning will be needed more than ever to help recovery from this crisis, and respond to the shifting need of the community.

Through our learning programmes it is hoped that we help learners regain confidence, and encourage people, individually and collectively, to make positive changes in their lives and their communities through learning.

Our current learners are in the process of completing Youth Work Level 3, the AET Course (formerly PTLLS) and Expressive Arts, however, we are already building up numbers for these courses to begin again later this year, which will also include our Introduction to Youth Work.

Our new learning programmes now include; First Aid training, Level 2 Food Safety, and, at Level 3, the Gold Arts Award. To find out more about what we can offer contact us at the Hub, or email mylincs@outlook.com, where someone will be in touch to answer any questions.

Inside this issue:

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| This Virtual World | 2 |
| Partnership Working | 2 |
| Performing Arts Club. | 3 |
| Youth Committee | 3 |
| Parent Toddler Group | 3 |
| New Developments. | 4 |

Special points of interest:

- *Community Learning Programmes*
- *Working with other organisations*
- *Supporting Young People*
- *Parent Toddler Group*
- *How we are moving forward*

This Virtual World...

Social Media and the Virtual World became part of daily life for everyone over the last eighteen months, and does continue to be used by many people all around the world. For Connexions, the use of social media not only allowed us to share stories and posts via our Facebook page. It also allowed us to keep connected to our group attendees too.

Most of our sessions have now returned to face to face and our performing arts group has returned to rehearsals, however, as we gradually move away from the virtual world, we still maintain a presence on social media, which is constantly being updated, so why not find us on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook to keep up to date with everything we do. [Find us on Facebook...@connect0516](#)



Partnership Working



1A/2A Beaumont Fee, Lincoln, LN1 1UU
Tel: 0871 288 6935 Mob: 07818 434 346



LCVYS (Lincolnshire Council for Voluntary Youth Services) Continues to be key partner and support to the Community Hub and we are pleased to be the north Lincolnshire community development supplier and partner for LCVYS. Over the year we want to work with as many groups as possible to bring them into LCVYS membership and add to the service to young people that is going on. We were pleased to host the LCVYS AGM at Gainsborough this year.



LCVYS working together with the Young Lincolnshire Partnership has a wide range of Training Provision both physical and online and combined please if you get the chance have a look at the www.lcvys.co.uk as the topics covered or contact the Hub 01427 678695 or LCVYS direct on 01522 569776. Also as part of young Lincolnshire working we are members of Lincolnshire Youth Association/ Boys and Girls Clubs and have access to a very wide range of National Activities and County Events as a result of our automatic affiliation. A national calendar of events including Athletics, Canoeing, Table Tennis, Football, Camping, Boxing and wide access to lists of Residential Centres you can use are available through boys and girls clubs.



Dr Charles Shaw, Director and Chair of LCVYS said *"We are really proud of our involvement with Connexions Community Hub having seen it grow so well through grassroots community involvement"* If you would like details of the opportunities available through LYA/BGC please contact our Lead Youth Worker james.walker@cvys.org.uk Tues/Thurs.

Kickstart - Gainsborough Connexions Community Hub is working with LYA/BGC to provide Kickstart Job Opportunities for those ages 18 - 24 in conjunction with the Department of Work and Pensions. In the initial states there are a number of Youth and Community Work Assistant posts and some Admin/Development work giving an initial 25 hours a week experience and career building experience for 6 months. For more information you can contact your local job centre or email judy.cummins@cvys.org.uk giving clear contact telephone details.



Performing Arts Club...What Next?

Throughout lockdown we have been focusing on supporting our young people through virtual sessions every Friday and planning our way forward. Over lockdown we have had so much fun in these sessions which have included: Virtual dance classes, quizzes, math's bingo.

Our club returned to rehearsals, face to face on the 19th July, and our Expressive Arts students have been organizing a Covid themed concert, which will tell the story of the last 12 to 18 months in dance, music and song and is planned for late November/early December and is simply called...



It has also been fantastic to see many newer, younger members joining the club since we returned, and we're really looking forward to live performance's and events over the coming months. To keep up to date with all our activities, check out: @pacs2018 on Facebook.



Connexions 4 Youth

Youth Socials and a Summer of fun have been on the cards for our youth committee, despite Covid concerns.

In August our young people had a fantastic day out at Ingoldmells, arranged and organized by the Lincolnshire Youth Association and LCVYS. A welcome break away from all our worries over these challenging times.

Moving forward, Connexions 4 Youth project has many activities and projects planned, from fundraising and charity events, to litter pick and following the success of our involvement with Leap and HATS in the Community Arts project in the South West Ward, we intend to carry on improving the appearance of areas across the town. Whilst also offering much more in the way of Young Leader learning programmes. *If you would like to learn more about the committee and how you can get involved, simply contact Casey on: 07940 402644.*



**Saturday the
9th October
at
Connexions
Community
Hub
10am to 2pm**

Parent, Toddler Group



After a long year of completing sessions online, we are so glad that we have begun our face-2-face sessions. Having all the children and parents back to play, chat and discuss the reality of having or looking after children is incredible! We have some fun ideas for the group, and we can't wait to meet some new parents, guardians and children.

The summer not only brought warm weather but some fun activities for the community. Our summer sessions this year brought a mix of sensory play and messy discovery play through food, painting and building. Here at Connexions we know how important it is for families to learn and explore together. Not only will it help with a child's development but also can create a fun bonding environment for all involved.



 Find us on
facebook

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'Better Together'



A New Development



For the last few months we have been realizing our five year plan, and will have a second social hub opening later this year, this second base will be at 100 Church Street (a former charity shop) and is currently undergoing extensive refurbishment in preparation for opening, thanks to grant support from West Lindsey District Council, our main focus at 'Chat Chill Connect' will be on offering more to families and young people, whilst also offering much more in the way of Arts and Craft activities and Performance Arts, so watch this space over the coming months.

We should like to extend our sincere thanks and appreciation to Alec (our property manager) and some of our young volunteers; Ben, Ronan and Tom, for helping and supporting the refurbishment of this new building, without their help and commitment we wouldn't have achieved so much in such a short space of time. :-)

Our office continues to be open at the Hub on Tuesdays and Fridays between 10am and 12pm, then, 12.30pm to 2pm, so feel free to contact us in those hours, either in person, or over the phone on: 01427 678695. You can also find out about our latest projects on facebook, which can be found at: @connect0516

Our Community Activities...

CONNEXIONS 4 YOUTH INVITE YOU TO HELP WITH

THE BIG CLEAN UP

Join us and help to clean up our community!

SATURDAY 13TH NOVEMBER

1pm until 4pm
Meet at Connexions Community Hub at 12.30.

Connexions Community Hub

Coffee Mornings



Just £2 per person on Tuesday mornings between 10am and 12pm