



## Area Partnership Voluntary Sector Report – Victoria Park

### WARD & REP

**VICTORIA PARK** Lynn Lovelock [lynn.northwestglasgowvsn@outlook.com](mailto:lynn.northwestglasgowvsn@outlook.com)

### ORGANISATION NAME & CONTACT

**The DRC Youth Project (SCIO) – Gerard Espie**

### What are the key issues and trends facing your organisation in the ward?

- Anti-social behaviour
- Drugs & alcohol
- Disengagement from School
- Youth unemployment
- Ongoing cost of living crisis

### How are you addressing these issues?

- **The DRC Youth Project (SCIO)**

Our whole project is entirely focussed on working together, with and for, the hardest to reach young people in our community. Because the need is so high in our area, we have developed multiple strands of specialised support which focus on addressing issues identified by young people, partners and relevant agencies. We focus on areas such as youth employability, mental and physical health, drugs & alcohol, affordable food provision, digital inclusion, and cross community initiatives with an aim to provide an alternative to crime, anti-social behaviour, territorial issues, substance misuse, addictions and unhealthy lifestyles. We are all hands-on deck at the project. When we are dealing with the most challenging young people or groups, our lead staff and management all play a significant role in offering support to those who need it most. It is a team effort and everyone is in it together to deliver real change.

Please visit our social media pages to see the body of work we are completing on a weekly basis.

[www.instagram.com/drcyouthproject/](https://www.instagram.com/drcyouthproject/)

[www.twitter.com/DRCyouthProject](https://www.twitter.com/DRCyouthProject)

- **Strive Group**

We are seeing a significant rise in drug use in our community and feel passionately about the approach we are taking to tackle this issue. Our Strive initiative (funded by CORRA and The Scottish Drugs Forum) is a personal development programme targeting some of the most vulnerable young people in our community who are adversely affected by their own and/ or family members use of drugs and the significant harms and dangers associated with these behaviours. The young people we support on this initiative may be at risk of engaging in substance misuse, drug related harm, anti-social behaviour and/ or youth violence. We meet the young people on a regular basis, providing specialised individual and group support with key focus on prevention, employability and in some cases, recovery. We aim to be open, consistent and patient with our approach to subject matter which is often challenging and difficult to address, providing a safe and welcoming environment for young people to work and learn together. Health and fitness, is a key aspect of the group activity, with weekly outdoor sessions providing an opportunity for young people to leave their surroundings (which often limit their ability to make the most of opportunities) to engage in positive group activities which aim to bolster their physical and mental health. In recent months the group have been on a series of outdoor expeditions, including a visit to Erskine Beach, regular bike trips, hiking trips, kayaking at Auchinstarry and orienteering in Mugdock Park. The group are working towards participating in a 5-day sailing trip around the West Coast of Scotland with The Ocean Youth Trust.

- **Streetwork and Diversionary Activities**

Our street work team are out engaging with young people in Whiteinch and the surrounding areas, focussing on known hot spots and speaking to young people where they often choose to socialise, talking about what matters to them and why. During detached youth work sessions, we build relationships with young people, chat about risk taking behaviours and focus on the consequences of these actions. We also highlight the support, initiatives, and activities we offer, plus look to develop session work and activities based on the interests of those we encounter. The boost in street work provision and diversionary activities has provided us with the opportunity to reach out to more young people in the ward. This has not only been beneficial and educational for the young people involved, but has also given the local community some extra respite and reassurance as well.

- **New DRC Youth Club in Whiteinch**

We launched our new youth club (for 8-11 years) in The Whiteinch Centre at the beginning of February. The club takes place every Friday from 3.30-5PM. The club focusses on early intervention, providing young people with a positive alternative to any ongoing issues in the local area. During club time we deliver drop-in and structured sessions where young people can access a range of activities and support, including issue-based workshops, health & wellbeing focused activities and trips, weekly football and cycling sessions, gardening and food growing, and digital learning activities.

For more info please contact: [info@drcyouthproject.co.uk](mailto:info@drcyouthproject.co.uk)

- **DRC Youth Groups**

We are engaging with up to **200 individuals** throughout our Youth Work services. These figures are separate to those engaging with our employability service Pathfinder or using the NW Community Pantry. Our team of youth workers are delivering sessions and activities relevant to the young people who attend our services. Over the coming weeks we have more trips and sessions planned in addition to our main groups.

Our youth clubs run on:

8-11 Years Groups:

Wednesday	3.30-5	Yoker Community Campus
Thursday	3.30-5	Heart of Scotstoun
Friday	3.30-5	The Whiteinch Centre

12-19 Years Groups:

Monday	5-8	Heart of Scotstoun
Tuesday	5-8	Yoker Community Campus
Wednesday	5-8	Yoker Community Campus
Thursday	5-8	Heart of Scotstoun
Thursday	5-8	Yoker Community Campus

- **DRC Tailored School Support Programmes**

Following a successful tender process, The DRC Youth Project (SCIO) have been awarded the opportunity to provide 'Embedded Mental Health and Wellbeing Support in Schools' by Glasgow City Council. We offer ongoing tailored pupil support to local schools throughout the school term, delivering a range of group work activities and personalised individual support to young people who are non-attenders or totally disengaged from local schools. Currently, we are working with Knightswood Secondary, John Paul Academy and St. Thomas Aquinas.

- **Pathfinder Celebration Event/ Youth Employability Programme**

On 4<sup>th</sup> March we hosted a Pathfinder Celebration Event in The Whiteinch Centre. Pathfinder is a unique, holistic employability support service open to young people aged 16-24 in NW Glasgow. This event was a chance to reflect on the remarkable achievements of the programme over the last 2 years. We celebrated the incredible partnership between DRC and Workingrite, as well as the employers, who have played an integral role in supporting young people on their successful journey into the world of work. The undeniable highlight of the evening was hearing directly from the young people themselves. Their stories of personal growth, achievements, and the positive impact the programme has had on their lives left a lasting impression on everyone who attended. The young people took centre stage and really demonstrated how the programme has helped support them into real jobs and opportunities. We'd like to thank all the young people, local businesses, community anchors, partners and local elected officials for attending the event and supporting the programme.

For more info on Pathfinder please contact: [gerard@drcyouthproject.co.uk](mailto:gerard@drcyouthproject.co.uk)

- **Free BMX sessions at Glasgow BMX Centre**

We run free BMX sessions on Friday nights at the pump track outside Glasgow BMX Centre, with young people being able to borrow a bike and helmet to ride the track for the evening. This initiative was born out of a 6-week programme in 2021 aimed at reducing anti-social behaviour in the area surrounding the pump track. As well as having access to a loan bike, young people also have the opportunity to receive coaching from Glasgow Life coaches, with 4 last year achieving their Level 1 and 2 BMX certificates as a result. Due to issues with lighting at the BMX Centre, Friday night sessions were postponed for a short period of time (with temporary sessions taking place on Sunday

mornings). We've since been given the OK to restart Friday night sessions, starting on 4<sup>th</sup> April from 6-8PM at Glasgow BMX Centre.

For more info please contact: 0141-951-8669

- **North-West Community Pantry**

The North-West Community Pantry continues to be well used by members of the public from all throughout the North-West of Glasgow. The shop currently opens to the public two days per week, with referral support coming in from partners at NHS, Kingsway Community Connections, Glasgow Helps and Glasgow Council on Alcohol. The shop also continues to provide a platform for local young people to gain work experience, with 35 young people having volunteered their time since April, contributing over 2500 volunteering hours during that period.

For more info please contact: [jamie@drcyouthproject.co.uk](mailto:jamie@drcyouthproject.co.uk)

### **General Update**

What is new? What is coming up? Future events?

- **DRCYP working in partnership with Victoria Park Community Trust**

The DRC and DRC Youth Committee are working together with VPCT members on the delivery of a youth event (aimed at young people from Whiteinch and the surrounding areas) in Victoria Park. Following a consultation with local young people (focussed on what young people would like to see in their local green space) the partners will now deliver on the outcome of the consultation, an event which will aim to increase the number of young people visiting the park in a positive manner. The DRC Youth Committee played an active role in the consultation and are now in the process of developing and delivering a youth event in the park. This project has been funded by the WSHA Community Project Fund. More info to follow soon.

- **Mybnk – Personal Money Management**

We continue to host 'Money Works' sessions in The Whiteinch Centre for young people (aged 16-24) with our excellent partners Mybnk. Mybnk are a financial education charity who we've been working together with since April 2023. Money Works is a financial and digital skills programme for young people moving into independent living. The programme provides a platform for young people to confront their money worries. The 2-day course covers subjects such as: budgeting and household costs, income, banking and being informed and borrowing and scams. Young people completing the course achieve a SCQF Level 4 in Personal Money Management, accredited by SQA. In 2024/25, 43 young people successfully completed the programme. The feedback from young people attending is always positive and people come away from the sessions learning key life skills.

For more info please contact: [info@drcyouthproject.co.uk](mailto:info@drcyouthproject.co.uk)

- **Yoker Sports Hall**

We are making progress, slowly but surely, with our plans to secure access to the Yoker Sports Hall. We met representatives from People Make Glasgow at the turn of the year and are waiting for our license to occupy the building from the legal team at Glasgow City Council. We are busy in the

background planning and preparing to deliver much needed services to young people and groups, while at the same time, bringing an important local asset back to life.

- **Yoker Allotments**

During Winter there has been significant progress with the delivery of activities in the Yoker Allotments. With support from local young people (who gave up their time early on a Saturday morning), we have cleared the pathway into the allotments for vehicle, delivery and disabled access. We have also completely cleared the DRC allotment and raked the soil ready for planting. Our school support group from John Paul Academy helped clear an area of the site to lay down foundations for a new shed and further developed their landscaping skills by creating a new pathway and slabbed area for allotment users. It's been brilliant to see the progress made and the young people and fellow allotment users will see the benefit of these big improvements over the coming months.