

The Blaze City Project

October 2023 Report

PACE UK (ProActive Community Endeavours) & The Blaze City Project

Report presented by: Zach Weaver - Youth Engagement & Development Lead

Hello again,

I am delighted to be able to present this months report from the youth department at PACE.

As previously stated, we said we would present a monthly report for you all to observe what it is that we have been doing. It, again, has been a busy month. When we left off from last months report we had just started our estate work, *Flame*, on the Lewis Road estate.



A snap shot of some of our estate work recently

The Continued Story:

Since last months report, we have been out regularly in and around the estate. Our presents has been well received and the young people have continued to engage with us. We are continuing to build relationships with the people we work with. In the last month, we have engaged with over 75 young people on various different occasions on the Lewis Road estate. All the young people we work with are doing the promotion via word of mouth. We are continuing to distribute our leaflets regarding mental health, no more knives, anti-social behaviour and substance misuse. They seem to be very well received by all those taking them.

We have discovered that a good number young people are actually involved in a trade, whether it be bricklaying or painting etc. In the light of this we are in talks with various people/organisations on how we can help support the young people with what they enjoy doing and helping them use their skill set in various meaningful projects. We are still continuing our regular, thriving work with the young people on the estate.

An Important Meeting:

Recently, I have spent some further time with Lorna and Rebecca at the ATP (All Together Place) and Phillip Martindale (The Police) where we discussed the progress of the project. We covered potential future development fazes for the project and what we are planning to do going forward. This was a positive productive meeting where I got to share the vision of *The Blaze City Project* with Phillip. We also discussed some of their concerns about the young people on the estate and how we could help in the future with extra support.

Some of the young people on our cooking skills project.



A Story For The Now:

After spending time with the young people over the previous month we discovered that they wanted to try and make some music and record a song. So because of our studio facilities at the NSC arena through PACE we were able to offer that to them so they can show their creative.

Aaron Todd, Leicestershire Cares, and my self both have a background in creating and recording music. We opened the building for the Young People of the estate on the last Tuesday of the month where they could be creative in music. This was both exciting and. A successful addition to the overall work. There will be more updates concerning this in Novembers report.

The Rest Of The Project:

Alongside the *Flame* work on the estate, we are continuing to run our youth group on Thursday evenings where we engage with 25 - 35 young people a week where we also provide a free hot meal for every single young person that attends. In doing this, we ensure that the Young People are getting a wholesome meal, which in truth some don't get at home.

We also have been providing some extra sessions to help some of the other young people to develop some of their essential life skills through our Junior Leadership initiative such as, cooking, leadership, communication, social interaction, critical thinking, time management, money management and other general domestic skills.

Along side this I have also meet with several schools across the Borough to discuss how we can support them by doing PHSE lessons on key topics. For example I have produced a series on how to overcome big issues called "Becoming an Overcomer" by which we give practical pointers on how to overcome key topics such as anxiety, stress, addiction, tough relationships, too name but a few. You will be pleased to know that the schools I have attended have genuinely welcomed The Blaze City Project and what we are able to offer to them in support.



I am also staging an indoor festival style gig in November called *ENERGIZE* for young people under the age of 18. We are inviting all the young people we are connecting with and also other young people in youth groups, schools and other areas of Loughborough. The evening will be on November 25th, to date we have 65 plus young people booked in, and I am expecting somewhere in the region of 125 young people to attend. The goal of this is to give the young people a great, safe night out with other young people, to encourage them to engage with the project and to demonstrate to them that each individual is valued.

A snap shot of some of the young people working in our music studio room at the NSC Arena.

To Conclude:

I can't quite believe how much we have achieved in just two months. I am excited to be continuing with the project and seeing it grow in so many areas. I am sure you will be encouraged as I am on how well our *Flame* sessions have been received around the estate. This is just one indication of how the whole project seems to be working.

Before signing off, I wanted to just mention a few people as an extra thank you that have been key in our development as a project thus far; The CEO and Charity manger of PACE Phil and Ellen for allowing me to continue with the vision. Councillor Sandie Forrest who supports us as an organisation and who is always on hand to give us advice. Rebecca and Lorna at the *All Together Place* for keeping in regular contact and allowing us in their area, they do a fantastic job in their area. Aaron Todd from Leicestershire Cares who makes himself available weekly to come out with us and engage with the young people. Also from Leicestershire Cares, Neetu Squire who supports us by contacting Companies and Organisations to help with donations of finance or in kind. And all our amazing volunteers, without them the work we do wouldn't be possible.

Thank you for taking the time to read Octobers report, and thank you also for your continued support with the project, I look forward to sharing with you next month,

And so the adventure continues...

Kind regards,

Zach Weaver
PACE Youth Engagement & Development Lead

