

The Blaze City Project

November 2023 Report

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

Report presented by: Zach Weaver - Youth Engagement & Development Lead
Report no. 3

Dear All,

I trust you have had an amazing November... We certainly have. And here's for why...

We are still continuing to thrive on the Lewis Road estate with our *Flame* work. We are regularly engaging with young people on a weekly bases. It is evident that through the winter months the young people on the estate are not wanting to leave the comfort of their homes for long periods of time due to the cold weather.



FLAME WORK ON LEWIS ROAD

It was just last week that we were out and about and the weather app said that it was -4 degrees that night! The young people come out grab hot chocolate and confectionary and then are quickly returning to their houses. And this comes as no surprise. However, that said we are still engaging/connecting and growing relationships with these young people. We are currently working with the *ATP (All Together Place)* to work out if there is a way where we can continue the outreach work but move it to their warmer inside space.

“Your work is simply phenomenal” - Michael Charlesworth (Loughborough Rotary Nov 2023)

In other news, we are still running our ever popular, growing Thursday youth group at the nsc arena. We feed the young people a hot meal and have created a space for them to *EXPLORE DISCOVER & BELONG*. It is encouraging and exciting to see them grow and develop personally but also to see them making new friends their own age from different areas of Charnwood.



Our young people on a Thursday chatting and making friends

We are also continuing to run our weekly school provision in Limehurst Academy. Where we work with a number of young people who struggle with school life or have been identified as students who need extra help and support. We are running our series '*becoming an overcomer*' which looks at topics young people struggle with and helps them understand how to overcome certain elements of that or indeed helps them realise how to grow in that area. Topics include such things as; overcoming tough relationships, overcoming fear and anxiety, overcoming peer pressure amongst others.

"There is a real buzz about the project around the school... The kids won't stop talking about the work you are doing!" - Mr Smith (Limehurst Academy - Nov 2023)

We continue to grow our Junior Leadership Program. In the past month we have seen our Junior Leaders really take a step up. They have been leading sessions, organising various activities and doing some one-on-one support. We are also give each one of them their own one-on-one session where we can help them grow and develop both in life and in areas of leadership and management.

Our First ENERGIZE event:

On the Saturday 25th November 2023, we held our first free live event *ENERGIZE* where we saw over 100 young people gathered together at PACE to enjoy our indoor festival style gig. It was an amazing way to gather young people we work with, in a safe space where they can enjoy the night and the parents not have to worry about where they are or what they are doing. This was greatly successful and we have already had countless messages, emails and conversations about when will our next one will be. Furthermore a number of young people have indicated that the next time we hold such an event that they are going to invite loads of their friends as the first night was so good. This is really encouraging. I would personally say a massive thank you to all the PACE volunteer team that came out to steward, run the car park and make the event work! They are legends!

The whole evening cost over a thousand pounds, which PACE raised. It was a free event for the young people and PACE consider it money well spent. The young people have benefited greatly from this. We were able to bring in various international artist from all around the country.



Some highlights from ENERGIZE

Further developments:

You will be please to hear that I have been invited to take part in a Multi-Agency Working Group in regards to the Warwick Way Estate. Other members of this group includes: Phillip Martindale, Kerry Nicholson, Mrs. M. E. Newton, Councillor Sandie Forrest and many other significant people from the community.

In conclusion:

On the whole, the whole Blaze City Youth Project, ran by PACE, is proving very valuable. Especially in the light as we have only be functioning in this format for the last 3 months.

Anyway that concludes this months progress report. In writing this report, I find it staggering too see what is happening and how fast we are developing. Thank you for taking the time to read this and if you do have questions, feedback or anything else my email is zach@paceuk.org.uk please do get in contact.

Well, I want to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year on behalf of myself and the whole of PACE.

See you all again in 2024.

Kind regards,

Zach Weaver

PACE Youth Engagement & Development Lead

