

thirteen

Managing and building homes

Linx has expanded its partnerships with local services, including Thirteen Housing Group, which is supporting open access services. Thirteen had already supported delivery of two local open access sessions in their localities and in March 2020, announced an award of £23,000 to Linx to deliver two projects for young people on the Netherfields estate for the following 12 months.

This is a new way of resourcing open access youth club provision and this was to have been weekly provision for children aged 8-11 years. When it is possible and safe to run open access sessions (post Covid-19) young people will be involved in planning and developing a programme of fun and informal activities which could include music, dance, games, pool, table tennis and, during the warmer months, BBQ and outdoor activities.

In addition, as part of the project, youth outreach workers from Linx will also be engaging with children over the age of 12 who might not want to get involved in activities inside the community centre.

As part of all the activities, Linx will help to identify any issues the young people might be facing and work with them to access bespoke services to meet their individual needs. Attendees will be encouraged to learn about a range of issues affecting their community and get involved in positive activities to help with their development.

“We are delighted to be partnered with Thirteen to deliver much-needed informal educational activities and engagement for young people in Netherfields.

These initiatives clearly demonstrate the passion and commitment that Thirteen has to invest in local communities and the people who live here.”

Sara Mirsalehi, Operations Manager, Linx, 2020

“This project isn’t just for young people, it will also benefit families and the whole community by providing young people with support and information to help tackle some important issues that our customers have talked to us about.

The sessions will help to increase awareness around loneliness, knife crime, county lines and possible criminal exploitation that we know young people can face in the area. As well as the more fun elements of the scheme, the project will help to improve employability skills for the older age group and also strive to improve attendance and attainment at school.”

Jeff Horrocks, Neighbourhoods Services Manager, Thirteen, 2020

It is hoped that during the lighter nights, the young people will also be able to go out onto the estate and work on projects in the community, such as gardening and carrying out tasks alongside older people who live in Netherfields. This happens in the other areas where Linx runs open access services in localities.



Pictured: Young people at Thirteen’s Markby Green Community Centre