

# FUTURE|hope Spring Update 2020

empowering young people to have hope for their future

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It has been a busy few months since our last update! We have now officially moved into our new premises, decorated and furnished it. Thank you to the people that helped with any stage of the move! We were going to have an open morning to show it off to everyone but, as we are sure you will understand, this has been postponed. Please look out for new details in the future, which we will post on our Facebook/Twitter. Additionally, you might want to check out our brand new website! Local company, ITBuilder, very kindly donated their time and resources to make this happen and we love it!

As you read through this newsletter, you will hear about what we have done but also how we are working in the current climate. It has been a steep but fast learning curve for us and we are thankful for the advice we have been given by a number of other youth charities. We are continuing to develop new ideas to further get alongside young people both during lockdown and in the future. As always, please feel free to get in touch if you want to know anymore.

## MENTORING

We are currently working with 10 young people and have finished with another 2 young people since January. We have also had 4 referrals, with two currently waiting to be paired and two in the assessment process. This is on hold at the moment but we are offering all our young people a phone call in place of their weekly meeting, if they would like it. We are also offering this out to young people in the wider community. We are running an Instagram advert, with hopes of reaching someone who might appreciate a chat during this time. If you are aware of any young people that might want someone to talk to them, please let us know. We asked Ros, one of our volunteer mentors, to share how they found mentoring.



**Ros**

*'Volunteering as a mentor with FUTUREhope is such a privilege. Meeting with a young person for an hour each week for a year to establish trust, to listen, to help build their self-esteem and confidence and, over time, to gently come alongside them to help give them reassurance and the tools to make their own wise and healthy decisions about the issues they face is such an amazing opportunity to show them God's love in action.'*

*So many young people rarely have conversations without constant interruption from texts, Snapchat messages etc and, even though some weeks it might seem to us as if the conversation has been hard work, our commitment to be there each week for them and to be non-judgemental about the concerns they share with us is often the message that has more of an impact than any of the words we say.*

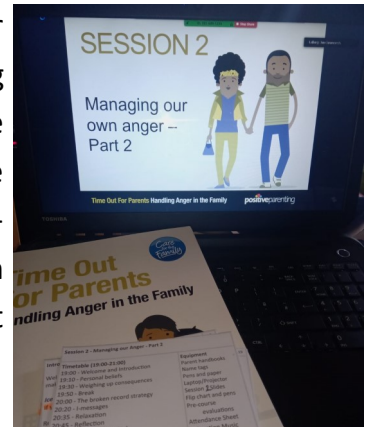
*It is great to be part of a supportive team of mentors, to receive regular training from Tim and Jane and to meet regularly to pray together for each other and for the young people. Please continue to pray that God would be with us in our one to one mentor sessions with the young people we mentor and that he would continue to guide us and to give us the right words to encourage them. '*

# BUS

Unfortunately, the bus didn't survive winter very well! As a result of dampness, all the rain and a leak we found a significant amount of mould. This couldn't have come at a worse point because we had to focus on the office decorating and moving. This meant that the bus couldn't go out but we still went out on detached in both Hertford and Ware. With the help of Jesse and Samuele, our All Nations placement students, we were able to clean and apply a temporary coat of paint. This enabled us to go out until the recent situation. Tim and Jane went out on detached on the 20th March to let young people know we wouldn't be out for a while, however it was already very quiet out. Our resourceful treasurer Chris has been able to fix the source of the leak with a baked bean can! We can't wait to be back out with the bus in a few months; we will need to do a more substantial repainting job now the leak is fixed but we will do this very quickly! Whilst we can't be out on the bus at the moment we are spending some time thinking about how to make the outside more eye catching and what else we can be doing on a Friday night for the local young people.

# PARENTS

We were really glad to get the office finished as it meant we could resume our parents' work in our own facility. We decided to run the four session 'Handling Anger In The Family' course because it would fit in well with the school term. We were able to hold the first session in the office before Government advice changed. So, we went back to the drawing board and decided to try and run it using video conferencing software called 'Zoom'. Two sessions have run through this format and it has worked really well. We have changed the format a little bit but the fact that they already had their course handbooks made it a lot easier.



As this method works, we are now planning on running the seven session 'The Teenage Years' course through Zoom soon after Easter. We are going to rely on our online network to share details of the course and also run a Facebook advert. The main difficulty will be getting the course handbooks out to people, as there isn't a digital option, but we are confident that we will be able to do this through post. Please keep your eye out for it, share it and point anyone that might be interested in our direction.

# TEAM

We really enjoyed being able to have our volunteers in the office for two meetings this term: a prayer meeting at the start of the term as well as our latest mentor morning, a space where we get our mentors together, to catch up and to shape our mentoring. Zoom is also coming in handy to keep in touch with our volunteers and we are holding gatherings twice a week. It's great to be able to touch base, encourage and support each other. For those that haven't been able to Zoom, we are in contact via phone calls. We are also planning our next recruitment drive for volunteers and look forward to running more training in the future.

# FINAL WORDS...

Thank you again for taking the time to read this update. The world is a very interesting place at the moment but, as a Christian charity, we believe that God has a plan for our future and is ultimately in control. We want to do our best to support people through this. We are aware that there is already a lot of good work going on but if you can think of any way we can be even more involved and help, then please let us know. We are praying for the communities of Hertford and Ware, as well as further afield.