

# FUTURE|hope Summer Update 2020

empowering young people to have hope for their future

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Over the last few months, as we shared in our last newsletter, FUTUTREhope has looked quite different. Along with the rest of the world, we have been making adjustments to what we do to follow Covid-19 regulations and guidelines. As you read our latest update you will see how that has been going, how we have continued to support young people in Hertford and Ware and, lastly, we are excited to share our latest idea with you all. The time has come for the bus to evolve yet again. So we are launching an appeal for this and we will also be focussing on available grants to make this new idea happen. We are being very ambitious but we want to ensure that we are in the best position to serve the young people we work with. If you have any feedback about what we are doing or where we are going then please get in touch!

## DIGITAL MENTORING

Very shortly after we sent out our last update out we officially launched our Digital Mentoring programme. It offers an opportunity for a young person to speak to one of our mentors, over the phone, for around 20/25 minutes a week. Most of the young people we were working with took us up on this and we have had some new self-referrals for this as well. We also ran adverts on Instagram which got a lot of attention - trying to spread the message as widely as possible to young people. All the information can be found on our website.

Are you a young person  
bored and stuck at home with  
no-one to speak to?

We love chatting to young  
people! It's what we do all the  
time and even though we are  
also stuck at home we can  
chat over the phone!

Get in touch if you would like  
a call.

## PARENTS

Over the past 18 months we have told you about the 'Care for the Family: Time Out For Parents' courses that we have run. These have all been really successful and up until lockdown we had completed 3 Teenage Years courses and 1 Handling Anger in the Family course. As we shared in our last update we moved to doing these online through 'Zoom' and we have finished both a Teenage Years and a Handling Anger in the Family course. The parents have found them very useful and even though the format has had to change quite a bit it has still been a worthwhile investment in local families. We are hoping to advertise another Teenage Years course in the near future, for now still on 'Zoom'. All the information will be posted online.

## TEAM

Both Tim and Jane have continued to work through lockdown and we have done our best to keep in touch with our amazing volunteers. We hold weekly sessions on 'Zoom' every Tuesday afternoon for a catch up, game, devotional and prayer. We were also meeting on Friday nights for prayer, but as lockdown has eased we decided to suspend this so that Tim and Jane would be free to start engaging with young people in detached work. **Turn over to read more about this & our exciting plans!**

*'our meetings have not only  
been wonderfully inspirational  
and thought-provoking with  
prayer and fellowship  
but also contained just  
the perfect amount of  
fun, laughter and love'*



Carmen

# DETACHED

As previously shared, Tim and Jane went on detached around Hertford on 20th March and then we suspended all of our contact work. While keeping an eye on what other local and national organisations were doing we worked on our Covid-19 strategy document and the necessary risk assessments. On the 12th June we were in a position to start detached work again, aiming to go out two to three times a week, focussing on Hertford and Ware. So far we have been out 6 times and chatted to 113 young people. Conversations have covered a variety of topics and we have been able to advertise our Digital Mentoring programme through giving out purpose made business cards with information and contact details. In these difficult times this is an effective way we can connect with local young people.



# BUS

We are under no illusion that it's going to be a long time before we can take the bus out again on a Friday night. We have measured it up and following the latest social distancing guidelines we would only be allowed two to three young people on board at any one time. So we have gone back to the drawing board. For a while now we have had an idea about having a smaller, more versatile vehicle.

A smaller vehicle means that we need less team to open it for a session. This will enable us to be out more often (different nights and after school), visit more schools more regularly and access harder to reach places where young people hang out. We have an amazing team of volunteers who serve on the bus and we want to maximise the impact they can have with the time they give. This also opens the door to new volunteers who don't want to do an evening session.

We have therefore decided that we will say goodbye to our current vehicle and press on with our pursuit for a new vehicle. We have weighed up a number of options, from ice cream vans to catering vans but we have landed on a customised van. This will be a multi-purpose vehicle; when team numbers are low we will open up the back doors, serve our famous hot chocolate and have drug/alcohol awareness activities, games and information about support on offer. Then when team numbers are higher we will open up the side door, which will allow a small number of young people to sit inside the opening (on purpose made bench seats) and have our drinks bar, games and educational activities. We also plan to have an awning with tables and chairs outside.

With a smaller vehicle, in the short term, we will be able to be present on Friday nights a lot sooner than with our current vehicle. Over past few years we have noticed that young people tend to hang out in smaller groups rather than larger groups. A vehicle like this will still be well placed to meet the needs of young people we come across. We are setting ourselves a budget of £15,000 to get this up and running. We will also need to raise £12,500 per annum to keep the project on the road. We will be looking to sell our current vehicle, apply to grants and launch an appeal. If you think you are able to help in any way then please do get in touch or look on our website ([www.future-hope.org.uk](http://www.future-hope.org.uk)). The ethos of the bus isn't changing just the method of delivery.

# FINAL WORDS...

Thank you for taking time to read this update; we are truly thankful for your interest and support. We know that we are being rather ambitious to raise this money in the current climate but we really do feel it is the right direction for FUTUREhope to take in order to enable us to continue supporting local young people.