



STAFFORDSHIRE COMMISSIONER
Police | Fire and Rescue | Crime



2023 Evaluation



February 2023

Content

1. Programme Summary
2. ASB National Context
3. ASB Local Context
4. Geographical Spend & Activities Funded
5. Output, Funding Allocation and Cost Saving Comparisons
6. Website & Marketing Analysis
7. Feedback
8. Recommendations
9. Case Studies

Note: All references to “Staffordshire’ incorporate the geographical areas of Staffordshire County and City of Stoke-on-Trent



Staffordshire Commissioner Ben Adams, Space Champion Amy Nolan and Andy Whitehall Right
Stuff Project Manager

1. Programme Summary

Introduction

Space is a programme of diversionary activities, running throughout the summer holiday period. Its introduction was based on the premise of reducing spikes in youth-related low-level crime and Anti-social Behaviour (ASB) traditionally seen during the summer holiday break by providing a range of positive activities for young people to channel their energy into. The programme comprises a range of positive activities coupled with educational input for universal and targeted cohorts of young people across Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent. Space 2023 was funded by a £180,000 investment by the Staffordshire Commissioners Office (SCO), with a contribution of £10,000 from Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service.

Staffordshire Space is proud to have maintained its commitment to youth activities since the 're-boot' in 2015 of the original programme delivered in the 80's and 90's by Staffordshire police. Staffordshire Space is also delighted that the programme has been embraced and supported locally by our fantastic stakeholders, communities, families, children and young people across the county.

The Staffordshire Commissioner extends thanks to all those who have contributed to Space 2023 and all of the associated successful outcomes for everyone involved in the programme.

Statistics 2023

Space achieved great engagement and outcomes, supporting young people, families and communities across the geography. The programme ran for 5 weeks between Monday 31 July and Friday 1 September 2023, offering a range of sports, arts, crafts and youth activities, delivered by 37 providers.

2,437 Staffordshire Commissioner's Office (SCO) funded activities were available and were promoted primarily on the bespoke website (www.staffordshirespace.uk). There were an additional 152 activities marketed on the Space website, offered during the same period. The Programme achieved 22,218 attendances, equalling 43,848 hours of engagement by 9,635 participants, made up of young people between 8-17 years, along with parents, siblings and carers.

Space 2023 worked with Community Safety Partners (CSPs) to identify areas as being hotspots for youth related low level crime and ASB, as well as identifying priority cohorts and individuals. An aim of a 30% minimum attendance from these hotspot areas and priority cohorts was agreed and exceeded.

Since commencement in 2015, Space has seen a continued reduction in youth ASB during the school Summer holidays, with a 75% reduction in reports to police since 2016. 1,395 reports of youth-related ASB were recorded during the school summer holidays in 2016 compared to 353 in 2023.

Participant Feedback

Along with great attendance there has also been very positive feedback from parents, guardians and carers about how Space made a difference to their summer holidays keeping young people occupied, connected with friends and their community, learning new skills and having fun.

General

This report contains outcome evidence secured from many sources including Commissioner's Office, service providers, partners and participants, parents/guardians/carers, and via data gathered through additional analysis and audit processes.

2. ASB National Context

National ASB Action Plan

In March 2023 the government launched its Anti-social Behaviour Plan [Anti-social Behaviour Action Plan \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk). It emphasises ASB is a serious issue and a priority. The Plan details how the government will tackle anti-social behaviour such as tougher punishments and building local pride for example and details strong support for positive diversionary activities for young people as an effective approach in helping to reduce the £850m a year costs to the economy, attributed to ASB. The Staffordshire Space Programme is aligned to the approaches set out in the ASB Action Plan, in particular its approach to youth ASB hotspots and young people in 'at risk' cohorts.

Space is also pleased to be supporting Staffordshire County Council with their Statutory Duty to '*secure, so far as is reasonably practical, sufficient provision of educational and recreational leisure-time activities for young people*' in-line with the Education Act 1996. Staffordshire Space also supports the Department for Culture, Media and Sport target from the Chief Medical Officer to have 1 million children (and 2.5 million adults) more active by 2030 through their 'Get Active' Strategy [Get Active: a strategy for the future of sport and physical activity - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk).

[1,000 Young Voices Research - StreetGames](#) highlighted ongoing challenges faced by young people, particularly in low-income households and under-served communities who often experience inequalities of opportunity and participation. The underlying causes and issues of these broader inequalities are complex - some of the resulting barriers are 'material' (e.g. cost, transport, access to facilities) whilst others are deeply psychological. Some issues have certainly been made worse by the pandemic and the current cost of living crisis.

The research findings indicated young people are worried about:

- Finances and Cost of living-40%
- School and College-39%
- My Mental Health-35%
- How I look-34%
- Not being able to achieve my career goals-33%
- Feeling isolated/lonely-31%

It also highlighted 75% of respondents want to take part in more sport/physical activity, 72% enjoy taking part in sport/exercise and 68% feel confident when they take part in sport/exercise. However, the research presented a number of key barriers to taking part in sport and physical activity:

- Can't afford it-39%
- Not confident enough-35%
- Not able to get there-21%
- Haven't found a sport I enjoy-19%

Space provides positive and enriching activities, many getting young people outside in the fresh air, physically active and aim to support young people. As well as reducing youth ASB, Space provides opportunities to mitigate a lot of the concerns and barriers experienced by young people presented in the findings through:

- Free activities
- Safe environments with trusted adults, providing coaching and encouragement
- 'On the doorstep' provision
- A range of activities and sports to try



Bell Boats Activity at Rudyard Lake

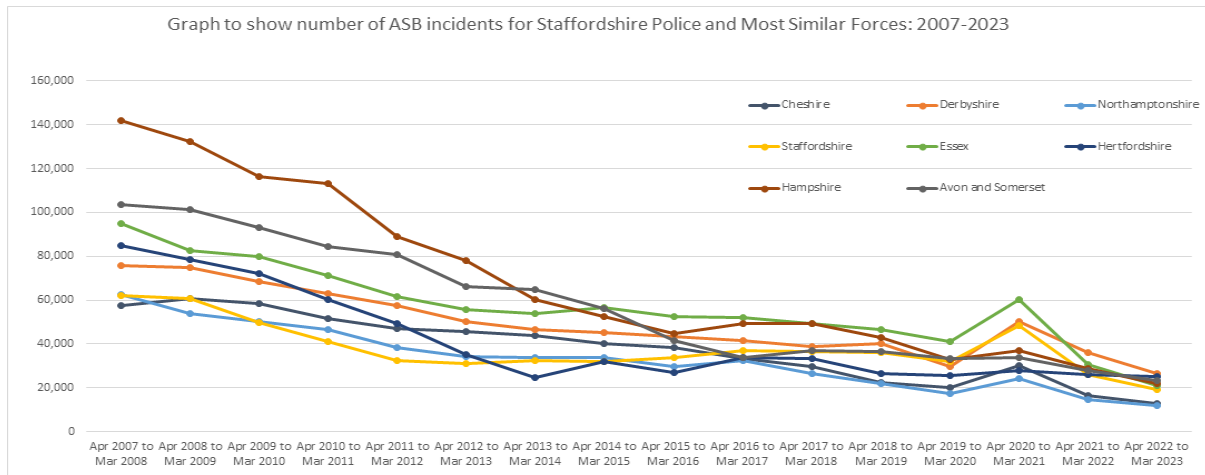
3. ASB Local Context and Scoping

Context

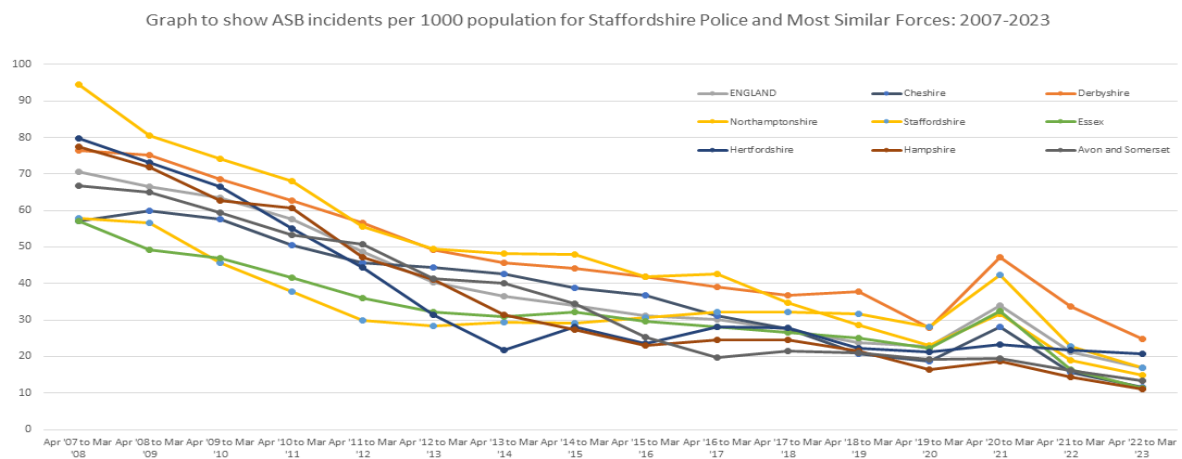
ASB is a priority for the Staffordshire Commissioner and local CSPs; the strategic approach led the Staffordshire Commissioner through an ASB Focus Group, reporting into the Community Safety Forum. Local experience, learning and actions are harnessed to prevent and address ASB; Space forms part of the delivery plan.

Most Similar Groups (MSGs) are groups of local areas that have been found to be the most similar to each other using statistical methods, based on demographic, economic and social characteristics which relate to crime. The following graphs shows Staffordshire incidents and incidents per 1000 population compared to their MSGs.

The graph below shows Staffordshire has moved from the 4th lowest in 2021/22 to the improved position of 3rd lowest ASB incidents in 2022/23.

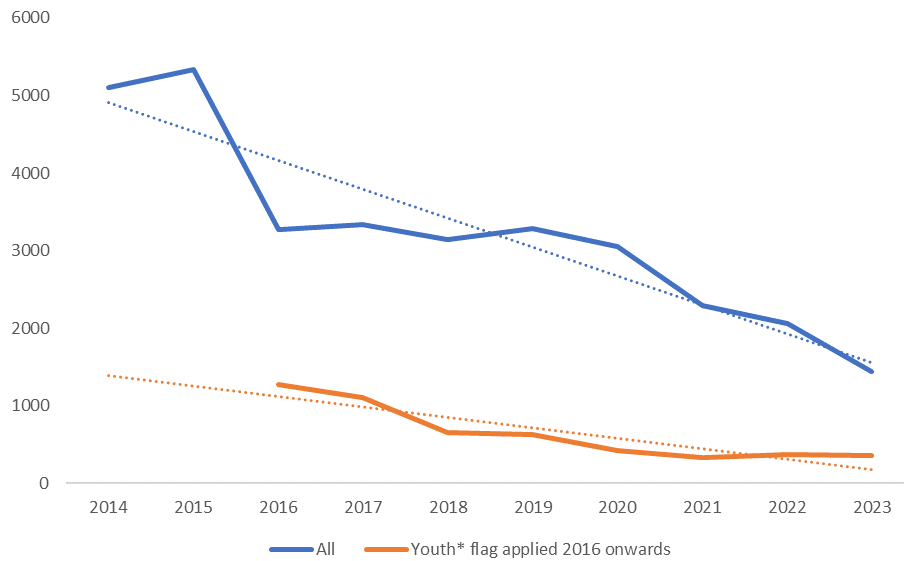


The graph below shows the number of incidents per 1000 population compared to Most Similar Forces. Staffordshire has moved from a position of 2nd highest in 2021/22 to the improved position of joint 3rd highest for 2022/23.



In 2016, Staffordshire Police introduced a 'youth related ASB qualifier' to calls for support and which has continued to be collected and monitored. This 'ASB youth marker' continues to be an effective tool to help ensure activities are provided within areas of highest levels of reported youth ASB. The data is also key to evaluating the effectiveness of outputs and considering reductions of reports to the police of youth related ASB. Previous Space reports have compared volumes of ASB during the school summer holidays against the same period in previous years.

Recorded ASB Incidents during Summer holidays (July and August)
from 2014 to 2023



Levels of youth related ASB in summer 2023 reduced by 21 incidents when compared with the same period last summer, there has been an overall 75% reduction in youth related ASB since 2016.

Table below: excerpt from analysis of Police data on Youth ASB reported in the school holidays compared with same period since 2016:

LPT	2016		2017		2018		2019		2020		2021		2022		2023		% Youth Change 2023-2016
	Youth Incidents	% Youth Change 2016-2015	Youth Incidents	% Youth Change 2017-2016	Youth Incidents	% Youth Change 2018-2017	Youth Incidents	% Youth Change 2019-2018	Youth Incidents	% Youth Change 2020-2019	Youth Incidents	% Youth Change 2021-2020	Youth Incidents	% Youth Change 2022-2021	Youth Incidents	% Youth Change 2022-2021	
SOT North LPT	243	-28.2%	174	-28.4%	92	-47.1%	65	-29.3%	62	-4.6%	51	-17.7%	68	33.3%	48	-29.4%	-80.2%
SOT South LPT	274	-23.5%	244	-10.9%	161	-34.0%	144	-10.6%	76	-47.2%	47	-38.2%	98	108.5%	69	-29.6%	-74.8%
Newcastle District LPT	164	-26.8%	147	-10.4%	69	-53.1%	91	31.9%	51	-44.0%	31	-39.2%	29	-6.5%	53	82.8%	-67.7%
East Staffs LPT	104	-42.9%	103	-1.0%	61	-40.8%	65	6.6%	48	-26.2%	50	4.2%	27	-46.0%	31	14.8%	-70.2%
Stafford Borough LPT	118	-14.9%	85	-28.0%	53	-37.6%	57	7.5%	40	-29.8%	49	22.5%	37	-24.5%	29	-21.6%	-75.4%
Cannock Chase LPT	101	-48.1%	102	1.0%	49	-52.0%	70	42.9%	33	-52.9%	29	-12.1%	32	10.3%	29	-9.4%	-71.3%
Tamworth LPT	84	-48.5%	60	-28.6%	36	-40.0%	34	-5.6%	29	-14.7%	19	-34.5%	12	-36.8%	20	66.7%	-76.2%
South Staffs LPT	97	-26.6%	61	-37.1%	34	-44.3%	39	14.7%	36	-7.7%	14	-61.1%	21	50.0%	14	-33.3%	-85.6%
Staffordshire Moorlands LPT	81	-31.9%	75	-7.4%	69	-8.0%	44	-36.2%	44	0.0%	25	-43.2%	29	16.0%	34	17.2%	-58.0%
Lichfield District LPT	129	-23.1%	59	-54.3%	36	-39.0%	43	19.4%	33	-23.3%	27	-18.2%	21	-22.2%	26	23.8%	-79.8%
Total	1395	-30.6%	1110	-20.4%	660	-40.5%	652	-1.2%	452	-30.7%	342	-24.3%	374	9.4%	353	-5.6%	-74.7%

Commissioners and Police recognise there is a spike in youth related ASB during the school summer holiday periods. Additionally, through further data analysis, the SCO recognises youth related ASB spikes are consistent with other school holiday periods such as Easter and Autumn half term (noting that data analysis is dependant on the accurate use of the youth qualifier by Staffordshire Police).



Helen Fisher, Deputy Commissioner (centre) photographed with Space Programme Partners.



Let's Fish Activity at Norbury Junction

4. Geographical Spend and Activities Funded

The following table shows how Space programme funding was allocated across the geography.

Area	Funding Allocation	Activities Provided	Comments/Narrative
Stoke-On-Trent	£44,979.91	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Doorstep Multi-sports. • Mobile Climbing Wall. • Leisure Centre Passes. • Outdoor Activities. • Community Fun Days. • Fishing. • Boxing. • Youth Activities. • Arts and Crafts. • DJing • Nature and Bush Craft. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allocation of £10k from FARS directed to City of Stoke-on-Trent to supplement SCO funding, due to high prevalence of youth related ASB. • Providers work well with targeted and universal cohort.
Staffordshire Moorlands	£15,812.50	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Doorstep Multi-sports. • Leisure Centre Passes. • Outdoor Activities. • Nature and Bush Craft. • Youth Activities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good range of providers and activities. • Providers work well with targeted and universal cohort
Lichfield	£17,538.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Doorstep Multi-sports. • Leisure Centre Passes. • Community Fun Days. • Arts and Crafts. • Youth Activities. • SEND Residential • Outdoor activities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good range of providers and activities. • Providers work well with targeted and universal cohort
South Staffordshire	£16,209.88	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leisure Centre Passes. • Fishing. • Nature and Bush Craft. • Youth Activities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South Staffs has struggled with quality and selection of providers to engage CYP and overcome geographical challenges. • Good progress made with use of leisure passes, fishing and nature, outdoor activities and youth activities.
Stafford	£16,777.88	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boxing. • Doorstep Multi-Sports. • Community Fun Days. • Swimming. • Racquet Sports. • Gym Passes. • Fishing. • Nature and Bush Craft. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leisure centre provider closed during 2020/21 due to COVID and still unable to support Space activities within the centres. • Other providers offered good quality, aiming to keeping ASB low. Providers work well with targeted and universal cohort.
Newcastle	£19,870.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leisure Centre Passes. • Doorstep Multi-sports. • Fishing. • Outdoor activities. • Comic Art. • Youth Activities. • Mobile Climbing Wall. • Trips out. • Trampolining. • Nature and Bush Craft. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good range of providers and activities. • Providers work well with targeted and universal cohort
Cannock	£16,478.88	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Doorstep Multi-sports. • Inflatable Games & Park Events. • Leisure Ct Passes/Mountain Biking • Fishing. • Mobile Climbing Wall. • Kayaking. • Nature and Bush Craft. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good range of providers and activities. • Providers work well with targeted and universal cohort

East Staffordshire	£14,281.88	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Doorstep Multi-sports. • Leisure Ct Passes. • Fishing. • Mobile Climbing Wall. • Summer School Activities and Learning. • Martial Arts. • Nature and Bush craft. • Youth Activities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good range of providers and activities. • Providers work well with targeted and universal cohort.
Tamworth	£15,153.88	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth Activities/Trips out. • Arts and crafts. • Urban Arts and breakdance. • Mobile Climbing Wall. • Trampolining. • Community Fundays and inflatables. • Nature and Bush Craft. • Fishing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tamworth's selection of providers was improved with the addition of Fun Club, Staffordshire Wildlife Trust, Canal and River Trust. • The area would benefit from at least one Leisure facility where swimming and other activities could be delivered for a reasonable cost, mirroring other areas where the very successful leisure pass is offered. • Providers worked well with targeted and universal cohort.
Staffordshire Youth Offending Service	£7,674.35	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climbing. • Team Building. • Water sports. • Fishing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staffordshire YOS utilised funding for their bespoke programme of diversion and positive activities for young people known to their service from across Staffordshire.
Stoke Youth Offending Service	£4,204.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outdoor Activity Team Building 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stoke-on-Trent YOS utilised funding for their bespoke programme of diversion and positive activities for young people known to their service from across Stoke on Trent.
TOTAL	£188,981.14		
*Some providers weren't able to utilise all of their allocations creating an underspend of £3,884.16			

5. Output, Funding Allocation and Cost Saving Comparisons

Attendees by Area and Costs

The following table shows funding allocations and the number of attendees per area, split by cohort.

Area	SCO Funding	Targeted Attendees	Universal Attendees	Total Attendees
Stoke-On-Trent	£49,183.91	2675	-	2,675
Staffordshire Moorlands	£15,812.50	548	437	985
Lichfield	£17,538.00	767	548	1,315
South Staffordshire	£16,209.88	410	966	1,376
Stafford	£16,777.88	304	104	408
Newcastle	£19,870.00	269	407	676
Cannock	£16,478.88	411	44	455
East Staffordshire	£14,281.88	751	-	751
Tamworth	£15,153.88	821	131	952

Staffordshire YOS	£7,674.35	42	-	42
Totals	£188,981.14	6,998	2,637	9,635

The table below shows a breakdown of the 6,998 targeted young people and a comparison with previous years.

Targeted Cohort	Space 2020	Space 2021	Space 2022	Space 2023
Targeted Area	651	2205	6198	5853
YOS	15	235	112	240
BRFC/LST/Early Help	11	46	137	116
Pupil Referral Unit	7	3	-	7
Looked After Children	74	28	72	33
Disability	90	110	121	217
ASB	305	876	587	246
CAHMS	12	14	21	46
Free School Meals	208	237	373	130
Other	20	121	299	110
Total	1,393	3,875	7,721	6,998

Annual Cost Comparison

The table below shows the cost of provision since the start of the programme. Costs have fluctuated each year due to various variables such as 2020/21 costs were higher and attendance number lower due to the impact of COVID restrictions. However, it is considered to be a good invest to save scheme.

Narrative	Space 2015	Space 2016	Space 2017	Space 2018	Space 2019	Space 2020	Space 2021	Space 2022	Space 2023
Target Audience/ Allocation of Spend	Local Discretion to include Targeted Cohort	30% SCO Targeted Cohort Max 70% Universal Cohort	30% SCO Targeted Cohort Max 70% Universal Cohort	30% SCO Targeted Cohort Max 70% Universal Cohort	30% SCO Targeted Cohort Max 70% Universal Cohort	30% SCO Targeted Cohort Max 70% Universal Cohort	30% SCO Targeted Cohort Max 70% Universal Cohort	30% SCO Targeted Cohort Max 70% Universal Cohort	30% SCO Targeted Cohort Max 70% Universal Cohort
Recorded Attendances on SCO funded activities	13,388	12,432	18,101	30,110	38,322 (68,361)hrs (15,812 vps) (8,151 targeted vps)	4,715 (14,225)hrs (2,301 vps) (1,393 targeted vps)	17,625 (35,333)hrs (6,042 vps) (3,875 targeted vps)	21,786 (47,391)hrs (10,994 vps) (7,721 targeted vps)	22,218 (43,848)hrs (9,635 vps) (6,998 Targeted vps)
SCO Funded Activities	246	1,114	657	847	1055	500	1492	2365	2437
Non SCO Funded Activities	340	1,968	1572	731	379		199	170	152
SCO Funding	£127,053.76	£139,297.41	£133,546.45	£159,465.15	£167,627.77	£83,453.93	£174,704.60	£172,488.26	£185,615.84
FARS Funding				£6,780.00	£7,145.00	£7,500	£8,000	£10,000	£10,000
Other Funding				£10,050.00 (Dfe)	£39,743.90 (Dfe)			£1,900 (Local S-O-T Businesses)	
Total Funding				£176,295.15	£223,971.43	£90,953.93	£182,704.60	£182,488.26	£195,615.84
Average Attendance Cost	£9.49	£11.20	£7.37	£5.85	£5.84(per attendance) £3.27(per hour attendance)	£19.29(per attendance) £6.39(per hour attendance)	£9.91(per attendance) £4.94(per hour attendance)	£7.88(per attendance) £3.63(per hour attendance)	£8.84(per attendance) £4.46(per hour attendance)

Staffordshire ASB incidents have been reducing year on year since 2016 and is show in Chart 1 below.

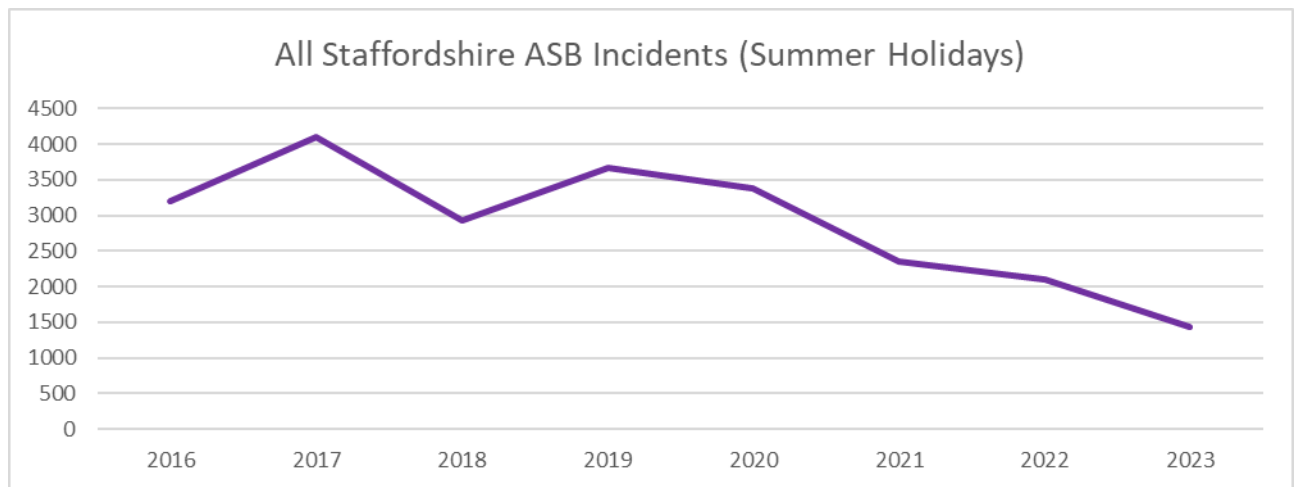


Chart 1: Graph to show downward trend in all ASB Incidents over the Summer Holidays in Staffordshire

The reducing ASB trend has been used to estimate youth ASB incident volume over time without SPACE intervention. This is shown by the yellow line in Chart 2 below. However, there has been additional reduction across youth ASB incidents as demonstrated by the orange line. This additional reduction could be attributed to the work of the SPACE program.

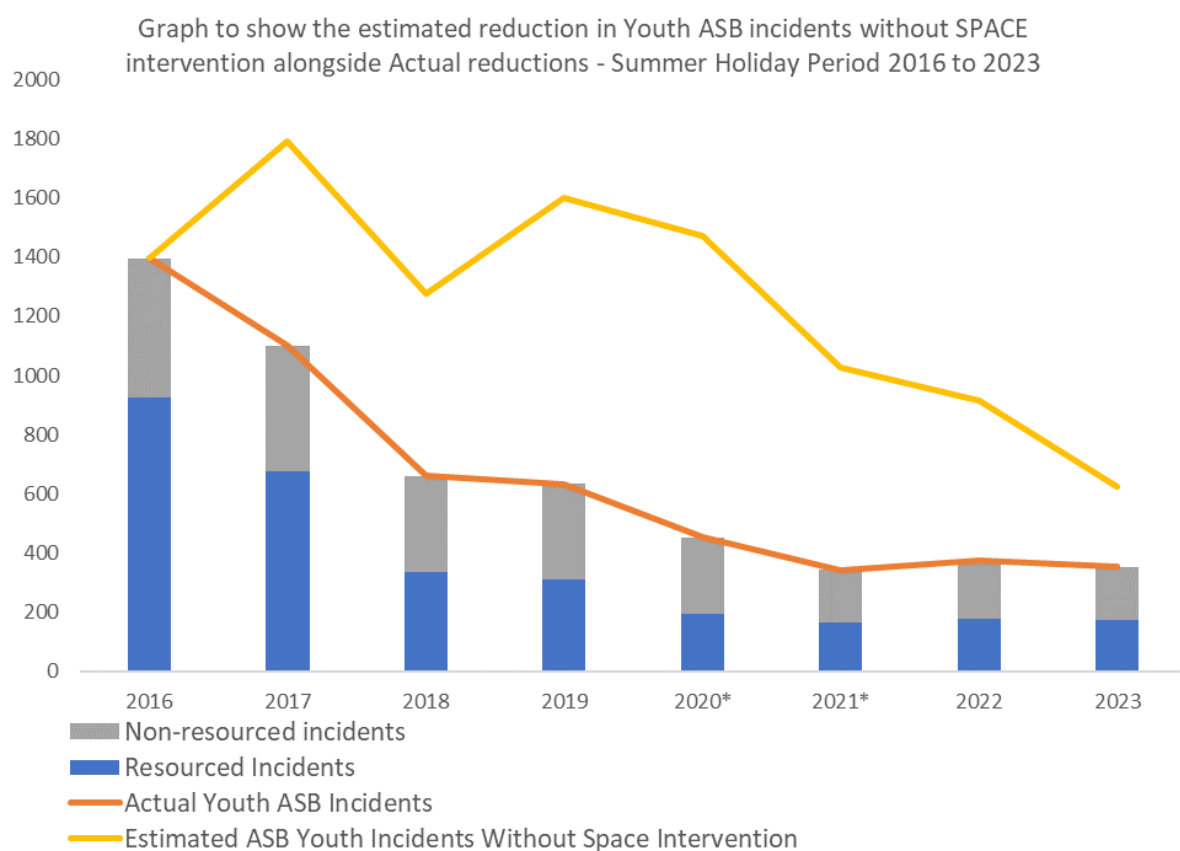


Chart 2: Graph to show additional reduction in Youth ASB Incidents over the Summer Holidays compared to estimate

Since the Space programme has been running over the period 2016 – 2023, cost savings can be estimated using benchmark costings* from 2019 (with inflationary increases). Chart 3 below shows estimated savings from the reductions in Police not having to respond to youth ASB incidents:

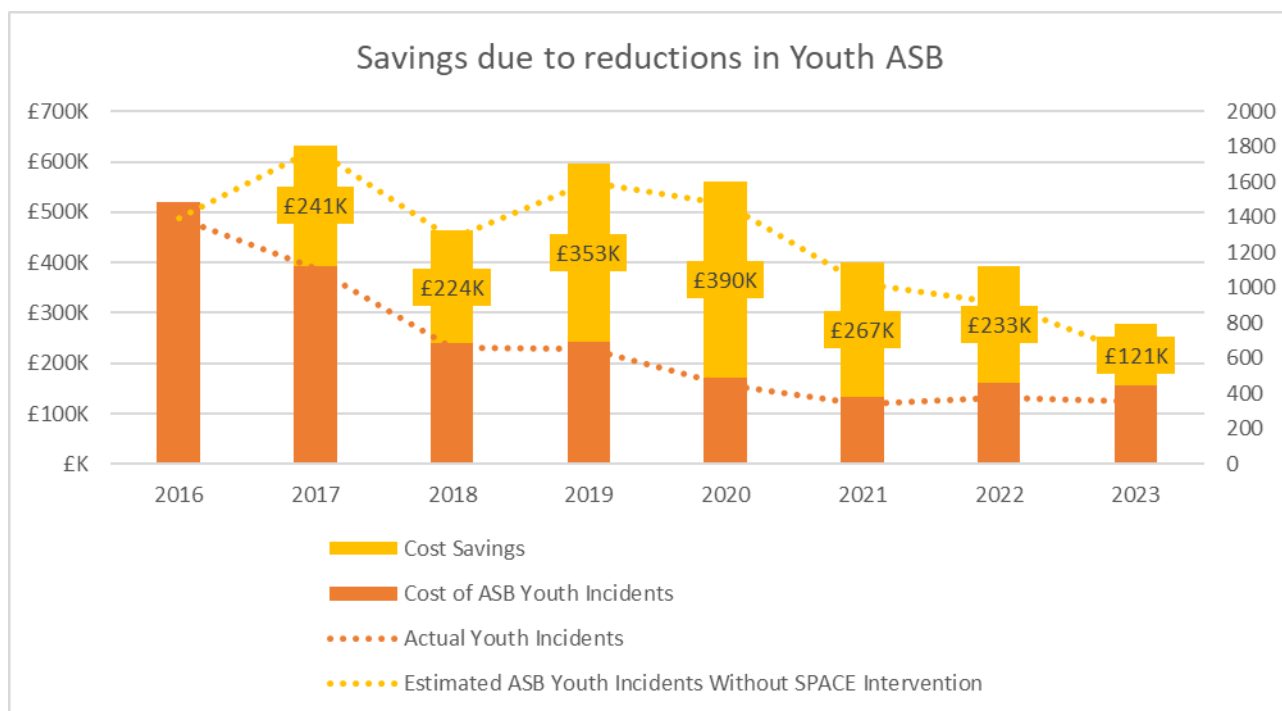


Chart 3: Graph to show Savings attributed to SPACE Intervention

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Total
Actual Youth Incidents	1395	1110	660	652	452	342	374	353	5338
Estimated ASB Youth Incidents	1395	1790	1278	1600	1474	1026	915	626	10104
Actual Vs Estimate	-	-38%	-48%	-59%	-69%	-67%	-59%	-44%	-47%
Cost of ASB Youth Incidents	£519K	£393K	£239K	£243K	£172K	£134K	£161K	£156K	£2.02 M
Cost Savings	-	£241K	£224K	£353K	£390K	£267K	£233K	£121K	£1.83 M

Table 1: Accompanying Data table for Chart 3

These cost savings can also be considered with the combined benefits of reduced calls to the local authority and housing providers. Reductions in ASB incidents is likely to reduce impact on victims and associated demand for services such as victim support and mental health.

Space has also used a Social Return Calculator shared with us by Cheshire Police and a Housing Provider. The Social Return Calculator presented cost benefits associated with young people gaining confidence, improving mental and physical health. The Cheshire project generated a total Social Return on Investment (SROI) of £2,173,529 from their investment of £3,000 (including funding and staff time). This equates to a SROI ratio of 1:725, which means that for every £1 spent they received £725 back in outcome value.

Following the same methodology if the Space cost benefit is also 1:725 then the Space programme has generated an approximate social return value of £141.8M for Summer 2023.

6. Website and Marketing Analysis

The Space programme was marketed via various means including a standalone website (www.staffordshire.space.uk) and through social media; Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

Participants were able to review activities within their geographical location on the website, identify the provider, any specific requirements related to the event and book a place. Viewers could also choose to receive Space website updates, including any future announcements, direct to their email address.

The website Continues to promote activities and to provide safety advice for young people including promotion of the Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Safeguarding Teams 'Be Wise' campaign, the NSPCC's Childline helpline number and useful advice and the Safe and Sound [Safe+Sound \(staffordshirefire.gov.uk\)](http://Safe+Sound(staffordshirefire.gov.uk)) online platform produced and funded by FARS and links to the Staffordshire County Council's 'Knowaboutcse' website, which aims to educate and prevent child sexual exploitation.

Social Media and email campaign activity between 26th July and 14th September:

Facebook

- Space 2023 Facebook Page Followers: **8,373 (32.5% Increase from last year)**
- Space 2023 highest event reach of **26,712** General ad for ASM Sports provider
- Space 2023 total event reach: **363,594**

Instagram

- Space 2023 Instagram Followers: 612 **(71% Increase from last year)**

Twitter X

- Space 2023 Twitter Followers: 935 **(4.5% Increase from last year)**

Email Campaign: All Systems Go For Space 2023!

- Sent to 6,814 subscribers

7. Feedback

Participants, parents, guardians and carers were encouraged to provide feedback through the Space website. Responses were considerably lower (17) for 2023 compared to the previous year (146). On the whole respondents were satisfied with their experience. 17 respondents answered 6 questions:

Question	Answer True	Answer Not Sure	Answer False
The activity was what I thought it would be	15	1	1
I felt involved in the	15	1	1
I learnt or did something new	12	4	1
I want to do this again	15	1	1
Taking part made me feel happier	15	1	1
I would do this activity again	15	1	1

Some constructive feedback was received in relation to one parent who only found out about activities in their areas at the end of the holiday period. Space planning will consider wider publicity and strive to get information to parents with as longer lead in as possible too. Another parent fed back about not being happy with the quality of one of the activities which will be discussed and reviewed with the provider identified.



Deputy Commissioner Helen Fisher at Hitmix Radio activity in Hanley Park Space Launch event.

8. Recommendations

- A. Facilitate Expression of Interest exercise for new and existing Space Providers aimed at adding to the range of activities available to engage all young people especially in areas in need of provision.
- B. Continue to scope delivery areas utilising police data and new intelligence products to map hotspot areas.
- C. Engage and consult with young people with support from parents and stakeholders to identify any key issues and concerns that inform types of activities, where, when and who etc.
- D. Maintain publicity and promotion and explore new opportunities for marketing in line with trends / mechanisms used by young people
- E. Commissioner's Office along with providers and partners will strive to have as longer lead time as possible to enable effective promotion and publicity of activities for young people, parents, guardians and carers

9. Case Studies

England Boxer welcomed as latest Space Champion

The Space programme, was delighted to announce its latest 'Champion' – local 18-year-old boxer Amy Nolan. In 2018, at the age of 13, Amy attended her first summer Space programme session in the Stafford Right Stuff Boxing Gym, having joined the Right Stuff Project nine months earlier.

While taking part in the sessions and working towards her national boxing qualifications, Amy disclosed to her coach, Andy Whitehall MBE, that she was experiencing difficulties at home. Thanks to the club's involvement, Amy was able to move to a new home and provided with additional support.

In 2019, Amy returned to the Space programme to train as a boxing tutor, which resulted in her joining the Right Stuff Coaching team and delivering training to over 100 young people. Although her personal circumstances had improved a lot by this time, Amy disclosed that she had an eating disorder which had developed because of her traumatic domestic situation.

Amy has returned to the Space programme every summer, helping hundreds of young people to experience the very best of Space – a happy, safe environment to help them learn something new, get fit and feel supported. Her unique life experiences, combined with attending trauma-informed practice and mental health support training, have given her an amazing skillset helping her to connect with and support young people who have, and who are experiencing, trauma in their lives.

Amy's boxing career has gone from strength to strength and she has since taken part in over 45 boxing contests. In 2023 she won a Youth National Title and was selected to box for England, winning the Box Am Tournament in Spain in May 2023. Amy is also studying A-level Chemistry, Mathematics and Psychology, and passed her driving test earlier this year. She looked forward to Space 2023 and being able to deliver sessions independently. Long term, Amy hopes to be selected for Team GB, go to university and box in the Olympics.

Staffordshire Commissioner for Police, Fire & Rescue and Crime, Ben Adams said: "I am absolutely delighted to have Amy on board as a Space Champion.

“Amy embodies everything that we aim to achieve from the Space programme and we are proud to have played a small part in helping her achieve her dreams.

“Space is all about providing an opportunity for Staffordshire Police and partners to engage with young people who may be going through a difficult time to help nurture, support and develop them.

“Hearing Amy’s story confirms that Space is making a real difference to the lives of our young people and I hope to hear many more stories of growth and determination. Having Amy championing Space can only be positive for the programme.”

Amy said: “Space has been a big part of my life every Summer, in fact it’s been life changing. Its set me on a different path, a path of hope and self-worth. I love coaching and being able to give to others what it gave to me.”



Space Champion Amy Nolan pictured with Youth National Title Belt and England Boxing CEO

Chesterton & Kidsgrove Families and Communities Programme

Space supported Staffordshire County Council's Families and Communities Team to deliver a Child Exploitation programme in Chesterton and Kidsgrove. Space enabled the Families and Communities Team to link with partners and providers and provide funding for activities aimed at the focused cohorts.

The plan revolved around engaging children and young people, many of whom had been highlighted by Police colleagues as being involved in ASB, exploitative behaviours or serious youth violence. The project focussed upon two key geographical locations, Chesterton and Kidsgrove; both of these areas fit under the umbrella of Newcastle Borough Council, and Newcastle District of Staffordshire Local Authority.

Many of the children the project was seeking to engage were known to have poor school attendance, special educational needs, and lack of agency involvement. As a result, services have found it increasingly difficult to engage them in organised activities. Given the lack of community oversight of these children, and early intervention, the Families and Communities Teams planned to complete outreach work over the summer holidays to better understand their daily lived experiences, in a supportive manner rather than punitive approach. To achieve this, the team needed to engage the children in their own community spaces, with a focus on engaging them in the activities available through SPACE, as well as ad hoc activities, in partnership with local partners.

Sessions were held almost daily, primarily in the evenings, supported by 2 members of staff from the Local Authority who have an interest and skills in supporting young people susceptible from issues such as ASB, exploitation and offending. The first two weeks were relationship building sessions, drawing upon the introduction of weekly sessions with a local youth activity provider (which continued throughout the project). The provision funded via the 'Turnaround Programme' and climbing wall activities funded through SPACE, allowed a large number of young people to engage with staff at the same time, building trust.

Over the course of the school summer holiday period, approximately 110 children and young people were engaged in activities across the 2 areas. Data suggested either a small reduction or parity of incidents (compared with previous years) of ASB reported to Police, involving children and young people within these areas over the holiday period. Direct feedback from Police colleagues, who worked alongside Local Authority staff, shared timetables to allow single points of contact for the sessions. Feedback from these professionals was that the programme aided them in helping to build their own relationships with the children as well as understanding who they were, what they liked to do and see the children on a personal level rather than solely on punitive one.

During the course of the holidays additional sessions that were organised by SPACE included multi-sports, fishing, football sessions and matchday experience at Port Vale FC, weekly DJ sessions, Kidsgrove rugby club training session, pizza takeaway nights and summer barbeque. The feedback from young people and their parents was hugely positive with all asking whether the programme would be repeated.

The programme was considered a great success overall, demonstrating great engagement with young people in their own spaces by skilled members of the team and providers; building relationships with the whole family; enabling prevention and earliest help and will be considered again for next summer with the aim of attracting greater numbers.

Team Manager – Newcastle Assessment & Staying Together Team.