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Monday	Tuesday
Afterschool Club - 4-5pm Youth Club - 6:30-8:30pm Cockerton Youth Club - 5:30-7:30pm	CLOSED
Wednesday	Thursday
Youth Club - 6:30-8:30pm	Youth Club - 6:30-8:30pm Boys Gym Session 7-8pm
Friday	Saturday
Home Ed - 1-3pm Afterschool Club - 4-6pm Youth Club - 6:30-8:30pm Girls Gym Session - 7-8pm	CLOSED
Sunday	
Eastbourne Youth Club 3-5pm Youth Club - 6:30-8:30pm	

✨ Happy New Year from The Haven! ✨

We're excited to be back with our latest quarterly newsletter! So much has happened at The Haven over the past three months, and we're thrilled to share our updates with you. As we step into 2026, our focus is on growing, connecting, and creating even more opportunities for young people in the Darlington community.

The Haven's Official Opening Event



We were delighted to host the official opening of The Haven Youth Project, marking an exciting milestone for our service and the young people we support. The event was officially opened by the Mayor of Darlington, Sonia Kane, who cut the ribbon and helped celebrate this special occasion.

Throughout the event, professionals had the opportunity to speak with staff and tour the facilities, gaining a firsthand insight into the welcoming and supportive environment The Haven provides. Visitors were also fortunate to meet with the young people who attend The Haven, who spoke confidently about what they enjoy about their space and why it is important to them.

The day highlighted the positive impact The Haven has on young people and the value of creating a space where they feel safe, heard, and supported. We would like to thank everyone who attended and helped make the opening such a memorable and successful event.



Halloween Half Term!



Halloween half term arrived, and it was certainly one to remember, with a packed programme of activities both at the club and out in the great outdoors.

Throughout the week, young people took part in a wide range of exciting experiences, including mountain biking, a walk in the Lake District, a trip to the farm, and rock climbing. These activities provided fantastic opportunities for adventure, teamwork, and trying something new.

We couldn't round off such a jam-packed week without a Halloween party to finish things off in style. The celebration included plenty of treats, party games, and a lively fancy-dress competition. It was wonderful to see staff members come together to support the event, with everyone — whether on duty or not — making a real effort to join in and help create a fun, inclusive atmosphere. It was a brilliant week filled with laughter, memories, and shared experiences, and a perfect example of how activities like these help young people build confidence, friendships, and lasting memories.

Working together...



We were delighted to support Little Treasures Autism Charity after they reached out to us in search of a suitable venue to host their Christmas party. When asked if they could use The Haven, our response was simple — absolutely.

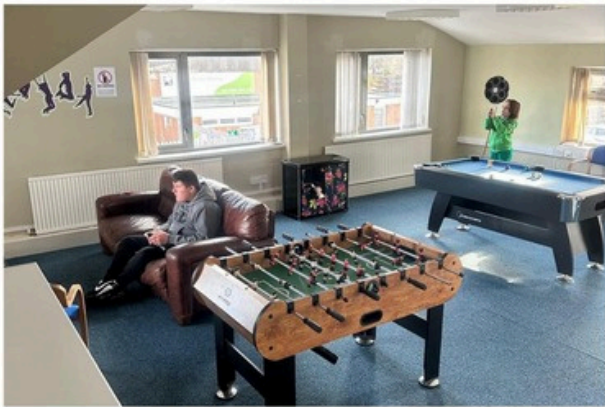
It was a real pleasure to see so many children and families enjoying the festive celebrations, filling the space with joy, laughter, and Christmas cheer. The event showcased how important accessible, inclusive venues are for families and community groups.

We are pleased to share that Little Treasures enjoyed the space so much that they will now be holding their monthly sessions at The Haven. We look forward to welcoming them regularly and continuing to support the invaluable work they do with children and families.





Partnership with Parent Carer Forum



Family drop in
Saturdays, 10-11:30am.

- 10th January, 2026
- 7th February, 2026
- 7th March, 2026
- 21st March, 2026
- 25th April, 2026
- 9th May, 2026
- 23rd May, 2026
- 6th June, 2026
- 20th June, 2026
- 4th July, 2026

Darlington Parent Carer Forum, in partnership with Tees Valley YMCA, are excited to offer a welcoming weekend drop-in space for parents carers and children!

The Haven, Aspen house, Chestnut Street D11 1QL.

We have recently launched our Family Drop-In sessions in partnership with Darlington Parent Carer Forum, and they have already been a great success. The sessions run once a fortnight during term time and provide a relaxed, welcoming space for families to come together.

Parents and carers are able to access peer support, connect with other parent carers, and share experiences in a supportive environment. At the same time, children can socialise with others, build connections, or simply enjoy spending time in a different and inclusive setting. Each drop-in session is supported by a familiar member of staff from The Haven, helping to provide continuity and reassurance. This consistent presence means that, should any young people wish to attend The Haven Youth Project in the future, they will already recognise a friendly face, helping to make the transition feel comfortable and positive.

News from Cockerton Youth Club

We are delighted to share some fantastic news from Cockerton Youth Club. Thanks to funding from the Durham Police and Crime Commissioner, we recently received an exciting delivery of new resources for our sessions.

The young people thoroughly enjoyed unboxing the new items during last night's session, creating even more opportunities to connect with one another, have fun, and take part in a wider range of activities. We are incredibly grateful for this support. These new resources will make a real and lasting difference, enhancing the experience for the young people who attend the club both now and in the future.



Working with Youth Focus



Thanks to funding support, young people from Tees Valley YMCA worked alongside Youth Focus to create Christmas Eve gift bags for children and young people staying on the children's ward at Darlington Memorial Hospital.

The young people thoroughly enjoyed putting the bags together, taking care to include thoughtful items and writing heartfelt cards to help bring some festive cheer to those spending Christmas in hospital. Their kindness and creativity truly shone throughout the project.

We were delighted to deliver the gift packs, knowing they would bring comfort, joy, and a smile to children and young people during the festive period. We are incredibly proud of everyone involved and grateful for their enthusiasm and generosity in making a positive difference in the community.

Christmas Celebrations



We were delighted to celebrate our first Christmas at The Haven, made possible by the incredible generosity of our local community. Thanks to kind donations from One Stop on Nickstream Lane, we were able to support young people who attend both The Haven and Cockerton Youth Club during the festive period.

Staff members, along with their family members, came together to cook a delicious Christmas dinner, giving young people the opportunity to sit around the table, enjoy a warm meal, and share in the festive atmosphere together.

We were also extremely grateful to receive donations of selection boxes from Lidl Yarm Road and Briggall Moor Premier Shop, which helped to make the day extra special for everyone involved.

A huge thank you to all those who donated and supported us — your kindness helped make the young people's first Christmas at The Haven truly memorable.



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