

So you think you know Toby's?

Toby's Young Peoples Project is so much more than just a youth club. It is open in the evenings as a social meeting place for young people aged between 13 and 25. There is the opportunity to have skating sessions, take part in the Duke of Edinburgh Award, and use the music studio in the basement. There are also One2One sessions if you want to talk about anything.

Should any parent wish to know more about the youth club side of Toby's, they are more than welcome to make contact or come and look round and see the project for what it really is.

All this happens in the evenings, but during the day time Toby's becomes a completely different place.

Toby's is here to help young people. Its qualified professionals provide support, help and guidance to young people in the area between the ages of 15 and 25. Whether this support is needed for help with benefits problems or housing issues, Toby's can help. They have links within the community to Connexions (a careers advice service for young people) as well as a service called Pre E2E which enrolls young people onto a training program with the aim of getting them into further education or employment. Toby's doesn't just tell you the people to talk to about your career; they provide the training to get you on your way there.

Toby's also provides help with more difficult and personal problems. If a young person finds themselves without somewhere to live, the staff at Toby's will do their best to help find a solution of some kind. There is a washing machine and shower on site for those who need it, and help can be given with finding food. Their fully trained and qualified counsellors listen to problems about drugs, sexual health, contraception and alcohol and do their very best to help. If Toby's can't help a young person themselves, they know a man who can.

Toby's supports a young parents group on a Wednesday at the Children's Centre where Mums and Dads can come round and learn some parenting skills, or just meet other young people in the same situation. This invaluable service provides skills to parents which will in turn increase their confidence at doing a good job of raising their child.

On a Friday night the Toby's Outreach Project goes out on the streets of Shaftesbury getting young people involved in activities and giving out information.

The coffee bar at Toby's is open Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 10 – 4.30 and provides a safe warm environment for those looking for it. The opportunity is there for to talk to someone or just chill out, whatever you want to do, Toby's will support you.

All this happens at Toby's location on Bimport, but Toby's takes things further.

Over the summer, Toby's tries to organise a summer camp for young people who might not otherwise have the opportunity to go away. With funding from the local community and the council, Toby's gives young people the chance to get away over the summer and have fun with their friends.

Every other year Toby's takes a group of young people abroad to mix with other youngsters from 8 other countries. This allows young people to mix with people they might not have the opportunity to do otherwise and experience new things.

It is impossible to get down on paper all the things Toby's can do. Needless to say it changes the lives of young people and supports them for as long as they want. Toby's will help provide support themselves, but will also direct young people to the service they need. Whether it is the job centre or the council, Toby's knows the number and the name of the people you need.

Toby's is run by fully qualified professionals with the highest level of police clearance. We have a highly skilled and committed staff who give up their day times and evenings to help the young people of Shaftesbury. The project relies entirely on donations and grants and makes all their activity days, local trips, and international trips either free or at a very low cost for those involved.

Should you wish to find out more about Toby's, you can contact them in one of the following ways...

By post –

Toby's Young Peoples Project
1 Bimport
Shaftesbury
Dorset
SP7 8AT

By email –

TobysYPP@googlemail.com or visit the website – www.Tobysproject.co.uk

By phone –

(01747) 850860

Now you know a bit more about Toby's Young Peoples Project, it is hoped you will continue to provide with them your unwavering support. Without your support, Toby's wouldn't be here. Thank you.