



ANNUAL

REVIEW

2024

Funded by



**Royal Air Force
Benevolent Fund**

Delivered by

YMCA

Supported by

**ROYAL
AIR FORCE
COMMUNITY
SUPPORT**

The Fund's flagship programme supporting young people in the RAF Community



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ABOUT AIRPLAY



Airplay is the RAF Benevolent Fund's flagship youth support programme for children and young people in RAF families.

The programme is delivered by a consortium of YMCA across England, Wales, and Scotland in conjunction with RAF Community Support at each site.

Airplay sets out to fulfil the vision of the RAF Benevolent Fund that everyone in our RAF family gets support in their hour of need. It does this by creating a community where young people can belong, contribute, and thrive and develop their full potential in body, mind, and spirit.

Young people in RAF families face a unique set of challenges, often experiencing frequent change of home, school, and friendship groups.

Additionally, there is the challenge that comes with having parents out of area for long periods or on overseas deployment.

Airplay is now in its fifteenth year, supporting young people through these challenges by providing safe, consistent, and exciting play and youth work activities across 24 RAF Stations and online through Airplay Connect. Wherever a member's journey takes them, Airplay is there to provide much needed continuity and a trained team of supportive and fun youth workers.



PLEDGE

We pledge to provide:

Groups where you feel you **BELONG**

Opportunities for you to **CONTRIBUTE**

Support that empowers you to **THRIVE**

Activities that enable you to **CONNECT**





WELCOME FROM SIMON



Royal Air Force
Benevolent Fund

This year, we celebrate the 15th anniversary of the Fund's Airplay and Ben Club youth support programmes. I am incredibly proud of their lasting impact.

Whilst the Royal Air Force is busier than ever in operations both at home and overseas, the Fund continues to adapt our support for serving families, recognising the evolving challenges they may face. Airplay remains a valuable and positive lifeline for parents, children and young people.

The support provided by Station Youth Workers across the RAF is consistently outstanding. Airplay is more than just a programme; it's a supportive space where young people can connect, flourish, building confidence and resilience while embracing the strong sense of community that comes with RAF life.

In 2024, Airplay supported 2,169 children and young people across 24 RAF Stations, delivering over 7000 hours of activities. We invested over £1.2 million in grants to enable consistent delivery of Airplay activity throughout the year. These investments are crucial in ensuring our approach to supporting young people remains vibrant, relevant, and impactful.

Looking ahead, I am excited about the future of Airplay and the opportunity to hear from our young people at the Airplay Youth Forum later in the year, to gain new insights to help us improve and evolve their programme.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to One YMCA for their exceptional partnership over the past four years.

Air Commodore Simon Harper
Director Operations



WELCOME FROM GUY



Here for young people
Here for communities
Here for you

This year saw the Airplay Programme grow once again with more members attending sessions. A 5% increase in the number of young people attending Airplay in 2024 demonstrates that face-to-face activities and clubs remain hugely popular and important for young people even in a digital age.

Looking across the wider context of youth work in the UK I am reminded how fortunate we are to be part of a programme that has been able to provide consistent support to young people for so long. Now entering its 15th year, Airplay has become part of the fabric of the RAF community. Some members have been attending Airplay for over 8 years and youth workers have been alongside them, providing a safe space, and listening ear, through childhood and adolescence. We are also delighted to see our members come back to join our teams as youth workers as they enter into young adulthood.

Huge gratitude goes out to the RAF Benevolent Fund for the legacy they have created through their continued commitment and investment in children and young people from RAF families.

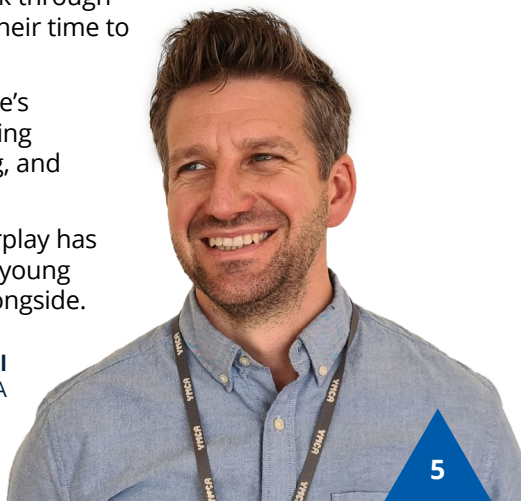
Airplay is able to make such a difference to young people because of the dedication and collaboration of staff and volunteers from the RAF Community Support teams and YMCAs. They truly go the extra mile to provide exciting opportunities and activities for our Airplay members.

I was again delighted to see how youth-led initiatives, like the Special Projects Fund and Youth Forums have empowered young people to be at the heart of decision making. Equally it has been inspiring to hear about how young people are giving back through becoming Young Leaders and volunteering their time to the Airplay community.

I particularly enjoyed this year's Young People's Awards, with over 180 nominations recognising members for their social action, volunteering, and outstanding contributions.

This Annual Review celebrates the impact Airplay has had in 2024 and showcases the outstanding young people we have had the pleasure to work alongside.

Guy Foxell
Chief Executive Officer One YMCA





LOCATIONS

ONE YMCA

RAF Benson
RAF Brize Norton
MOD Boscombe Down
RAF Cosford
RAF High Wycombe
(including Medmenham)
RAF Halton
RAF Henlow
RAF Odiham
RAF Valley
RAF Shawbury
RAF St Mawgan

YMCA TRINITY

RAF Honington
RAF Wittering
RAF Wyton

YMCA LINCOLNSHIRE

RAF Coningsby
RAF Cranwell
RAF Digby
RAF Waddington
(including Scampton)

YMCA NORTHUMBERLAND

RAF Boulmer

YMCA NORTH TYNESIDE

RAF Leeming

YMCA SCOTLAND

RAF Lossiemouth

YMCA NORFOLK

RAF Marham

YMCA ST PAUL'S GROUP

RAF Northolt



2024 KEY STATS



2,169

children and young
people actively engaged
in Airplay activities



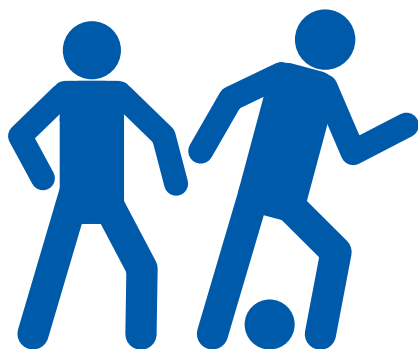
3,856

sessions delivered



7,053

hours of activities



39,773

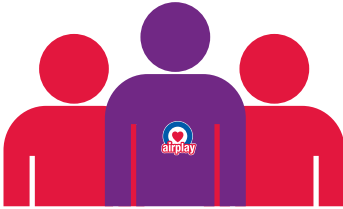
attendances at
Airplay activities

290

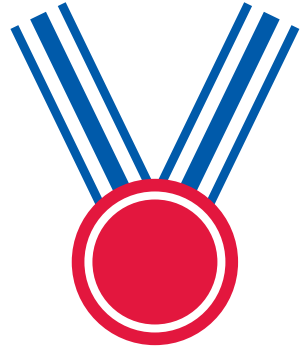


**youth forums empowering
members to have their
voices heard**

27



**Young leaders graduated from
our Young Leader Programme**

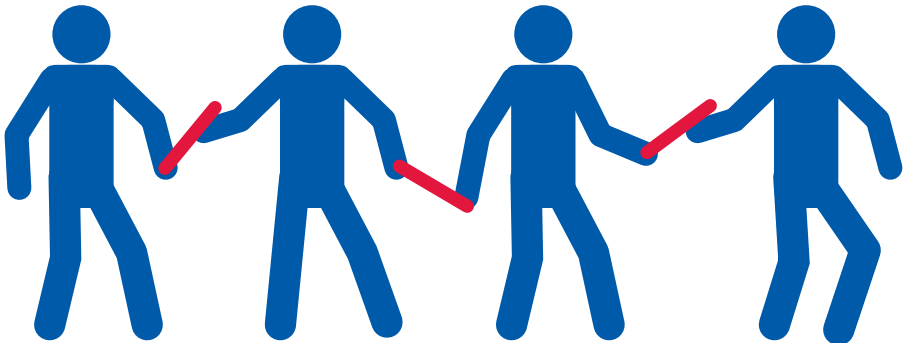


84

**members
nominated
for an Airplay
Youth Award**

1,849

**miles travelled by Airplay members to raise
funds for the RAFBF through the Airplay Relay**



KEY AIM 1

BELONG



// At Airplay, you can be yourself and have fun. It has a good atmosphere."

Airplay Member , age 12
RAF Wyton

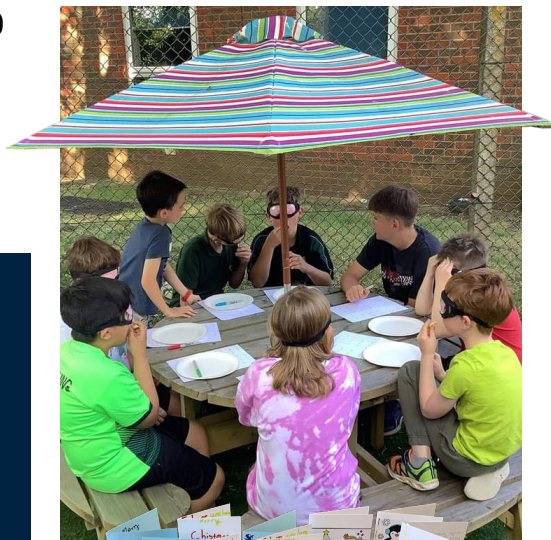
In 2024, Airplay provided groups where young people could belong. Airplay provided over 2,000 members a safe space to be themselves, and dedicated youth workers to talk to.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

96% of parents agree that Airplay provides their child with somewhere they feel that they belong.

Members rated Airplay a **4.6** out of **5**.

98% of members feel that Airplay provides them with somewhere to go that they feel safe.



Be Myself

Airplay supports young people to be themselves and develop their understanding of others.

LOCAL EXAMPLES

Airplay projects used the festive period to develop their understanding of others and positively engage with wider community groups. Airplay Coningsby's senior members organised and hosted a Ben Club Christmas tea party, complete with bouncy castle. Meanwhile, Airplay High Wycombe got creative, making stunning Christmas cards to share with veterans in their local area.

Airplay Valley members participated in discussions and games focused on equality, trust, and kindness, helping young people understand themselves and others. This process strengthened connections, fostered positive relationships, and created a supportive, inclusive community.

99% of members agree that at Airplay they feel accepted and can be themselves

// Such wonderful Airplay staff who provide a warm and welcoming place for children to be themselves."

Parent, RAF Marham



Young People Feel Safe

Airplay provides a safe space for members to attend and delivers activities that help young people to keep themselves safe.

LOCAL EXAMPLES

Members at Airplay Odiham took part in online safety skills workshops. This included an informative quiz and "detox" sessions where they took intentional breaks from screens.

Airplay Halton celebrated World Kindness Day by creating self-portraits and sharing kind messages. Young people earned heart stickers for their kind actions, with a prize awarded to the person with the most stickers, promoting a supportive, positive environment.

99% of members feel that Airplay is a safe space for them

// I feel so safe, and the staff understand me when I am struggling with my autism. I have such a special bond with the staff."

Airplay Member, RAF Honington



Belong Case Study

MACEY

Macey, 14, and her family moved to Cosford in spring. On arrival, Dad reached out to the Airplay team for support. Although Macey's younger sister had attended Ben Club at their previous station, Macey had struggled and hadn't felt able to attend. To help Macey feel more comfortable the Cosford Airplay team invited the family to meet the youth workers, take a tour of the building, and chat through how they could support her to try out a session. Getting to know more about Macey's specific needs including her diagnosis of epilepsy, autism and cognitive developmental delay, they agreed that Macey would try out a session at the quieter of the junior sessions.

Macey was excited to attend the first session, and the team paired her with one of the older, regular members to provide some extra support. She also received her Airplay hoodie, helping her to feel part of the group and creating that sense of belonging.

“The kids that come to the group are allowed to be themselves and are recognised for being different. Macey turns up with her phone and noise cancelling headphones and might only say ‘hi’ occasionally, or sometimes she’ll want to play board games. Being around people that understand is so important.”

Macey's Dad

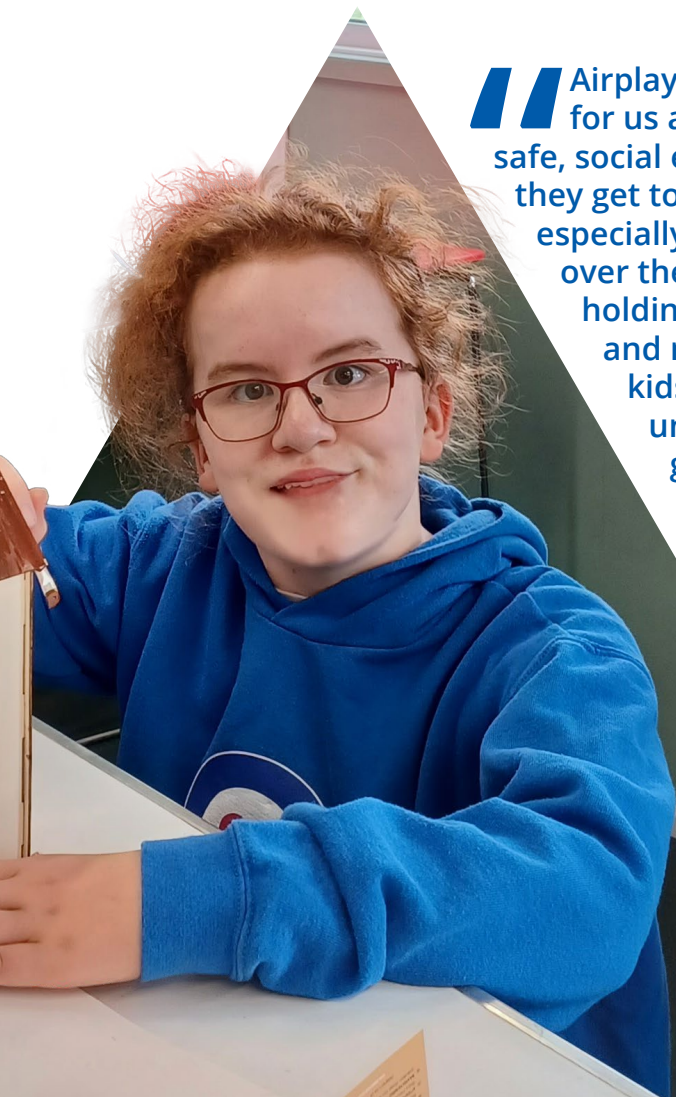
“Seeing Allison (the Station Youth Worker) is the best part. I also love playing outside and doing crafts. I get to play with my friends who are nice to me and play Minecraft with them in the tech room.”

Macey



Every Tuesday, when Macey drops off her younger sister for Ben Club, she comes over to say hello and find out about the upcoming activities for Thursday's session. This routine has worked well for Macey, and she thoroughly enjoys youth club and looks forward to each session.

Although a little shy at first, Macey now participates in all activities and her confidence has grown. She has made new friends and always arrives, and leaves, with a big smile. The team at Airplay Cosford are committed to supporting Macey and her parents so she can continue to thrive.



Airplay is a massive support for us all. It has given them a safe, social environment where they get to see military kids – especially with moving so much over the years, they struggle holding those friendships and now they're with other kids who completely understand what they go through. Airplay is a safe place where we can drop her off, without worrying what she's doing."

Macey's Dad



KEY AIM 2

CONTRIBUTE

In 2024 Airplay provided opportunities for young people to contribute. Airplay members took on responsibility and shaped the project and their community. This has been demonstrated through youth forums, consultations, community initiatives, thematic projects and more.



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

806 attendances at Airplay youth forums empowering members to have their say and influence the project.

91% of members feel that Airplay has helped them to take action on the things that are important to them.

The best thing about Airplay is the opportunity to work with my friends on the things we are passionate about."

Airplay Member, aged 17,
RAF Lossiemouth



Airplay Members Have Responsibilities

Airplay empowers young people to take the lead and get involved in decision making around the things that matter most to them.

LOCAL EXAMPLES

Airplay Scampton honoured Young Leader and volunteer Reece for his outstanding contribution to Airplay. Reece has volunteered over 150 hours, supporting sessions, meetings, and community events. He is a vital team member and an inspiring example to others.



81% of members feel that Airplay has helped them to grow their leadership skills

// 'Airplay has helped my child with her confidence, she has become a young leader and takes her role seriously. It has been so good for her.'

Parent, RAF Lossiemouth

Airplay Boulmer members worked closely with RAF Community Support and YMCA to share their views on youth provision in their area. This led to them moving the youth club venue and helping to redesign and equip the new Airplay Boulmer youth centre.

Young People Able to Speak

Airplay encourages young people to share their opinion, respect the voice of others and have their say and influence both individually and as a group.

LOCAL EXAMPLES

14 young people from Airplay Digby, Scampton and Waddington got together to participate in Young Leader training. They developed skills in teamwork, leadership, and communication, and left with increased confidence, ready to contribute as Young Leaders and receive their purple hoodies.

Young Leaders, Jessica from Airplay Henlow and Ciara from Airplay Brize Norton, were interviewed live on stage by their Airplay Youth Workers at the One YMCA Together Conference. In front of 250 staff and volunteers, they shared their personal Airplay journeys, highlighting the positive impact and supportive community Airplay has provided them.

94% of members agree they have a direct say in what happens at their Airplay project

// The workers are just so chilled out and treat us like adults, not kids."

Airplay Member, aged 15
RAF Marham



CONTRIBUTE Case Study

MOLLIE

Mollie joined Airplay Lossiemouth as a member of their Ben Club, aged 7. Initially struggling with confidence, she was quite reserved in the sessions. Mollie moved up to the Junior sessions at age 8. The Airplay team found that Mollie had a newfound enthusiasm for raccoons and was more eager to engage with the Airplay staff and her peers and get involved in activities. Despite this, Mollie only attended periodically and it was clear that Mollie needed some extra support to develop her self-assurance, as she struggled to go anywhere without her family, particularly her older brother.

(Mollie
far left)



The focus of the Airplay team was to empower Mollie to grow as an individual and gain the confidence to participate and contribute independently. Over the next few years, Mollie continued to drop in occasionally and the team would make an effort to maintain contact with the family and encourage Mollie's participation through giving her specific responsibilities in the club.

Mollie started to attend consistently from age 12 and at 13 took part in the Young Leader training. This included learning about being a role model and volunteering at another group. Mollie did this twice a week and completed the Young Leaders course.

Mollie has now become an integral part of Airplay Lossiemouth's Ben Club for the younger members and volunteers

as a Young Leader at both the Tuesday and Thursday sessions. Mollie now attends our holiday programmes and day trips and has become a confident leader at the senior Airplay group, where she supports her peers and leads activities.

Mollie's Airplay journey has been incredible. She continues to flourish into a remarkable young person and thrive in her role supporting club activities. She loves volunteering as a Young Leader, including supporting RAF Lossiemouth's Family Day and helping at 'meet & greet' events. Known for her reliability and ability to connect with younger members, she excels at including even the most reserved participants. Airplay has helped Mollie thrive as a confident role model.



KEY AIM 3

THRIVE



In 2024, Airplay provided support that enabled young people to thrive. Through exciting and diverse programmes Airplay challenged young people to fulfil their potential and encouraged them to try new experiences.



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

92% of members feel that Airplay is helping them to be the best version of themselves.

89% of members feel that Airplay has helped them to learn new skills.

I like the community aspect. The fact that there are so many people who also have a parent in the military and understand me."

**Airplay Member, age 15
RAF Henlow**



Young People Feel More Confident

Airplay accepts young people where they are at and actively seeks to build their self-esteem and grow in confidence.

LOCAL EXAMPLES

Airplay Leeming members participated in their second annual Airplay vs The RAF event. Seven teams from across the Station took part in exciting competitive challenges. Supported by volunteers and staff from their local YMCA, the Airplay members won the event and celebrated by lifting the trophy.

Airplay Waddington invented a new 'Awesomeness Award' to recognise Airplay members' fantastic contribution to their club's atmosphere. Seven members received the Awesomeness Award for role modelling and promoting kindness, tolerance and inclusivity at Airplay.

82% of members feel that through attending Airplay they have grown in confidence.

“My daughter cannot wait for another session of Airplay. She absolutely loves it. Since she started Airplay, she became very open, made lots of friends and I can see that she became more confident.”

Airplay Wyton Parent

Young People Grow and Develop Skills for the Future

Airplay provides opportunities for young people to learn and develop both practical and interpersonal skills.

LOCAL EXAMPLES

Airplay St Mawgan took part in the Cornwall Games Challenge, where they got involved in creative activities around technology and video games. This included designing characters, writing story arcs and taking part in live online tutorials on coding with game developers.

Airplay Wyton celebrated the success of their Remembrance Garden project, which focused on mental well-being. Members learned about gardening by creating a beautiful space, planting flowers and herbs, and making a positive impact.

88% of members feel that Airplay has helped them to do things outside of their comfort zone.

“Our daughter has had the most wonderful summer enjoying new experiences and adventures with Airplay. She has challenged herself to learn new skills, conquered fears, and made lots of new friends ... We are so thankful to Airplay for providing all these amazing experiences, they make such a difference to our daughter's confidence, happiness and wellbeing.”

Parent, Airplay Wittering



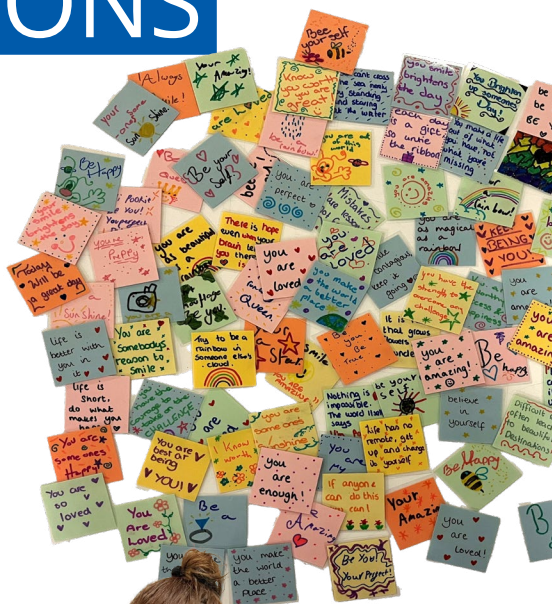
THRIVE Case Study

AIRPLAY CRANWELL'S POSITIVE AFFIRMATIONS PROJECT

During an Airplay activity focussed on how to spread positivity, a few members from the Inters group noticed that one of their peers was struggling with the transition to secondary school.

Supportive comments from her friends lifted her spirits and encouraged her to engage with the session. Inspired by this, youth workers encouraged the group to discuss what specific things they could do to spread kindness and positivity in their community. This led to a youth forum group where Airplay members brainstormed ideas for positive initiatives that would help themselves and others to thrive.

The group came up with several creative ideas, including painting stones for a trail, decorating a bus stop with positive affirmations, and creating positivity bags. They voted to start with the 'Positivi-tea bags'—small gift bags with a tea bag, biscuit, and a positive





The young people involved were exceptional, adding extra value to the experience."

Community Development Officer at Cranwell

One recipient of a 'Positivi-tea bag' said "I have had a really hard day today with some really bad news, but this quote says 'if anyone can do it, I can'—and I know that I can. Thank you for reminding me."

This project not only brought the Inters together as a group but also positively

impacted the wider RAF Cranwell community. The Airplay members are now eager to continue with new ideas, and the kindness project has sparked more regular youth forums and conversations. The initiative will continue with many more plans and surprises to come, creating an ongoing opportunity for members to thrive and make a difference.

affirmation. Over three sessions, the members wrote affirmations, laminated them, and packaged the bags, eventually distributing 85 Positivi-tea bags around RAF Cranwell and to parents as they collected their children from the Airplay groups.

The impact was immediate, with many recipients sharing how much the gesture meant to them.



KEY AIM 4

CONNECT



In 2024, Airplay delivered activities for young people to connect with others. Airplay provided its members opportunities to meet with their peers, build their networks, make new friends or connect with those from other Stations.



“I like that I can be myself. I’m not judged by the staff and I get support if I am experiencing difficulties.”

Airplay Member, age 15,
RAF Coningsby

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

76% said that through Airplay they were able to keep in touch with friends from other RAF Stations.

99% of parents agree Airplay staff are friendly and welcoming.

Parents rated Airplay a **4.6** out of **5**.



Young People Meet New People and Make New Friends

Airplay brings opportunities for young people to build new friendships and connect with others from their community in a positive way.

LOCAL EXAMPLES

Over half term, Airplay members at Northolt made spooky crafts, enjoyed the bonfire and fireworks, and recreated the display through painting. This fun-filled experience helped them connect, make new friends, and enjoy creative activities together.

Airplay Benson connected its members with the wider RAF community by designing and painting poppies to mark Remembrance Day. The poppies were packaged up with poems and sent out to RAF veterans through the local Outreach Support Team and RAF Benevolent Fund.



92% of members feel that Airplay has helped them to make new friends and connect with others

“Absolutely brilliant - I have four children who attend, one who has additional needs, and she loves it. Without Airplay she would not socialise. It gives her an amazing opportunity to do something, and the staff support her.”
Parent, MOD Boscombe Down

Young People Feel Comfortable and Supported

Airplay will provide a community that is supportive of its members and does all it can to make sure everyone feels comfortable to get involved.

LOCAL EXAMPLES

For World Environment Day, Airplay Wittering members got busy and made bee bombs, planted raised beds, and watered flowers at the RAF Community Centre. This activity fostered teamwork, a sense of belonging, and had a positive impact on the community.

Airplay Shawbury members enjoyed a collage-making workshop with an artist from The Hive (a local youth project) and a filmmaking session. These activities encouraged self-expression, boosted creativity, and helped build confidence in a supportive, fun, and collaborative environment.



96% of members agree that Airplay has helped them to settle in when they have moved to a new Station

“[I like] that Airplay is available on camp for my children to meet their friends in an organised safe environment.”

Parent, RAF Leeming



CONNECT Case Study

MINECRAFT MADNESS ON AIRPLAY CONNECT

Airplay Waddington and Airplay Coningsby teamed up with YMCA Scotland to deliver online monthly Minecraft sessions, creating a safe online community where members could engage, learn, connect, and have fun.

During 2024, a consistent core group of Minecraft enthusiasts formed, enabling youth workers to build strong, positive relationships. One of the most rewarding moments came in March, when a player didn't follow the expected rules of the game, briefly

disrupting the session. However, the members quickly came together, demonstrating impressive teamwork, creativity, and problem-solving. They worked collaboratively to build a "jail" in the game to resolve the issue, showing resilience and adaptability as they navigated the challenge. Their ability to turn the situation into a positive, collective effort was inspiring.

The Minecraft sessions also provided an opportunity for members from different areas to connect and develop their planning and reflective skills. The group was inclusive, with participants of all skill levels supporting each other. More experienced players mentored those new to the game, fostering a



caring and collaborative environment. The creativity displayed during the sessions was remarkable, with members using their imagination to build structures and solve challenges, with no limits to what they could create.

These sessions had a strong focus on building meaningful connections. Smaller online groups allowed for deeper relationships and enabled a strong sense of belonging. Members

“The young people’s connections as a group developed around a common goal and shared interest. They bonded over solving problems and figuring out how to build the visions they had in mind. It also reached a point where they were taking an interest in each other outside of Minecraft – asking about holidays and discussing house moves. It felt like a virtual youth club, literally connecting young people across the country.”

Airplay Youth Worker, RAF Waddington



also arranged to meet up on the Airplay Minecraft server outside of the Minecraft Madness sessions and continued to work together to build their world and further strengthen their bond. Members developed a sense of ownership over their digital community space, with some becoming invested in maintaining the play space and ensuring that the ground rules were followed outside of session time. They were empowered to speak up and provide constructive feedback to others on their gameplay, as well as to raise awareness of the impact they could have on each other in the digital space.

In April, weekly Minecraft Mindfulness sessions were added to the programme to mark the Month of the Military Child, building even more momentum and offering greater consistency and engagement opportunities. The Minecraft sessions on Airplay Connect continue to bring members together, creating lasting impact.

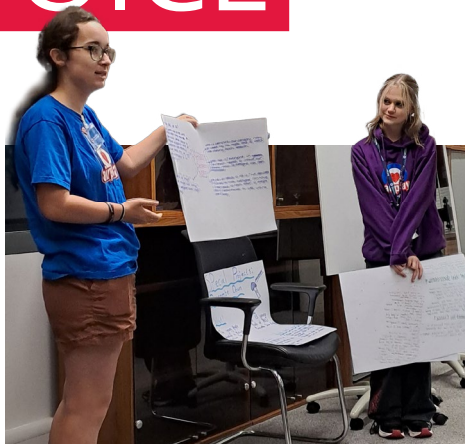


SPOTLIGHT ON

YOUTH VOICE

Airplay's 2024 Annual Youth Forum brought together 11 senior members from 7 RAF Stations from across the UK for an exciting and memorable trip to London.

As well as exploring iconic sights like the Science Museum and graffiti wall at Leake Street, the young people spent their time making new friends and developing new skills. They also brought the views of their peers and worked together to develop new Airplay initiatives which they presented to the RAF Benevolent Fund, RAF and YMCA. This included ideas on supporting young people with moving to a new Station and the idea of an annual Airplay Olympics to regularly connect Airplay members across the UK. The Airplay Olympics is already being worked towards as part of a 2025 event to celebrate 15 years of Airplay!



I had a great time exploring London and meeting all the new people in the youth forum. I loved the mates I made and the opportunity to make Airplay better than it's ever been."

Annual Youth Forum member, age 14

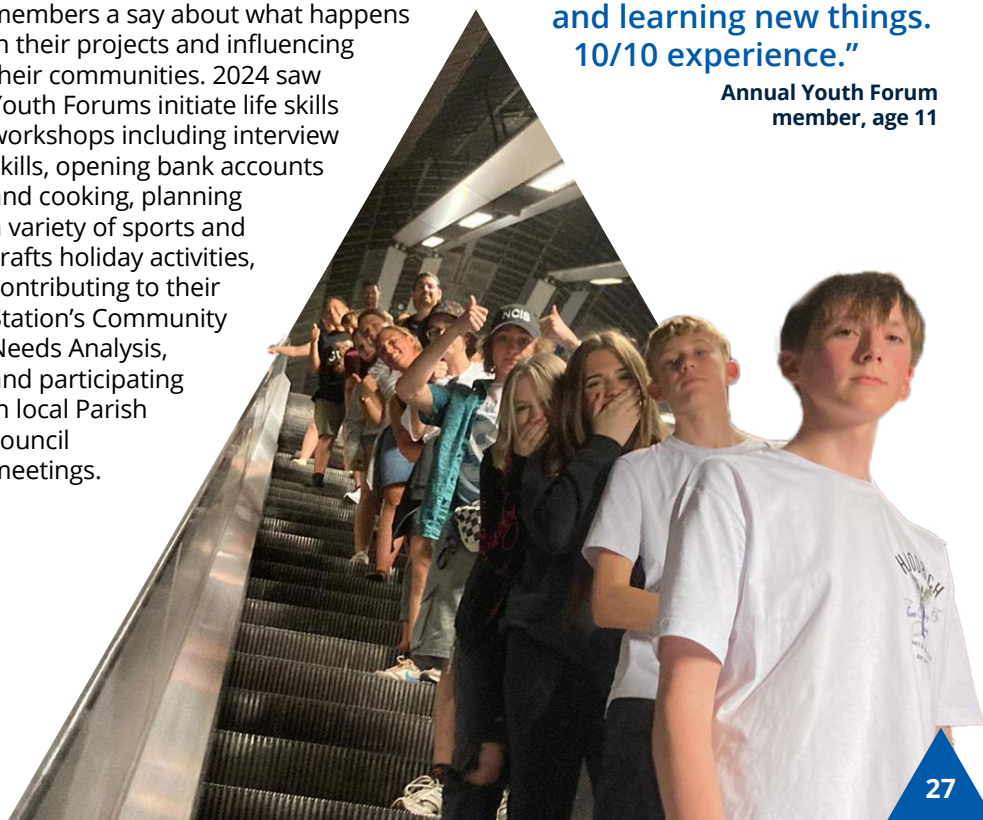




But it is not all about the Annual Youth Forum. Amplifying youth voice is a fundamental aspect of Airplay locally and over 200 local youth forums were held throughout the year giving members a say about what happens in their projects and influencing their communities. 2024 saw Youth Forums initiate life skills workshops including interview skills, opening bank accounts and cooking, planning a variety of sports and crafts holiday activities, contributing to their Station's Community Needs Analysis, and participating in local Parish council meetings.

I had an amazing time meeting fantastic people. I also loved the new activities we did together and learning new things. 10/10 experience."

Annual Youth Forum member, age 11





SPOTLIGHT ON

AIRPLAY

YOUNG LEADERS

Airplay's Young Leader training gave members opportunities to develop their leadership skills, build confidence, and contribute to their communities. Through this training and support from youth workers members took on active roles in supporting their clubs while gaining valuable skills for the future.

The training included interactive sessions and team-building exercises and clubs came together to deliver this to groups of senior members at various points throughout

“Airplay provides my daughter with an environment where she can make friends, learn life skills, grow in confidence and is helping her to develop skills she can put on her CV to help secure her future. The volunteering opportunities and young leader training she has done have been incredible.”

Parent, RAF Coningsby



the year. Members reported an increased sense of leadership and responsibility as a result. 27 members graduated as Young Leaders making a total pool of 57 Young Leaders acting as advocates and role models across Airplay. At Lossiemouth, the Chief Of Staff presented members with their Young Leader certificates!

Members have also volunteered their time to support the delivery of sessions. 2024 saw 63 Youth Volunteers supporting with over 2,400 attendances at Airplay groups. Many members were able to log this volunteering as part of their Duke of Edinburgh Awards, taking on responsibilities such as organising activities, running tuck shops, and leading sports sessions. Their contributions enhanced the experience for younger members while developing their leadership and teamwork skills. Many have continued to volunteer beyond their required hours.

Being a young leader has many positives. Mostly it's enjoyable. We can learn skills that will be used all our lives, like leadership and having responsibility for things. We also get to learn about youth work and gain youth work skills too."

Young people, age 13 -17, RAF Scampton

Very supportive to my son, helping him with his volunteering side of the Duke of Edinburgh Award and advising on who in the YMCA he can do work experience with, and helping him with his confidence."

Parent, RAF Waddington



SPOTLIGHT ON

AIRPLAY RELAY

The Airplay Relay was an idea that came about at the Airplay National Youth Forum in 2023. Its goal was to connect members across the country, encourage physical activity and raise awareness of how the RAF Benevolent Fund supports each Airplay station.



The concept was simple yet powerful. Airplay members would travel the distance from their Station to another, passing on a virtual baton, until a full loop of the Airplay projects was completed. The first leg started at Airplay Brize Norton, and members covered 540 miles to reach Airplay Lossiemouth.

Every participant contributed to the collective distance.

Members could choose to travel however they liked to promote inclusivity and ensure everyone could



participate. Some chose more traditional activities like walking, running, cycling and skipping whilst others opted to take part in colour runs, hopping marathons, backwards walking, scooting and more, Airplay members pushed their limits and altogether covered an incredible 1,849 miles.

I'm glad we chose to get medals because now we can remember joining in when we look at them. We also did a good thing raising money for the people that pay for Airplay."

Airplay member, age 11, RAF Waddington.

That's roughly the distance from London to Istanbul!

Through the Airplay Relay, members raised an amazing £1,219 for the RAF Benevolent Fund.

We can't wait to make the next event even bigger and better. Thanks to everyone who made this incredible experience possible!



SPOTLIGHT ON

SOCIAL ACTION AND SPECIAL PROJECTS

In 2024, Airplay members once again led the charge in making a real difference in their communities. Whether through creative expression, environmental action, or personal development, young people shaped projects that reflected their passions and priorities.

Airplay's Special Projects grants empowered members to bring their ideas, inspired by the key themes identified in the Airplay Members Survey, to life. As in previous years, the Airplay National Youth Forum met as a panel and reviewed applications, ensuring grants were awarded where they would have the greatest impact.

2024 saw a wide variety of Special Projects take form. This included graffiti projects to add a splash of colour and character to youth centres, initiatives



to transform outdoor spaces, projects that promoted mental well-being, and as a catalyst for community events. Over 174 Airplay members were involved in the application process, with countless more benefiting from these impactful projects now and for years to come.

Airplay members also engaged in other social action initiatives outside of Special Project applications, including litter picks, conservation projects such as

creating 'bug hotels', spearheading foodbank donations, creating mosaics in support of local homeless accommodation, and assisting the local council with preparing and running an annual Remembrance Day event.

Members who took part in these social action projects reported a 28% growth in their sense of responsibility, 25% growth in their skills development and 21% growth in confidence.



I think this was our best event yet [Scampton Fun Day]! It was good to be able to use the community centre and use all the space in it out and around it. Loads of people came and we raised a good amount of money."

**Airplay member,
age 17, RAF
Scampton**



THANK YOU...

- ▶ **to the Wimbledon Foundation, the MacRobert Trust, and Mr and Mrs Blowers** who all contribute to the RAF Benevolent Fund directly to support the Airplay programme.
- ▶ **to the RAF Community Development and Support Teams** whose dedication and support enable Airplay to operate successfully at each base.
- ▶ **to the 11 YMCAs** whose staff and volunteers work tirelessly to deliver the projects day in day out across the UK.
- ▶ **to the hundreds of parents and carers** who get involved, provide feedback, and support their children to access Airplay.
- ▶ **to the thousands of children and young people** who make Airplay such a wonderful place to be.

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**Royal Air Force
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The RAF Benevolent Fund is proud to have invested over £40 million into the Children and Young People of the Royal Air Force over the past 20 years. From childcare centres, play parks, our listening and counselling service and of course the youth work of Airplay. The Fund is loyal, generous, and always there for the RAF Family.

Please contact us today if you know a member of the RAF Family who is need of support or to request help for yourself.

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