

Partner update for CAYPIG-
Westbury Development Centre for Young People-Community Area Young People's Issues Group, specifically the transport issue for young people of Westbury

Purpose of the Report

1. To highlight concerns with transport for young people living in the Westbury Community Area preventing them from accessing out of school hours services.
2. To offer suggested solutions to transport issues, from young people's perspective and to take action on these to try to provide an accessible transport service.
3. Update of service in relation to opportunities available for young people & resources

Background

1. Young people living in the outlying community areas of Westbury are not engaging fully with 'after school hours' services. After discussions/questionnaires with young people, as previously shared at past Area Boards, one reason is because of transport issues. Certain young people are missing out on positive, valuable developmental opportunities, from organisations; one being Wiltshire Council's Youth Development Centre and their outreach services, as well as the sports centre and skate park. Young people highlighted these facilities as being three of the most important to be able to access.
2. There is a lack of buses from outlying areas, including villages, to transport young people into Westbury to access the services they may wish to use. Buses don't stop near where they live and do not run at times suitable to their needs. Young people's safety is a major issue because they want to be able to access a bus at a safe, well-lit location, times when the clubs/services they access close, to avoid loitering and at locations near the clubs/services they wish to use, to avoid long walks, especially if it is late or they are on their own/small groups. Without safe, accessible transport, young people will lose out. Many parents/carers do not allow their children to walk to places when it is late or dark and those young people who are allowed, don't want to as feel vulnerable.
3. The young people's plans for a youth shelter on the premises of the Youth Development Centre have been submitted and will continue to be discussed at the CAYPIG meeting. They have also been involved in discussions reference improvements to Penleigh Park youth shelter, with Westbury Town Council and the possibility of this being an alternative site for their planned shelter. They have also been consulted with reference proposals for improvements in Grasslands recreation area by Westbury Town Council. Young people have been involved in a project at Penleigh Park skate park, where they have had aired concerns over certain aspects of it and made suggestions for improvements. Youth Development Workers are co-ordinating the production of a DVD to capture this and will present it shortly.

4. Westbury Development Centre for Young People are in the process, along with young people, of planning how to best use its new allocation of youth worker resources. Its allocation for 2010-2011 means we have 47 staffing hours, equating to 7 sessions (typically 2.5 hours in length each) of face to face work, allowing for a minimum of 3 youth development workers per session and on occasion, depending on the session, 2 members. This will ensure there is delivery and opportunities throughout the week/weekend-afternoon and evening, to meet a diverse range of young people and their needs. Further information is available from Sally Willox.

Main Considerations

- Young people's needs
- Parent/guardian opinions
- Explore existing transport routes/times
- Meet with transport providers to highlight young people's concerns
- Isolation of young people
- Options for improvements to transport/new initiatives
- Funding for transport initiatives
- Positive impact on young people through being able to access 'out of school hours' services
- Recognising the importance of the voice & opinion/influence of young people
- Costs to young people when they access transport
- Safety of young people

Recommendation

It is recommended that:

- The existing transport provider's public bus routes/timetables are explored
- Transport providers from current services should be invited to the Westbury CAYPIG & possibly future Area Board
- Young People with Youth Development Worker to attend transport conference for young people February 18-19 2010, where transport providers & portfolio holders will be
- Further consultation/in-depth questionnaire with young people reference the times they want buses to operate and from what specific locations, this has been initiated but needs continuing
- Explore avenues of funding for purchasing a community minibus for exclusive use of young people for 'out of school hours' times, including securing funds to pay a bank of drivers. An alternative would be to recruit a bank of volunteer drivers but they would all need to be assessed for suitability to drive the minibus.
- Approach existing community transport companies to explore possibility of them providing a young person's service.

Report Author:

E-Mail: sally.willox@wiltshire.gov.uk (01373) 822335 Eden Vale Road, Westbury
Youth Development Co-ordinator & Locality Team Leader for Westbury & Warminster Development Service for Young People-supporting & representing CAYPIG young people