

Development Service for Young People

Report to South West Wiltshire Community Area Board - 5th October

September has seen the young people engaged in the Mere & Tisbury NCS (National Citizen Service) project complete the Social Action Phase of this scheme through conservation work on the Wessex Ridgeway, acting as Peer Leaders on Leisure Credits sessions and at the Junior Youth Club's in Mere and Tisbury as well helping out at both of the local carnivals. The final phase, 'Graduation' took place just over a week ago with the 10 young people who completed the programme taking part in a Go-Karting session at Thruxton followed by an awards evening to showcase their achievements and receive their certificates.

The Youth Development Centre in Wilton is now open 3 nights a week for young people (Mon, Thurs, Fri) and those attending are settling in well, they have developed ground rules with staff and equipment and materials have been resourced. Once a few little contracting issues are resolved then we will be ready to hold an 'official opening'. Jenni Bertram (Youth Development Co-ordinator for Wilton) will be contacting Parish Councils in the community area to discuss ways of reaching out to young people in villages and looking at ways of developing transport links to improve access to the new centre.

Leisure Credits work has continued across the area with Pooh's Corner at Bowerchalke being the biggest project over the past month. We have also worked with young people to clear a footpath at Bishopstone and continued the work on bench restoration in Tisbury and East Knoyle. The Young Enterprise Initiative has begun to develop with Mark Holden the project co-ordinator (funded by Sowing SEEDS) establishing good links in the local community and a small amount of produce from the young people's allotment in Tisbury being sold to local residents.

The 13-19 strategy consultation has now been finalised with Cabinet being presented a paper with a number of recommendations. Whilst there are cuts that need to be made the decision has been taken to keep the service within Wiltshire Council and within the Integrated Youth Service although there is proposed greater relations with the Area Boards and the development of youth advisory groups in each community area. The report recommends that DS4YP continue to support the provision of open access services for young people as well as also providing targeted support to the most vulnerable individuals. The full implications of the cuts and what the new service will look like at a local level is yet to be clarified however, some savings will be made from central costs and others will come from staffing. Once I have a clearer picture of what this means for us in South West Wiltshire I will of course report this to you.

Whilst we are operating in challenging times there is also a great deal of opportunity for local young people to be involved in the development of new facilities and services in particular in the Tisbury Area. The Tisbury CAYPIG is currently meeting to focus on two separate initiatives, the Tisbury Campus development and a possible new skate park. The continued support of the local community and the Area Board in all areas of our work is valued and appreciated by staff and young people. Thank you!

Jaki Farrell

Youth Development Co-ordinator Mere & Tisbury (Locality Team Leader)