

Calne Area Board

Youth Advisory Group (YAG) Proposal

Background

Wiltshire Council has for the last year been piloting 'Youth Advisory Groups' or (YAGs) joined to or associated with the local Area Board. The concept for a YAG is a group of young people that advises and or works alongside adults on issues of importance to them or that organisations ask for their opinion on. YAGs also require a young person under the age of 25 to act as chair.

Proposal

The proposal outline here for Calne is to build upon the success of the Calne Area Young Peoples Issue group (CAYPIG) and the use of 'Open Space' facilitation techniques, enabling larger numbers of young people and adults to engage in meaningful conversations of importance to them simultaneously. The idea is again to create a single point for young peoples participation within the Town, where all organisations working with young people come together to work alongside young people, supporting them to find solutions/projects that increase their life experiences growing up in the Area.

Venue

Building on the success of the CAYPIG model this time the YAG group would like to see wider representation of young people attending from Springfield's Academy and voluntary sector organisations as well as from John Bentley School and Wiltshire Councils Youth Service. To achieve this it is proposed YAG meetings take place at a neutral venue such as the Town Hall, taking place six times per year, the month preceding an Area Board, enabling young people to take ideas/issues from the YAG and feed them naturally into the Area board the following month.

Method

The group would comprise of young people representing their respective organisations, supported by the appropriate adults working alongside them from said organisation. It is envisaged young people from the following organisations would be approached and asked if they would like to be a part of a newly formed YAG...

John Bentley School

Springfield's Academy
 Calne Youth Work Team (Wiltshire Council)
 Calne Church Youth Group
 Scouts
 Air Cadets
 Army Cadets
 Sports Clubs

Town and County Councillors, Area Board Manager, Calne Town Council, Calne Area Planning Partnership (CAPP) and other organisations where appropriate will also be invited to send representation to YAG meetings, as well as local schools and youth groups.

Meetings would comprise of a morning session where adults and young people worked together on their chosen projects followed by a shorter afternoon slot where the respective adults could work practically on the best way respond to the mornings discoveries. The aim is to hold six meetings over the coming academic year 2012/2013, in the months that precede an Area Board meeting.

A nomination process and election of a young person as Chair within the new YAG would need to take place within the group once it was formed. The elected Chair would then receive training and support for the role.

Resources

Building – Calne Town Hall
 Facilitation – Wiltshire Council Youth Work Team
 Administration – Wiltshire Council Youth Work Team

Representation

The table is intended to show how a broad range of representation of organisation and young people could be achieved within Calne and still enable a productive working group using the Open Space Methodology.

Numbers below are a guide and would need to be negotiated with each respective organisation. Organisations would be free to increase or decrease the numbers of young people they wanted to enable participation, though the onus would be on the organisation to ensure the appropriate ratio of adults to young people attended each meeting.

Organisation	YP Representatives	Adult Representatives
John Bentley School	10/20	1/2
Springfield's Academy	10	1/2
Calne Youth Work Team (Wiltshire Council)	10	1/2

Calne Church Youth Group	5	1
Scouts	5	1
Air Cadets	5	1
Army Cadets	5	1
Sports Clubs	5	1

End

This is a working document and any feedback and discussion is welcomed. Please feel free to contact me to talk through anything outline above. If adopted individual agreement would need to be obtained from each organisation with respect to their participation in the Youth Advisory Group (YAG) project.

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