

**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 provide an update on the 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 Westbury Development Centre for Young People in relation to opportunities available for young people & the 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 Development Service for Young People (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 after school hours and during weekends. 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. Young people have suggested a 'Youth Shuttle Bus' and have been working on this idea, with the support of Youth Development Workers, Community First and Westbury BA13 Community Partnership. Young people have sought the help of Community First to see if there are any community minibuses that can be used for this scheme and volunteer, trained drivers. To date there has been no positive response but a newspaper advert will be placed to promote the scheme in the hope that people come forward. Young people have also been gathering minibus quotes new and second hand, as the solution may be to purchase a minibus for the scheme. Young people will also design timetables but this

will involve extensive consultation with other young people and take considerable time. Young people will submit a bid for Area Board funds to support part of this scheme.

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. There have been delays with this due to the inexperience of submitting a planning application. 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. Young people have been involved in a project at Penleigh Park skate park, where they have voiced concerns over certain aspects of it and made suggestions for improvements. Youth Development Workers have produced a DVD to capture this and will present it shortly. There is a planned Skate Jam Competition on July 3rd at Penleigh Skate Park, of which young people will highlight how popular and well used the facility is. The summer programme of opportunities and activities has been co-ordinated, following extensive consultation with young people and this is currently being printed and will be circulated during early July via Matravers School, Tourist Information Office, White Horse News and Street Based Youth Work. Young people will be participating in the forthcoming Westbury Street Fayre on July 17th by running a smoothy bar on a stall, which was young people's ideas and they planned this too, promoting the youth offer that the service provides and showcasing dance choreographed by the POP Youth Dance Group that takes place at the Youth Development Centre weekly. Young people have also been co-ordinating a Youth Centre Football League and are planning the match's at the present time. There are teams participating from across Wiltshire. Westbury Town Council kindly awarded the young people funds towards a football kit.

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 per week, equating to 15.6 'staff' sessions per week, based on a typical youth delivery session lasting 3 hours (2.5 hours delivery and 15 minutes either side of the session for planning and reflection/evaluation) There needs to be a minimum of 3 youth development workers per session and on occasion, depending on the session, 2 members will suffice. 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 (Done-February 2010)
- 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. This took place successfully.
- 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.

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