

WILTSHIRE COUNCIL
Devizes Area Board
7th January 2015

Devizes Local Youth Network

Purpose of the Report

To update the Area Board on the Devizes Local Youth Network and the community- led model for the provision of positive activities for young people in the Devizes Community Area.

Background

In May 2014 Cabinet agreed to adopt a community-led model for the provision of positive activities for young people. By delegating responsibility and resources to Community Area Boards for youth activities, Wiltshire Council is committed to supporting young people and their communities to come together to develop a responsive and locally driven positive activities offer for young people.

The community-led model commenced on 1 October 2014 and means the positive activities offer will develop differently in each of the 18 Community Area Board areas to reflect local needs. A positive activity can be any educational or recreational leisure-time activity that is arts, sports, leisure, informal education and community based which helps young people achieve healthy and safe lifestyle outcomes. Area Boards will ensure that positive activity provision is inclusive and takes into account the needs of all vulnerable groups.

Devizes Area Board has delegated authority, a devolved budget and a dedicated Community Youth Officer (CYO), Sally Willox, to support the implementation. Devizes Area Board is establishing a Local Youth Network (LYN), to understand local needs, which will involve young people, adults and organisations from across the community. This will be an open network of those who have an interest or involvement in the provision of positive activities for young people. The LYN is supported by a smaller management group facilitated by the Community Youth Officer. This is responsible for identifying young people's priorities, establishing and implementing a plan of work, which involves making recommendations to the Area Board on how funding for positive activities should be deployed. Fundamental at each stage is young people's involvement.

Current Position and what has been happening in Devizes

- Consultation with young people is taking place through short surveys. Data being analysed and being looked at in conjunction with the community joint strategic assessment to start the process of drawing up priorities for provision for the community area. Data analysis is available but will be continually added to and refreshed.
- The Local Youth Network management group has met twice to begin exploring these identified young people's priorities and developing a work plan to meet these. The notes and actions are available as an appendix.
- The management group membership has been determined and requires Area Board consideration. This membership is available to view as an appendix.
- A local youth network event for young people has been planned for 12th February 2015 at Devizes Town Hall Assembly rooms from 16:00-18:30pm, led by Sally Willox Community Youth Officer. The aim being to enable young people to become active participants in this new model, further develop their identified priorities and create ideas/activities for provision that they would like to see taking place.
- The wider local youth network is being established, as detailed above and will be brought together shortly.(see appendix)
- Promotion of the provision of 1:1 consultation for vulnerable young people through Youth Support Workers, as part of the new model and awareness of other referral mechanisms.
- Updating the community mapping that is in place for the Devizes area, showing the diverse range of positive activities/clubs/organisations for young people. A copy of this is available and further information on listings is on www.sparksite.co.uk. This has involved visiting provision to ascertain what there is and then ensuring promotion to young people.
- Informing the community about the new model, through visits to secondary schools, clubs, organisations, Parish and Town Council meetings, as well as visual promotion.
- The development of a Devizes Local Youth Network facebook page which will be a valuable tool. Search through facebook using Devizes Local Youth Network or this link https://www.facebook.com/pages/Devizes-Local-Youth-Network/918327131533635?ref=aymt_homepage_panel

- Promotion of the Youth Grants scheme to enable new positive activities to develop for those interested in delivering activities or have a great idea for a youth project-view information via this link:
<http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/council/areaboards/communityyouthactivitiesgrants.htm>
- Community Youth Officer supporting existing groups and clubs for young people to improve their offer and to help develop new provision with interested parties. This has been to support the process of how to set up a new club, developing policies, recruiting volunteers, advice on safeguarding children and young people and help secure funding. Helping groups apply for the new Youth Grant funding.
- There have been several applications for funding to date of which the local youth network management group has made recommendations to the area board for.

Future planned activity

- Bringing the wider local youth network together for events, as well as establishing sub task groups to implement priority setting and subsequent positive activities. This will also ensure youth activity providers and young people will be brought together.
- Ensuring there is an up to date community database and information resource of positive activities for young people. This links to the community mapping exercise and the resource will be www.sparksite.co.uk. The local youth network will ensure better promotion and use of this. Community youth officer to actively encourage groups to use and signpost to.
- Continue engagement with young people through secondary schools via tutor group time and or assemblies, as well as visiting provision after school/evenings/weekends. To then continually update and revise data/needs analysis to show identified priorities.
- To implement new positive activities for young people to meet their identified needs, enabling and working with the community, using the youth grants funding available and other means as appropriate.
- To continue promoting Community Youth Officer as the 'go to person' for youth issues and signpost young people to activities
- Delivering a written report on the needs, outcomes, priorities and objectives for local activities

Summary

The key themes coming through that young people wish to develop into positive activities are: art and music opportunities, as well as a drop in zone or youth café where they can socialise and talk with trusting adults, a 'gaming' youth club, weekend and school holiday positive activities specifically outdoor opportunities and specific activities for young people with additional needs and disabilities (SEND), with a focus on sport, both mainstream and alternative.

The Local Youth Network is open to all, so please become involved to enhance, shape and develop the Devizes Community Area for young people. If you have an idea that you would like to explore and develop, please contact the Community Youth Officer Sally Willox and Devizes Area Board for further information and support. If you would like to become a volunteer to deliver young people's activities, again please make contact to sally.willox@wiltshire.gov.uk.

Providers of activities can become accredited through Wiltshire Council so that they are approved as a provider of positive activity for young people. They will also appear on a providers 'catalogue' so that they can be procured to provide activities for young people. This process opens regularly; please contact sally.willox@wiltshire.gov.uk for further information.

Recommendations

- 1. To approve the membership of the local youth network management group.**
- 2. To consider a recommendation from the LYN Management Group for funding towards an SEND film project.**
- 3. To consider a recommendation from the LYN Management Group for the funding of a young people's arts competition.**

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