

Early Help – Operational Children’s Services

Community Youth Officer update and Local Youth Network update for Westbury Community Area 23 January 2015

Community Youth Officer update

The Community Youth Officers in Westbury Community Area are Amy Schuring and Phoebe Brazier.

The Community Youth Officer(s) role is to:

- Be the ‘*go to person*’ for youth issues and signpost young people to local services and activities;
- Be accountable to the community through the Area Board and take forward locally agreed priorities and Area Board decisions;
- Focus on community working and capacity building, growing and enhancing voluntary and community sector positive activity provision;
- Facilitate engagement with young people and champion their voice and influence in local decision making. To include supporting the direct participation and involvement of young people in the design, development, delivery and review of youth activities;
- Establish and support the Local Youth Network, providing professional advice, maintaining communications and facilitating its local activities;
- Initiate and support local youth and community projects;
- Facilitate the development and delivery of a written overview of the needs, outcomes, priorities and objectives for positive activities in the local area.

The Community Youth Officers are currently conducting a needs analysis of young people (13-19 years old) living in the Westbury Community Area. The needs analysis will be used to produce a positive activities overview for the Westbury Community Area Local Youth Network (LYN).

The Community Youth Officers are currently working in partnership with Matravers School engaging young people in the consultation process of the current Positive Activities offer in the Westbury Community Area. The purpose of the consultation is to ascertain the age, gender, area of residence of the young person, the positive activities they currently attend and positive activities they would like to take part in, within the local area. Matravers school students aged 13-19 will have the choice to complete a questionnaire to collate the information for young people attending secondary education.

The Community Youth Officers are currently working in partnership with the Police and the NEET (Not in Employment, Education or Training) Personal Advisor’s in order to provide a street based outreach approach to engage young people who are not currently in employment, education and/or training.

The Community Youth Officers have contacted all of the current local providers in the Westbury Community Area map what is currently available and to focus on community working and capacity building, growing and enhancing voluntary and community sector positive activity provision.

The Community Youth Officers also plan to consult with young people attending the free young people’s event at Leigh Park Community Centre on Sunday 8 February from 2-5pm.

The positive activities overview will be completed and made available by the end of February 2015.

If you have any questions/queries and/or suggestions please contact Amy Schuring and/or Phoebe Brazier

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Local Youth Network (LYN) update

The Westbury Local Youth Network (LYN) is a sub group of the Community Area Board. It represents a wide range of community stakeholders who work in partnership to facilitate a range of positive activities across the community area. Young people play a central role in all aspects of the LYN.

The Westbury LYN management group currently consist of Russell Hawker, the Community Area Board representative; Alan Webb, police representative; Steve Jarvis, representative The White Horse Team; Debbie Cole, representing Leigh Park Community Centre. The young people currently representing the LYN are Caitlin, Carris, Claire, Emily, Lauren and Nicole. The LYN hope to recruit some more young people and representation from School, Health and Parish Councils. The Westbury LYN is support by both the Community Youth Officers and the Community Area Manager, Sally Hendry.

The LYN has planned a free event for young people aged 13-19. The event will be held on Sunday 8 February 2015 at Leigh Park Community Centre from 2-5pm. The purpose of the event is to showcase what is currently on offer for young people living in the Westbury Community Area and to establish any needs that young people may identify. It is also to officially launch the Westbury LYN and encourage all local providers of positive activities for young people within the Westbury community area to come forwards to represent the wider LYN.

The wider LYN may come together at events, workshops, youth fairs, meetings and consultations, operating in a way which encourages active engagement, dialogue, debate and improved partnership working between key stakeholders.

The Westbury LYN will identify local needs, priorities and outcomes and make recommendations to the Area Board on how funding for positive activities for young people should be deployed. The Westbury positive activities overview document will be used to help identify local needs.

Community Area Boards and Local Youth Networks are advised to follow the four stage process outlined below for developing and making available a positive activities offer which meets local needs. It will be essential that young people and the community are involved in each stage.



UNDERSTAND – What are the local needs of young people and the community in your area? What provision is available already and what could be strengthened or supported? Are there any gaps in provision? What are the views of young people and the community? What are the local priorities and outcomes to be achieved? What resources are available to meet the needs and deliver the outcomes identified?

PLAN – Decide how best to meet the needs and deliver the outcomes. Think about the needs of *'hard to hear / underrepresented'* groups. Consider how to develop a positive activities offer which addresses needs effectively, efficiently, equitably and in a sustainable way. What activities are working well in other areas? Who needs to be involved in the planning process? Bring all of this together to develop a local written overview of the needs, outcomes, priorities and objectives for positive activities in the local area.

DO – Undertake actions needed locally to secure the delivery of the positive activities offer - this could include fundraising, bid writing, promoting local activities, working with providers to secure services (via grants and/or procurement), or getting the community and LYN members involved in the actual delivery of positive activities.

REVIEW – Continue to ask local people, particularly young people about the positive activities provision in the area and how it meets their needs, and to ask the rest of the population about how these activities affect their lives and the community they live in.

The Westbury LYN is currently in the Review and Understand stages. The overview of positive activities in Westbury will identify the needs, outcomes, priorities and objectives for positive activities in Westbury. The will be completed by the end of February 2015. The free youth event will be the official launch and promotion of the Westbury LYN. The Community Youth Officers will be actively promoting the application process for funding of positive activities within the Westbury Community Area.

The key responsibilities for the Westbury LYN management group include:

- Facilitating and coordinating the process to design, develop, deliver and review positive activities for young people in the local area;
- Maintaining regular and effective communication between all members of the LYN;
- Developing a written overview of the needs, outcomes, priorities and objectives for positive activities in the local area;

- Making recommendations to the Community Area Board on how positive activities funding should be deployed (to include evaluating grant requests and identifying suitable suppliers of positive activities);
- Overseeing the work plan of the Community Youth Officer;
- Monitoring and reporting on the quality and effectiveness of local youth activities;
- Addressing any conflicts of interest that may arise as part of the local decision making process.

If you have any questions/queries and/or you would like to get involved with the Westbury LYN, please contact Amy Schuring or Phoebe Brazier.

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