

RW Bassett and Cricklade Community Area YOUTH FORUM

8th February 2023 – 4:30pm

Virtual meeting via Teams link

AGENDA:



1. Welcome and introductions

Chair:

(AB) Cllr Allison Bucknell – Wiltshire Councillor for Lyneham Division, Chair of the Area Board

(AJe) Cllr Angela Jenson – Cricklade Town Council

(MH) Mark Hopkins, Town Clerk Royal Wootton Bassett Town Council

(AJa) Andrew Jack Strategic Engagement Partnership Manager, Wiltshire Council

(LY) Louisa Young, Area Board Delivery Officer, Wiltshire Council

(JB) Jade Beasley, Rise Trust

(JK) Jan Kelly, Girl Guiding Wiltshire North

2. Apologies

Alex Reid, Wiltshire Police Youth and Early intervention supervisor

Amy Dallimore (AD), Community Development Worker Army Welfare Service – update provided

Mari Roberts RWBA

Zoe Markham-Lee – RWBA

Jaime Browne, Youth Work Coordinator, Inspire to Aspire

Richard Pomfrett – Stay Safe Initiative

3. What's Happening in your areas

AB asked for updates

Cricklade Town Council (AJe)

Have had an increase in ASB recently, specifically graffiti. The town council has increased youth funding from £8,000 to £12,500.

Town council has been working with Rise Trust and with sports provider, Inspire to Aspire.

Following consultation with the police they have added targeted sessions for younger children (11-12 year olds) in addition to 13-18 year old session.

Royal Wootton Bassett Town Council (MH)

MH has been making contact with local partners and people in the town. Has met with the Rise Trust and some of their volunteers including Sue Hughes and Vicar Jane Curtis. Has also been building links between older people and youth firstly by engaging with the new care home Marsh Farm who are keen to engage with the community and more recently with Miranda House who are interested in using volunteers to help with reading groups. Also reports an issue with graffiti but only within last 24hrs.

Rise Trust – Jade Beasley (provided by e-mail)

Unfortunately, JB was struggling with connection and so update was submitted by e-mail.

Rise Trust are seeing up to 20 young people during our session. Rise Trust are also offering detached youth work around town before or after a session. However, due to the weather/darker nights, these numbers have been low. (Hopefully, they will pick up as we head into warmer times)

Key themes of these sessions are:

Personal safety, mental health, county lines and crime prevention, as well as general conversations about school, friends/family, and relationships.

Themes for future sessions include some of the areas that need targeting such as, peer on peer abuse, Dangers of vaping/smoking, Healthy relationships, and sexual identity.

Anya from the youth commission has visited in session, and she collected some YP's voice on topics such as, Mental health, police relationships, Gang, and drug culture and community feedback.

Continuing our community mentoring, which is where a YP will work 1-1 with a youth worker for any extra support they may need.

Rise Trust also continue to offer snack packs in session, where YP can access food/snacks if they haven't eaten that day.

Girl Guiding (Rainbows, Brownies, Guides & Rangers Lyneham, Royal Wootton Bassett and Cricklade) (JK)

Guide hall in both Lyneham and RWB. Concerned about escalating costs, particularly electricity. The groups are seeing more issues with mental health. Unfortunately, have recently had to close some younger groups as a result of volunteers moving on. Lyneham Guides is thriving, now at 24 partly as a result of army families posted in.

Rangers (14-18 year olds) historically fewer – however RWB is now the largest ranger unit in the county. They have a varied programme and the 2 guide units in RWB are well supported. JK reported that the weekly meeting particularly during the last 2 years has been vital for some of the girl's mental health and gave a specific example from when Rangers were meeting online during the pandemic.

JK is County Inclusion Adviser which encompasses all inclusion. This is an area where she may be able to assist others and may also benefit from additional training or support.

Army Welfare Service (AD by e-mail)

AD and two volunteers are currently delivered 2 universal youth clubs on Tuesday evenings since October. Sessions run for 7-12 years 1700-1845 and 12-17 (364 days before requiring a DBS to support as young leaders) 1900-2100. These have come on leaps and bounds since our initial delivery. Mainly with a focus on Cooking, Craft, informal Education and Sports as the basis of our delivery, we have also made progress on supporting military transition, employment, confidence and friendship.

Positives

Junior Youth Club (JYC) has a total of 27 young people signed up with on average 20 young people attending on a weekly basis

JYC have been exploring communication, teambuilding and confidence which is really showing in their independence

JYC is being advertised best through word of mouth within the local community and posters as AWS have a limited platform on social media

JYC now has a young person completing their DofE with us which is a lovely achievement within the team

JYC is exploring inclusivity of young people with SEN and hopes to expand this further later in the year

Senior Youth Club (SYC) has a total of 20 young people signed up with on average 16 young people in attendance

SYC has no concerns (at present) for drugs, alcohol or wider concerning behaviour, however key to explore this next term to raise awareness

SYC are enjoying the space that they have and are able to keep independent groups, but do join together in wide game activities – murder in the dark is the favourite at present

Looking to develop awareness nights with Fearless (crime organisation), Neighbourhood Steering Group and other partnerships

Improvements to be made

Both groups are struggling with volunteers to keep up with numbers of young people wanting to attend

Group is funded via subs and cost of living and rising cost of resources is a broad concern but not currently impacting

Would like to develop some detached and outreach work with more volunteers to expand to all young people in the area

Looking to personalise the space more to make it more youth friendly

Increasing the offer of Youth Cafés, Youth Forums and Holiday provision to Senior age bracket (obviously cost and volunteers impacts this)

Discussion

AB fed back about other grants that are available example being Bradenstoke Solar fund that may help Guiding in Lyneham with their electricity costs.

AB gave a background overview of LYNs and area board funding.

Discussion around joining up of voluntary organisations for support such as training. MH proposed considering an event at Memorial Hall to showcase organisations.

Discussions included possibilities of:

Joining up of voluntary organisations for support such as training for volunteers e.g. provision of equality and diversity training for groups
Offering training/skills to young people such as safe night out training or First aid.

An online 'shop window' of what youth activities are on offer in the towns and parishes.

Activities specifically targeted to support young people and the linking of youth and sports clubs to work together, taster sessions and possible event at the Memorial hall.

4. Challenges

Included in updates – key themes: ASB / Graffiti, young people and their parent's mental health.

5. Youth Grants

Unfortunately, no Youth Grant applications have currently been received.

AB outlined some examples of where youth funding has been made available. One example of partnering with H5 adventure and provided funding towards adventure days were able to fully fund some children this was funded by Town Council and the Area board.

AB explained about the youth funding criteria being targeted at the 13 – 19 year (and up to 25 with SEND) age groups and designed to be seed funding to start an initiative or one of projects or activities. AB & AJa both gave examples of projects both local and from the wider area and encouraged reaching out to communities to propose future activities and projects.

6. Recommendations to the Area Board.

Discussed the possibility of inclusion being added to the area board action plan and how this could be actioned.

Actions agreed:

Reach out to local organisations to gauge what support is needed and wanted.

ACTION : ALL

Reach out to local organisations regarding possibilities of taster sessions and working together and get idea of what is on offer to young people.

ACTION : ALL

Get feedback from young people regarding what types of activities or event/s would appeal.

ACTION : ALL

7. Proposed date for Next meeting: Wednesday 26th April, 4:30pm, via Teams – (This Forum has agreed to meet on a quarterly basis).

<p>Action 1.1 - Develop Local Youth provision, street based and safe space in the towns and assess provision in the villages.</p>	<p>ONGOING - An application for funding development of local youth provision in Cricklade was approved by the Area Board on 15th March. Following a request from RWB Town Council funding allocated in March 2021 was rolled over to develop provision in 2022/23. A Recommendation from the RWB&C Youth Forum, to ask T & PCs to comment on provision and requirement for outreach and safe space style youth provision was agreed by the Area Board on 15th March 2022.</p>
<p>Action 1.3 - Investigate level of mental health support young people and their families should expect and the correct way to access that support.</p>	<p>NEW ISSUE The RWB&C Youth Forum recommended this action is added to the Community Action Plan. Recommendation accepted by the area board on 15th March 2022.</p>
<p>Action 1.4 - Establish whether provision for mental health support through the ECHP process is delivering expected outcomes.</p>	<p>NEW ISSUE The RWB&C Youth Forum recommended this action is added to the Community Action Plan. Recommendation accepted by the area board on 15th March 2022.</p>
<p>ACTION 1.5: 'Year of Fun' - Encourage a programme of inclusive, positive, fun activities for young people.</p>	<p>Supporting positive mental health.</p>

ACTION 1.6 Food Poverty among Young People	Research the existence of food poverty among young people in the Community Area and opportunities to address that issue.
ACTION 1.7 Engaging more young people in physical exercise.	Engage with schools, local sports clubs, and leisure centres to consider ways to encourage more young people aged 16-19 to take regular exercise.

**Young People (Mental health, wellbeing, and positive activities)
Cllr Allison Bucknell (Area Board Lead)**