

Youth Services Partnership outline

2018-2021

The Youth Service, now branded 'BOA Youth', was commissioned by Bradford on Avon Town, commencing operation in July 2018, in furtherance of Part One of the Town Council's Youth Strategy.

The deliverables of the service include:

- Targeted (referred) youth work;
- Detached youth-work;
- Planned and open-access youth provision in a variety of locations, which would be likely to include maintenance of the current Youth Club;
- Strategic engagement and co-ordination with other providers and activities in the area, including sports and arts groups to maximise the community input into the service;
- Design and delivery of participation services to enable and embed citizenship and community engagement at a young age;
- Open to all children and young people from age 10-18 (Year 6–Year 13) within the defined area, to include age-appropriate activities for each age-group;
- Provision, according to identified need, for looked after young people or care-leavers up to the age of 25.

The scope of the work covers both the town and the surrounding community area of Bradford on Avon. For this reason in 2018-19, the service received financial support from both the Colonel William Llewelyn Palmer Education Charity (CWLPEC) and the Wiltshire Council Area Board. It is requested that financial support is maintained going forward, to ensure that scope of the service can be maintained.

Support for young people outside of the town includes both geographically local services in the villages, through provision of detached/outreach work and/or liaison with other local provision (where this exists), and potential creation of specific local provision where there is an identified need. Additionally, working in partnership with St. Laurence School, the BOA Youth can support all students, including those from the villages.

Outputs and outcomes of this work will be monitored on an ongoing basis through regular reporting to the Town Council and funding partners. Initially, these have primarily been output based, reflecting the need to bed the service in. Over time it is expected that we will see more outcomes-based and qualitative information. This will be supported by a strong participation-based element to the service, where young people are asked to contribute to decisions on the type of services on offer, assessing their own needs, and assessing impact. The Town Council and funding partners will have access to aggregated data produced from these online surveys, for use in evidencing the effectiveness of the service, and planning for additional support where required.

The agreed Town Council budget for 2019-20, allocates £47,270 for provision of BOA Youth. This is offset by assumed funding (to be agreed) from CWLPEC of £8,000 and from the Area Board of £6,000 – which matches the funding provided in the preceding financial year.

Support from the Area Board is important in ensuring that the provision can continue to work outside of the town. This is strategically important for the Town Council, given the high proportion of young people from the community area who access the Town Centre – the service was designed to assess and meet the needs of the whole area, acknowledging the inseparability of the town from the surrounding communities.

We welcome the potential contribution of £10,000 from the Area Board Local Youth Network, as it will secure and enhance BOA Youth's ability to serve the needs of those young people outside of the town, as well as add value to those provisions within the town, acknowledging that Area Board serves both the town and the surrounding area. The provision must continue to be needs led, and it is not desirable, at this stage, to define a specific output from the funding beyond those stated in the service specification provided above, which includes the whole community area. BOATC and Community Family Care (CFC) (the provider) will continue to work with the Area Board and other partner organisations to address specific to develop specific offering identified by the consultation work which CFC continue to undertake.

The receipt of monies in the 2018-19 financial year did not mean that the Town Council did not spend its allocated amount on Youth Services – instead, it meant that it was able to agree further spending on Youth provision accessible to young people from, across the community area. It is envisaged that this will continue to be the case in 2019-2020, particularly in areas of children and young people's mental health and well-being, where discussion with our local schools have already identified further needs, and which may be the focus of further partnership working.

Cllr. Dom Newton,

Leader, Bradford on Avon Town Council