

Councillor Led Project – “Positive Activities for Young People”

Pewsey Area Board, Jan 2021

Sponsored by Cllr Kunkler

Project Title

“Providing positive activities for young people in rural areas”

Description of Project

The Area Boards in the Warminster, Amesbury, Pewsey, Tidworth, Southern Wiltshire and South West Wiltshire community areas have all identified a need to increase engagement with young people, particularly in more rural areas.

There is a recognition that it is difficult to offer mainstream youth clubs where there are not large numbers of young people in one place. Consequently, youth providers have tended to operate more within the larger urban areas in the north of the County as well as Salisbury, leaving a vacuum within the south and east.

It was proposed that we work together and pool resources in order to grant fund a suitable organisation to provide initially 12 months support to address this issue.

It is envisaged that the project deliverer will need an initial period of 4 months of consultation and research to ensure that the programme compliments and strengthens what already exists, addresses need, has local ownership and will make a difference.

Following this research phase, the selected provider, working alongside local partners, clubs and organisations would be required to design and deliver a programme of activities in each community area. An initial research period of 4 months means that this activities phase will last 8 months.

Consideration would need to be given to the fact that in a rural county such as Wiltshire, isolation and poor mental health can be hidden amongst certain vulnerable groups of young people. Some evidence of local need, addressing gaps and making a difference would be required.

At the end of the one-year period a full report on the outcomes from the project will be required before Area Boards consider additional funding to continue the project for a further period of 12 months.

What are the Aims of the Project?

- Improved level of engagement with young people in the community areas, particularly with isolated young people in rural areas
- Increase in positive activities available
- Reduced isolation of young people in rural areas
- Identification of young people with issues around mental health, educational attainment and physical health issues

- Evidenced improvement in the above areas for those individuals identified
- Evidence that the needs of minority groups have been addressed
- A sustainable model has been developed in collaboration with key local partners and stakeholders

Who will benefit?

The project will benefit all young people who choose to get involved and offer opportunities to those who have not been able to access them.

Working with schools and other organisations, it is hoped that this will be of benefit to young people who need additional positive activities to support them

Funding

Each area board is being requested to put in £5k to pay for this initial work

The total money for the project for the first 12 months will be at least £30k. However, it is hoped that this can be used to attract in more external funding, and we have been working with the youth providers and Wiltshire and Swindon Community Foundation to achieve this

The project will be reviewed at the end of the year and further funding may be requested for subsequent years.

For some of the activities additional funding may also be required.

The youth funding currently stands at £14k. All money that has not been allocated by the end of March will be lost to the local area and returned to Wiltshire Council. Enough funding will remain to help with possible projects such as young people's mental health.

Next Steps

If the funding is approved, then Pewsey will be part of this project that has support from key services and management within Wiltshire Council.

The request for quotation will be sent out to possible providers on Friday 22nd Jan and will be open for at least 3 weeks.

The emphasis will be upon the bidder to tell us what they would do and how they will do it. A preferred organisation will be selected and awarded the grant in March and asked to start the project as soon as they can after April 1st, 2021.

Recommendation

The Area Board are asked to approve the request of £5,000 to be allocated from the youth funding towards this project