

Report to	Southern Community Area Board
Date of Meeting	14/03/2019
Title of Report	Review of Youth Club Funding 2018-19

1. Purpose of the report:

To ask Councillors to note feedback from Youth Clubs regarding commissioned youth activities during 2018/9

2. Main Considerations

(a) The following provision was commissioned and funded by the area board at the start of this financial year:

Innov8 Sportz CIC 60 hours of sports delivery until 31 March 2019	£2,850
Boomsatsuma 48 hours of arts delivery until 31 March 2019	£6,240
Any Body Can Cook 8 sessions at each group until 31 March 2019	£4,280

(b) The following Youth Clubs have benefited from this provision: Winterslow, Whiteparish, Old Sarum and Downton Baptist Church Youth Club.

(c) Points of feedback received from the clubs about the provision include:

Old Sarum

- Welcome the variety of activities from this commissioned approach
- Welcome the additional support this lends to voluntary youth group leaders
- All projects were very well delivered, Innov8 really engage well with the young people, activities are very well structured, ensuring all get engaged and try new activities, also the team listen and give a choice of what activities the young people want to do. Anybody can cook delivered very good activities, which both girls and boys enjoy. Catherine provides an excellent service above and beyond what she is commissioned for. Boomsatsuma – great range of activities and youth leaders to deliver, from dance, making music, through history making songs, music production, arts and crafts.
- We would like to use all these providers again, and suggest also commissioning Go Active because they deliver exciting new opportunities that young people cannot access in school for instance Zorbs which the young people asked for

Downton

- Only in part is this approach meeting young people's needs

- Young people really value general youth club provision which allows them to 'hang out', relax with their peers in a safe space, they don't always require the level of structured activities which this commissioned approach provides, although it is good to have an option
- Boomsatsuma's musical activities were good, the sporting activities less so because they seemed very structured and proscriptive

Winterslow

- Boomsatsuma - has been much better this year than last, with some really innovative sessions which have really engaged our young people
- Innov8Sports - do engage the members but this provision is more restrictive during the winter due to having to do sessions inside. The sports they do, whilst they are enjoyed, are not usually anything other than either what the members are already doing on their own anyway (e.g. football) or games that they do at school, so nothing new. We also have an issue with lack of outdoor space other than on the grass in the winter, which has resulted in problems with excessive mud in the building
- Anybody Can Cook - absolutely brilliant. Have some great ideas, great interaction with the young people and get them really engaged. The youngsters really look forward to their sessions

Whiteparish

- Our young people really enjoy the sporting activities and they love the activities provided by Innov8 sport. The music sessions from Boomsatsuma have gone down particularly well too.
- Our members also love the cookery sessions - there is a great take up for cookery.
- We find that the team from Innov8 sport and Any Body Can cook engage particularly well with our young people, as does DeeJ, who has delivered the music sessions.

(d) Other General Points of Note

- It is perhaps reasonable to assert that no programme of positive activity for young people or offer will please everyone. The collection of parishes which make up this community area are diverse geographically, demographically and socio-economically. Ideally we need to try to do the best for the majority, but it could well be that we haven't got the 'mix' right yet, i.e. do we apportion less to the commissioning model and keep more back for the reactive grant giving model?
- The Southern Community Area has not had the benefit of an assigned youth officer for 3 years now. One of the roles of assigned youth officers in the past was the regular auditing of what young people really 'want' and 'need' to do in the form of positive activity outside of school and family time. The topic of what a young person needs and wants to do is a complex one, but in the mix needs to be young people's voice and influence, alongside the voice and

influence of others. On the 1st May, the Southern Area Board hopes to shape part of its meeting around a facilitated discussion on this topic, and we very much hope that this discussion includes in it young people's representative voice.

- Of course, another voice at that 1st May discussion needs to be that of the voluntary youth leader, such as those already supporting this community area's main youth clubs. Youth leaders and their consistency of leadership is a key aspect for the success of these youth groups. A difficult, time consuming, responsibility laden and generally unpaid role. That leader is also dependent on the goodwill, time, relationship and skill of other local volunteers, and this mix impacts upon any youth group's ability to run extra stimulating activities over and above any activity which the area board commissions.
- Wiltshire Council is unable to return to the old model of paid, well trained, well skilled youth officers delivering a Youth Service. The loss of such a role and service has certainly been felt locally. The Community Engagement Manager has within her/his remit facilitation of positive youth activities and the championing of the voice and influence of young people. This is a remit which s/he manages alongside a number of other community engagement roles, be that for older people, vulnerable people, for countywide events, etc. The CEM, and the community led model of positive youth activities remains the preferred model of delivery for Wiltshire Council. Whether we choose to continue this via a commissioned provider model or return to a more reactive grant giving model, is for the area board to decide, based on the views expressed at the proposed 1st May youth themed discussion

3. 2018/19 Youth Budget Update

The Southern Area Board's Youth Budget Allocation for 2018/9 was £14,527.86, and it was spent in the following way:

Innov8 Sportz CIC 60 hours of sports delivery until 31 March 2019	£2,850
Boomsatsuma 48 hours of arts delivery until 31 March 2019	£6,240
Any Body Can Cook 8 sessions at each group until 31 March 2019	£4,280
Alderbury Juniors Football Club Fun Days	£1,157.86

4. Recommendation

That the 1st May 2019 Southern Area Board meeting include a Youth Theme, inviting views on how the 2019/20 Youth Budget should be shared to youth

clubs, initiatives and projects for the optimum benefit of all 11-18s (and to 25yrs for those with a learning disability or difficulty).

Report Author

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