

Report to	Southern Community Area Board
Date of Meeting	28/11/2019
Title of Report	Youth Groups Update

Update from Winterslow Youth Group

At the start of the September, a range of local issues from clashes with local football training to some poor behaviour which led to a permanent exclusion from the club, and the usual pressures of preparing for the 11+ meant that numbers were down on previous terms, however as the term has progressed numbers are creeping up (circa 25-30). This has impacted upon the club's finances (weekly attendance of 50 young people is needed to break even), but we are able to use our reserves for the time being.

Our biggest challenge at the moment is keeping enough volunteers to keep the sessions running - they are currently on a 5-weekly rota (used to be 7-8 weekly) and if we lose many more volunteers it will become even more frequent for the existing volunteers which will not be encouraging in terms of keeping hold of them! We have asked people why they are dropping off the rota - answers range from their child has decided not to come any more to (more commonly) they just don't have enough time any longer. We're hanging on for now and trying to encourage more parents.

In terms of Area Board funded activities:

- Zorb football went down extremely well, thank you!
- Yet to have a session from the District Sports organisation – update will follow
- Boomsatsuma have lined up pretty much the same activities as last year - they went down well then so I am expecting the same again. We have had a session of music production so far which was excellent, very engaging and certainly nothing that we could do ourselves.
- Cookery - yet to have a session but again, this is always very well supported and enjoyed.

The provision of external activities and a rejig of our layout to improve supervision in the upstairs area and a few committed volunteers have allowed us to also run an internally-organised activity too - such as glow in the dark ten pin bowling, decoupage boxes, badge making etc. We are also trialling 'game of the week' and putting out a different board game each week, encouraging children to give it a go by explaining the rules and helping them learn. This has been quite popular of the last couple of weeks when it has been far too wet to be outside!

Update from Whiteparish Youth Group

After much searching, the group now has a new Chairman, who is getting to grips with all that is involved in running the group, she is being supported by the outgoing Chairman.

The Youth group is going well so far this year, we have had approximately 30 young people coming along each Friday since the start of the new term and they all seem busy playing sports and happy to be hanging out!

The area board commissioned activities are really great, especially for those children who like to have something to do to keep them busy. The people running the sessions have all been professional, really passionate about their activity and also about engaging the young people and sharing their experience so I am really pleased! It is helpful to have an activity planned to keep the young people engaged, keep the numbers up, and therefore keep the group running.

Old Sarum Youth Club

Numbers dipped a little at the beginning of the year, but are steadily increasing now, with around 28 on the books. Youth leadership arrangements have seen one of the paid members of staff move on, and a volunteer stand in for the time being. The club is about to prepare for youth leadership funding in the new financial year and the CEM will follow this up to offer advice on funding sources where appropriate.

The commissioned activities are running well, with the cooking, Boomsatsuma activities and the bubble football events being very well received. The District Sports activities are due to take place in the winter.

Report Author

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