

<b>Report to</b>	Southern Wiltshire Area Board
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	9/09/2021
<b>Title of Report</b>	Rural Youth Outreach Project

1. The full description of the new Rural Youth Outreach Project is included at Appendix 1.
2. The targeted project outcomes are as follows:
  - Improved level of engagement with young people, targeting a reduction in isolation of young people in rural areas.
  - Identification of young people with issues around mental health, educational attainment and physical health issues and signposting to appropriate activities and support.
  - Increased and strengthened community led activity provision, with stronger communications channels between providers and partners across the communities.
3. Community First has been selected to deliver this project in the following community areas: Southern Wiltshire, Amesbury, Tidworth, Pewsey and Warminster.
4. Progress to date includes:
  - (a) Discussions between Community First officers, Cllr Richard Britton, Cllr Ian McLennan and the Community Engagement Manager to inform the initial research phase, where the objective will be to: map and gap where the issues are and which young people need to be targeted and how.
  - (b) These discussions have also taken into account the feedback recorded at Appendix 2 from the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2021 Youth Opportunities area board event. Key aspects from this that we hope to take forward are:
    - Explore the scope to fund additional professional youth worker support
    - The need to ensure young people themselves continue to shape the area board's youth offer (this will be helped by the Autumn 2021 Youth Survey)
    - The potential to re-start a new youth committee to facilitate the youth 'voice'

- Consider the re-start of a leisure credit scheme, especially to facilitate youth involvement in village work days (i.e. footpath work or village hall painting work etc)
  - A day of activities at a local venue, e.g. Hazel Hill Wood, Farley or at [Cameron's Cottage \(cameronbespolka.com\)](http://Cameron's Cottage (cameronbespolka.com)) in Nomansland
  - Future collaborations and activity programmes with the Youth Team at the New Forest National Park Authority
- (c) An interim report on the RYOP will be submitted to the area board in December 2021.

### **Recommendation**

That this update is noted, with part of the aim of this project being to identify what further funding might be needed to continue this work in subsequent years.

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