

25th January 2022 – RWB&C AREA YOUTH - NOTES:

Attendees: Cllr **Allison Bucknell** - Wiltshire Council; Cllr **Bob Jones** – Wiltshire Council; **Zoe Markham-Lee** – RWB Academy; **Danielle Blake**, Rise Trust; **Sue Hughes** - RWB Town Council and RWB Local Youth Network; **Angela Jensen** - Cricklade Town Council; **Maria Wykes**, Launch to Learning; **Amy Dallimore** – Army Welfare Service Lyneham; **Jane Vaughan**, Wiltshire Council.

Apologies: **Anita Ellis** - RWBA; **Michelle Temple** – Acting RWB Town Clerk



1. **Welcome** from Allison Bucknell

2. **Open discussion:**

'Surviving and Thriving' - How are we?

The group shared information about current activities and engagements with young people in the community area.

- It was generally suggested that approaches of Outreach and Safe Space youth work, currently being adopted in RW Bassett and Cricklade, were providing a much needed and appropriate response to the current needs and concerns of young people and the community.
- DB provided an overview of the work currently being undertaken by the Rise Trust and explained that their youth workers were trained in supporting, mentoring and signposting and support to access further positive activities and counselling/advice services.
- AJ provided information about the approach that Cricklade Town Council are taking to providing positive activities and sign posting to young people in the Town, especially to those who might be termed 'troubled' as a result of their backgrounds and lived experiences.
- AD explained that the provision supplied by the Army Welfare Service in Lyneham is under review and that she will shortly be leaving her post.

Worries:

- It was reported by everyone at the meeting that the Mental Health and Wellbeing of young people was of paramount concern.
- SH reported that previously 'well grounded' families are experiencing new stresses and pressures on their economies and health, which is resulting in more young people having less stability and access to in-family mentoring and mental health support.
- SH also reported that it was her impression that mental health issues are being experienced more widely by young people across all social classes in RWB.
- MW reported that the educational attainment gap was continuing to widen.
- ZML confirmed that teachers at the RWB academy were working to address the attainment gap while also being aware and concerned about an increase in young people disclosing mental health concerns. And also stated difficulties in accessing and making referrals to the ECHP (Educational Health and Care Plan) process.
- AD reported that the Army Welfare Service provide military families with family and personal support – which they can access through a 'one stop shop for support'.

3. 'Young Peoples Voice' - To discuss:

The group discussed the ways it is currently from young people through schools, outreach work and existing groups and clubs. In addition it was also noted that since the last Youth Forum in RWB&C and since the area board action plan had been adopted the following work had developed:

- Wiltshire Council Youth Survey – had been completed, approximately 600 young people from the Community Area had responded and the area board was awaiting publication of those results.
- Wiltshire Youth Council – the election of the local young people representatives was to take place from the 31st January and both RWB Academy and Bradon Forest Schools have engaged with the process. It is hoped that the Youth Council will provide the voice of young people and have a say on decisions that are made by the local authority. Youth councillors will also help to allocate money to projects that are important to young people. They will also have the chance to inspect council services, ensuring that these represent young people's best interests.

As such it was felt that, for the time being the Area should not try to create further competition for engagement with local young people

4. Recommendations for the area board/action plan:

- To find out what level of mental health support young people and their families should expect and the correct way to access that support.
- Find out if provision for mental health support through the ECHP process is delivering expected outcomes.
- To remove the development of a specific RWB&C Youth Voice group from the action plan at this time.

5. Next meeting

It was agreed that it would be useful for a Youth Forum to meet quarterly. The CEM was asked to arrange a meeting in approx 3 months.