

MINUTES

Meeting: DEVIZES AREA BOARD
Place: Devizes School, The Green, Devizes, Wiltshire, SN10 3AG
Date: 29 September 2014
Start Time: 7.05 pm
Finish Time: 8.35 pm

Please direct any enquiries on these minutes to: Libby Beale (Democratic Services Officer), on 01225 718214 or elizabeth.beale@wiltshire.gov.uk

Papers available on the Wiltshire Council website at www.wiltshire.gov.uk

In Attendance:

Wiltshire Councillors

Cllr Peter Evans, Cllr Sue Evans and Cllr Laura Mayes.

Wiltshire Council Officers

Richard Rogers (Community Area Manager)
Libby Beale (Democratic Services Officer)
Margaret Tipper (Community Governance Administrator)
Sally Willox (Community Youth Officer)
Sandra Samuel (Community Youth Officer)
Sarah Hanks (Community Co-ordinator)

Town and Parish Councillors

Devizes Town – Simon Fisher, Andy Geddes, Albert Woodridge, Judy Rose, Nigel Carter
Potterne – Pat Straw
Roundway – Ivon Beig, Andy Geddes, Albert Woodridge
Rowde – Rebekah Jeffries, Jackie Bawden
Urchfont – Ricky Mitchell, Dave Mattran

Partners

Wiltshire Police – Sally Pullen, Matt Armstrong, Clive Barker

Total in attendance: 85

<u>Agenda Item No.</u>	<u>Summary of Issues Discussed and Decisions</u>
1	<p data-bbox="336 376 480 412"><u>Welcome</u></p> <p data-bbox="336 443 1487 551">Cllr Laura Mayes welcomed those present to the meeting, it was explained that she would be the Chairman for the meeting since Cllr Simon Jacobs was unable to attend.</p> <p data-bbox="336 591 1487 698">The organisations present were thanked for their participation at the Youth Fair, it was commented that the number of organisations present demonstrated there were many opportunities for young people in the area.</p>
2	<p data-bbox="336 768 695 804"><u>Community Youth Model</u></p> <p data-bbox="336 835 1487 1093">Cllr Mayes introduced herself as the lead member for Children’s Services and tasked with reviewing the youth service. The councillor explained the development of the new community-led model for youth activities as arising from the need to use funding efficiently, reach more young people, ensure sustainability of service provision and adapt activities for young people to compliment modern lifestyles. It was stressed that, whilst the model had changed, the safeguarding of vulnerable children remained a priority.</p> <p data-bbox="336 1133 1487 1420">It was explained that a survey by Wiltshire Council had been carried out, receiving the largest ever response and revealing priorities for young people, including for them to have influence over how money for youth provision was spent. The Cabinet member explained there had been a great response from the voluntary sector to the model and it was keen to be involved in delivering services. It was highlighted that, under the new model, young people would shape the service to meet their needs and the Area Board would receive extra funding to provide grants to projects it deemed priorities.</p> <p data-bbox="336 1460 1487 1675">Cllr Mayes detailed the funding and support available as part of the new model including a Local Youth Network (LYN) consisting of young people, members of the Area Board and anyone interested in positive activities for young people, which would decide on funding priorities and recommend them to the Area Board. It was celebrated that Devizes was the first Area Board to be holding a Youth Fair.</p> <p data-bbox="336 1715 1487 1863">Sally Willox, introduced herself as the new Community Youth Officer (CYO) for the Devizes area. The officer described how she was already engaging with schools and young people and was keen to develop the capacity of positive activities in the area whilst also developing new opportunities for young people.</p> <p data-bbox="336 1904 1487 2007">Potterne Cricket Club presented a case for funding to install two indoor cricket nets at Lavington School, explaining this would be a community asset rather than for the school.</p>

	<p>Members of the public were invited to participate by way of identifying the greatest opportunity the new youth service would provide and the greatest challenge it may face.</p> <p>During a question and answer session it was confirmed that the new model was not initiated earlier in the year to ensure to provision of a summer scheme for young people over the summer holidays. The public were advised that if a safe place for young people to meet was identified as a priority, then this could be organised. The CYO advised one-to-one support would be available to those children who required it. It was explained that whilst the youth funding was specific to ages 13-19, the Area Board could support funding for younger age groups and children in rural areas. It was confirmed the leisure centre in Devizes was currently being used for activities and the centre decided the age-range of the young people involved. A question was raised over DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) checks, groups wanting to get involved in youth activities were advised to contact the CYO about the checks. Devizes Town Council was encouraged to send a representative for the LYN and it was noted that research was currently being undertaken into whether groups can use vehicles previously used by the Youth Service to help provide activities to young people in rural areas.</p> <p>A written response to questions and statements received would be available in the printed minutes.</p> <p>The public voted on responses to the questions on opportunities and challenges for the new model. It was considered that the greatest opportunity for the new youth model would be the positive engagement of young people with a wide range of organisations. The greatest challenge was thought to be finding enough local volunteers to get involved.</p> <p>It was advised that the Area Board would hear an update on Youth and the LYN at the next meeting.</p>
3	<p><u>Apologies for Absence</u></p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from:</p> <p>Cllr Simon Jacobs Cllr Philip Whitehead Cllr Richard Gamble Chris Butler (Devizes Community Area Partnership) Tony Duck (Devizes Community Area Partnership)</p>
4	<p><u>Minutes</u></p> <p>Resolved:</p>

	<p>To approve and sign as a true and correct record the minutes of the special meeting held on 3 July 2014.</p> <p>To approve and sign as a true and correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 19 May 2014.</p>
5	<p><u>Declarations of Interest</u></p> <p>There were no declarations of interest.</p>
6	<p><u>Young Persons' Champion</u></p> <p>Resolved:</p> <p>To appoint Cllr Richard Gamble and Cllr Simon Jacobs as Young Persons' Champions.</p> <p>Disappointment was expressed at the absence of four Area Board members, particularly those appointed as Young Persons' Champions.</p>
7	<p><u>New Youth Model</u></p> <p>Resolved:</p> <p>To adopt the Leaders Guidance for Positive Activities and Terms of Reference for Local Youth Networks (LYNs) and commence work on establishing a LYN.</p>
8	<p><u>Chairman's Announcements</u></p> <p>The Chairman drew attention to announcements in the agenda pack. It was also noted that a consultation on the Devizes Extra Care Scheme would be held on Thursday 9 October from 10am-7pm at the Corn Exchange.</p> <p>Devizes Town Council was complimented on its 2014 flower arrangements, they made the town a pleasant place to be.</p>
9	<p><u>Area Board Grants</u></p> <p>Following the earlier presentation from Potterne Cricket Club the Area Board considered its application for funding.</p> <p>Resolved:</p> <p>To grant Potterne Cricket Club £4,254 for the installation of new indoor cricket nets.</p>

10	<p><u>Proposed Improvements to Canal Footpath</u></p> <p>The Area Board considered a Member Initiative to contribute £5,000 towards proposed improvements to the canal footpath and it was considered that there was currently not enough detailed information on funding to make a decision.</p> <p>Resolved:</p> <p>To defer consideration of the Member Initiative to the next meeting.</p>
11	<p><u>Community Area Transport Group (CATG) and Air Quality And Transport Strategy Group update</u></p> <p>The Area Board considered the update from the last CATG meeting held on 8 September 2014 and heard details of speed limit changes to the C8 and C20</p> <p>Resolved:</p> <p>To pay for the speed limit review for the C8 and C20 from the CATG budget.</p>
12	<p><u>Partner Updates</u></p> <p>Attention was brought to a written update from Wiltshire Police included in the agenda pack.</p> <p>The Committee was updated that positive effects were resulting from working with Great Western Hospital and the Clinical Commissioning Group and that work was being done to reduce social exclusion amongst the elderly. It was suggested that there was a move towards placing health services into the community.</p> <p>The DCAP Partnership Manager explained the group was working hard on transport issues and proposals on the Connect 2 Services would be available at a public meeting on the 12 November 2014 at the Corn Exchange. It was noted that the group desired a flexible timetable at off-peak times whilst ensuring this would not leave residents isolated. Opportunities for car sharing in Devizes were being considered and the group was working with devizesmeansbusiness.com.</p> <p>Nigel Carter advised he would give a full statement at the next meeting. There was a joint working group on car parking consultation which intended to consult with the area of Devizes where residential spaces were being taken by commuters.</p> <p>An announcement was made that Devizes skate park would open on the 18 October 2014.</p>
13	<p><u>Evaluation and Close</u></p>

	The next meeting of the Area Board would be on 24 November 2014 with a focus on health and wellbeing.
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Implementing the Community-led model for youth activities

In May 2014 Wiltshire Council agreed to implement a community-led model for the provision of positive activities for young people. This came into effect on 1st October 2014. During the Devizes Area Board event on 29th September 2014, this new model was officially launched in the community. Following the event there were comments and questions left for the Devizes Area Board via the Community Youth Officer, to provide responses too. These are detailed below.

Questions:

Will there be clear guidance on how to apply for grants?

Yes, this material will be available on www.wiltshirecouncil.gov.uk and the Devizes Community Matters website, as well as www.sparksite.co.uk. Most importantly, the Community Area Board has a resource from the Community Youth Officer-Sally Willox, who can explain and support the process. Hard copies can be made available too.

How long will it take for the new model to be in place? When will things happen; how quickly?

The model was officially launched on 1st October 2014 in all community areas across Wiltshire and will be embedded and implemented from then onwards. Clearly it will take some time to fully implement it within the community but it will develop and take shape over the coming months. There is a process to follow and put into place which involves a lot of planning and coordination but already a lot of ground work is happening, groups and organisations are being met with, fundamentally young people; adults and young people are being spoke to and becoming involved in the new model if they want too, support and advice is being provided through the Community Youth Officer and area board, posters and flyers are being issued to promote the Local Youth Network, which will develop a plan, identify what young people want, where the gaps in provision are and start shaping new positive activities/supporting the community to apply for funding to implement these.

How will the Community Youth Officer get to meet youth groups?

Through making contact directly, introducing their role and engaging young people and adults in the new way of working. For Devizes, Sally Willox will visit groups and organisations and talk to members, as well as engage with young people through local secondary schools-Devizes School, Laverton School, Rowdeford and Downlands School. There has been lots of positive interaction during the last 3 weeks and consultation material, data and feedback collected, which will form the basis of a young person's needs analysis of the Devizes community area.

LINKED SUGGESTIONS-It was suggested that the same briefing takes place at schools through assemblies and lunch times, this is starting to happen. The Community Youth Officer is engaging with secondary schools and talking to

young people and enabling them to engage in the new model. Part of their role is to ensure young people especially know about this new model, participate and are central to shaping the new 'offer' for young people.

'Would like to have seen more young people present this evening', again this will be met through the intentions set out above. The model was launched at the Area Board and the Community Youth Officer was only just in post, it takes time to develop positive relationships with young people and communities, which is why there wasn't many young people present on the night. However, a huge amount of young people have been engaged and consulted with since through Sally Willox and will continue over the next few months. There are plans in place for a young person's only event to develop the Local Youth Network involvement for young people to ensure they fully understand this process and become central to it.

Will youth clubs providing activities for 8-12 year olds be able to access funding? Will these clubs for younger children be able to access support and services?

The groups and organisations eligible to apply for the new positive activities for young people funding must be, in the main, aged between 13-19 years old. This is the age range that this new Community-led model is intended for. If the core of users of provision are aged 13-19, then yes the clubs can apply for funding but this will need to be talked through with the Community Youth Officer. If the clubs seeking support only offer provision for 8-12 year olds then they will not meet the criteria under this new model. If there is a main high proportion of 13-19 year olds, then younger children can benefit from accessing support and services, this will be talked through with the Community Youth Officer. Wiltshire Council's new model for youth activities is for young people aged 13-19 and up to 25 with additional needs.

Looking at the post it board, where is the safe place for young people to meet?

Young people have been beginning to identify what they feel is missing in the community area and identifying gaps. The post it notes on display at the Area Board event were comments written by young people at Devizes School. If young people are saying there is no safe place to meet, then this will become a local priority that is fed into the Local Youth Network where positive activities will be shaped, delivered and implemented through a process that will include making recommendations to the Area Board for how the allocated funding should be spent. Young people will be fully involved at each stage.

Why was the session not held before the youth centre shut, so we knew what was available? When will this enable the youth centre to open?

The new Community-led model for youth activities was not in place until 1st October 2014 because Wiltshire Council's old youth service offer was still being utilised, up until 30th September 2014. The council's open access youth work offer was in operation until the end of September and school summer holidays were a busy time for youth activities with planned provision in place.

The service users were being engaged with in relation to the new community-led model and prepared for the change in ways of working.

The youth centre itself may fit into a plan for provision for young people, if it is brought to the Local Youth Network. If a group or organisation, which can be young people (with a supporting organisation) wish to plan for a new activity for young people, that has evidence supporting it from youth, then they can approach the management of the youth centre and discuss the proposal. The key principle for any new suggestion of positive activity is that it must have supporting needs-analysis showing it is what young people want. The Local Youth Network, Community Youth Officer and Area Board can provide support to developing plans and projects. The Community Youth Officer is the community's resource and the 'go to' person.

Why was Devizes not recognised before?

The Devizes Community Area is being highly recognised as already providing a diverse range of positive activities for young people and this new model; through the Community Youth Officer, will ensure existing provision are promoted to young people and the community.

Where are the volunteers coming from?

Part of the Community Youth Officers role is to build community capacity by enabling the voluntary and community sector to become involved in provision and to enhance what there is on offer, as well as to encourage volunteering, making the most of local resources. Already those individuals interested in volunteering have spoke with the Community Youth Officer and members of the Area Board. There has been a lot of interest in getting involved. A database of these volunteers is being collected and maintained and when positive activities are being coordinated, they will be utilised accordingly. The Community Youth Officer and Area Board are promoting the new model wherever they go and encouraging volunteers. These individuals are coming from diverse areas of the community and it is truly inspiring.

How far will it have come 1 year on?

The Community Youth Officer, Community Area Manager and Devizes Area Board are very keen and motivated to ensuring the success of this new model and working very hard to implement it positively, professionally and successfully throughout the Devizes community area. Its success is determined by the building of strong relationships and partnerships with existing groups and organisations, including schools, young people and the community as a whole. The model will rely on community working and development, where the coming together of young people and partners will tailor a unique offer of positive activities for youth. This has started very positively indeed and over the coming months will be reflected upon, with new and developed activities being available and engaged with. It is a challenge and will be hard work but there are determined professional individuals striving to drive it forward.

COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

- Give us a youth centre and youth workers/assistant youth workers.
- Events where children will turn up (not just adults), e.g. school lunch times, the Green for example.
- Work with other groups in the community and help one another.
- Leisure centre could be used a lot more than it is at present.
- Check with churches what youth groups they have.
- Encourage Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme
- Encourage groups to publicise their activities. It will be great to have more facilities in Devizes but there needs to be support for the villages or cheap transport into Devizes.
- Listen directly to young people. Give them more of a say. Engage wider cross-section.
- Monitor and review services.
- Treat young people as adults not as children and engage with them.
- Link young people with organisations so more aware of what is on offer.
- Get young people involved in embracing new model.
- Involve greater numbers of young people.
- Find sufficient volunteers to lead activities.
- To build and strengthen bonds in the community.
- Enable better communication amongst the community.
- Getting positive engagement for a positive future.
- Making the budget go round and finding enough volunteers.
- Increase awareness of available facilities and how providers can engage with youth.
- Transport to and from activities.

There were many valuable and interesting comments and suggestions, as detailed above and these will be reflected upon and fed into the implementation of the new community-led model for youth activities. These have been responded to through some of the answers above in relation to direct questions.

Key to this model is that there must be coordination and support to enable young people to have a voice and influence on services and activities, this will happen and has commenced positively. Young people want to be involved and are engaging.

There will be greater publication and promotion of existing provision for young people through this new model. This will happen by social media, internet sites, publications, direct engagement and other forms of media. These means will be highlighted throughout the community.

The Community Youth Officer will be instrumental in facilitating local youth provision, chiefly through the implementation of the Local Youth Network and will be the 'go to' person for support and advice on youth issues, they are a key resource. Monitoring and reviewing of provision will take place frequently to ensure compliance with council guidance, including safeguarding which is paramount and critical.

If anybody would like to find out more about the Community-led model for youth activities or the Local Youth Network and or become involved, please contact the Community Youth Officer Sally Willox, Community Area Manager Richard Rogers or the Devizes Area Board.

sally.willox@wiltshire.gov.uk, richard.rogers@wiltshire.gov.uk

There is information available on www.sparksite.co.uk and www.wiltshirecouncil.gov.uk, as well as Devizes Our Community Matters.

**Sally Willox-Community Youth Officer for the Devizes Community Area.
October 2014, with thanks.**

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