



Royal Wootton Basset and Lyneham – April and May 2017

SUMMARY:

April and May have been months characterised by a considerable amount of work behind the scenes to allow the face to face work to continue successfully. I will split this summary into these two themes!

Behind the scenes:

- CMAS has advertised, interviewed and recruited three new members of staff to cover staff absence and to allow us to work across wider geographical area
- CMAS has completed DBS (police) checks with all staff, back-filling lapses
- CMAS has put all staff on to payroll and started paying them in line with HMRC responsibilities
- We have had one staff meeting where all new and old staff met and discussed the past, present and future

Face to face:

- The work has continued apace with over 20 young people attending each session
- Themes of work most regularly addressed by youth workers are “relationships and sexual health” and “illegal drugs”, but with several times “mental health/being part of armed forces” coming up
- Four young people have been supported to take up Chlamydia tests (and “do it yourself” postal screening test that allows young people to catch this potentially damaging infection early)
- Sessions have been run for “Vegetarian week”, cooking vegetarian foods and giving young people quizzes to get them thinking about what they put in to their bodies

TWO MONTHS SESSIONS:

5/4/17 – Lyneham – 34 attendees

6/4/17 – RWB – 21 attendees

13/4/17 - RWB – 22 attendees

19/4/17 – Lyneham – 24 attendees

20/4/17 – RWB – 24 attendees

27/4/17 – RWB – 28 attendees

28/4/17 – Lyneham – 17 attendees

3/5/17 – Lyneham – 24 attendees

4/5/17 – RWB – 23 attendees

11/5/17 – RWB – 28 attendees

12/5/17 – Lyneham – 28 attendees

17/5/17 – Lyneham – 27 attendees

18/5/17 – RWB – 30 attendees

25/5/17 – RWB – 26 attendees

HALF TERM

ISSUES FACED:

The building we use in RWB is not suitable for purpose. We have a key to a toilet we need to leave the main building to get to, but this means one member of staff is basically “toilet duty” for the whole sessions!

PARTNERSHIP WORK:

We have been working with the committees or individuals who run halls and have, in the past couple of years, moved about a lot in RWB trying to find the best facilities in the right location. On 12th July we are meeting with local residents, town councillors, PCSO's and interested others (arranged by Sue Hughes) to start looking at the issue of youth facilities in the area as a wider issue.

We are also working with Bridge Training Ltd to design, write and deliver a BTEC for young leaders working in youth clubs. We have agreed a price and process with this well-respected training provider, and now just need to recruit enough young leaders (aged 16-18) across North Wiltshire to make this feasible. We think we need eight for it to work and our youth workers are working hard with their groups to find the right candidates.

CMAS: THE BIGGER PICTURE

Community Mentoring and Support CiC (CMAS) continues to grow. In Gloucestershire our educational mentoring programme is growing in popularity, offering solutions to schools and local authorities who need to offer an education to young people but cannot house them safely and successfully in any established provision. We have recently advertised for staff in Devon and Cornwall and appointed a Director to lead in this geographical area to roll out this provision there.

Also in April we opened the "GCAFE" – a commercial café that operates as a social enterprise to raise funds for the core aims of CMAS. It also offers regeneration to an unused council building AND work experience for young people – it's a win, win, win! We hope to replicate this model in other areas.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE YOUTH CLUBS:

We are moving outside for the summer, from June onwards. The reason for this is that we have a wider reach with young people: the ones who come to the youth clubs already are told where to meet and so attend; and of course, by being out in public we have the chance to meet and speak to new young people.

In September, we have managed to get the hall in Lyneham on the same day each week. This is a small but significant victory both in terms of getting consistency with young people and also in planning staffing each week. This hall is really good and the committee very supportive of our work with young people.

The issue of the hall at RWB is one that we hope to address through partnership work, as above.