

Royal Wootton Bassett & Cricklade Area Board Positive Leisure Activities for Young People Proposal July 2018

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Proposal: -

For the remainder of the 2018-19 Funding Year: -

1. The Area Board continues to fund provision at Lyneham, RWB and Cricklade for one session per week through CMAS
2. The Area Board continues to support the work of the RWB LYN
3. The Area Board recommends Lyneham, Cricklade and Purton set up a youth forum to establish local needs with support from the Area Board
4. The Area Board works with the parishes to secure a sustainable delivery model for 2019/20
5. CMAS to develop a programme of Youth Leaders in the community area
6. The Area Board responds to any grant applications for youth funding based on evidence of need

For Future: -

The Area Board has no guarantee of funding levels for 2019/20, however subject to available funding, the Royal Wootton Bassett & Cricklade Area Board enables Positive Leisure Activities for Young people aged 13-19 (or 25 with a disability) based on the following criteria:-

1. Any parish requesting funding towards youth provision should have a meaningful youth forum to establish need and monitor outcomes
2. Any request for funding should be accompanied by local resources, including finance and manpower and should be evidence-based?
3. Any future contracts with providers such as CMAS should belong to the parish or other organisation requesting the funding, not the Area Board
4. That provision becomes more sustainable through the development of local youth leaders and volunteers

Financial position: -

For 2018/19

Total Youth Grant budget for our Community Area is £25,877.

Committed to date for 6 months' provision of 1 session per week in RWB/Lyneham/Cricklade is £8,883.75 + room hire costs leaving approximately £16,500 to invest.

Reasons: -

1. The voice of the local young people should be instrumental in leisure provision in their community
2. Sharing the provision with partner organisations such as town and parish councils ensures local ownership of the issues faced by the young people within that community.
3. Local resources are harnessed and positive relationships can be built upon, whilst building up local capacity and resilience through training of youth leaders and volunteers
4. The Area Board has limited funding that has to be shared across all towns and villages within the Community Area and there is no guarantee of funding levels in future years, given the context of escalating adult social care needs/costs?
5. The Area Board funding should be used to enable, not to provide

Statutory requirements with regards to children and young people: -

Local authorities have a number of different statutory duties with regards to children and young people. The most relevant statutory duty relating to youth services is the duty to secure access to positive activities. Under section 507B inserted into the Education Act 1996 by virtue of section 6 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006, the duty requires Local Authorities to ensure, so far as reasonably practicable, that young people have access to sufficient educational leisure-time activities which are for the improvement of their well-being and personal and social development. This includes sufficient facilities for such activities; that activities are publicised; and that young people are placed at the heart of decision making regarding the positive activity provision. The duty applies to the 13 – 19 age range, and up to 24 for young people with learning difficulties.

The duty for positive activities is an opportunity to think and respond more widely to the needs of young people in the community area.

The Background: -

The new Positive Leisure Activities for Young (PLAY) people model was introduced in Wiltshire in 2014, with the emphasis on providing positive outcomes using existing resources and spaces.

The original model saw a Locality Youth Officer (LYO) working with the Area Board to assess the needs of the young people in our area, to create a Locality Youth Network (LYN) Steering Group to oversee the work within the community area and to work with organisations to provide activities that met the identified needs. The dedicated youth centres in RWB, Cricklade and Purton were closed and money given to the Area Board to meet local needs.

There are geographical challenges within our community area, based around the fact that our area has two towns and two large villages, as well as two secondary schools.

Our young people attend a variety of schools both within the community area and outside (even outside the county) which made accessing the young people difficult.

Royal Wootton Bassett The majority of young people in RWB attend the RWB Academy, which meant working with RWB Young people was relatively straightforward

Cricklade- Young people attend Bradon Forest, Farmers in Cirencester, Kingsdown in Swindon.

Purton- Most young people attend Bradon Forest, however the school has a large proportion of pupils from Swindon

Lyneham- The designated school is RWB Academy however increasing numbers of young people are having to go to Calne or Chippenham as RWBA is full.

The other smaller villages in our Community Area have not previously had dedicated Wiltshire Council youth provision, there are lower numbers of children who will generally attend one of the two local secondary schools.

The outcome of the previous needs assessments were inconclusive, and only RWB managed to set up a LYN which had limited success and subsequently closed.

There is already widespread provision for young people from the uniformed organisations and sports clubs. Efforts to engage with existing providers to see if they could enhance their offering with funding from the Area Board were unsuccessful. Engagement with schools has been mixed across the community area.

There was concern from the Area Board that we had a small but significant group of young people within our community who were not being well served as there were barriers to accessing the conventional offerings above.

In order to buy time whilst the needs assessments were carried out, to provide continuity with important mentor relationships and to help address low level anti-social behaviour, the Area Board procured the services of Connecting Youth, which was an organisation set up by some of the former local youth workers who had a long standing investment in youth work in the area. Connecting Youth has been taken over by Community Mentoring and Support (CMAS) who have extended their provision and are now working with RWB, Cricklade, Lyneham and potentially Purton, with 100% funding from the Area Board.

The Area Board has also funded other projects including work on Mental Health, Cyber bullying, barbells, outdoor activities and funding towards enhanced provision through sports clubs.

The Future: -

Young People's Forum

Meaningful engagement with our young people remains a challenge. Looking to local communities to provide a young people's forum would encourage the young people's voice in more than just positive leisure activities. There would be an opportunity for them to have a say in other local provision such as housing development and service provision.

Funding

There is currently no capping on precept levels for the smaller town and parish councils so there is an opportunity through local precepts to improve their local offering and to take control of that provision. There is an element of uncertainty when depending on Wiltshire Council funding which can be removed by taking local control of provision.

Provide not Procure

Wiltshire Council has procurement thresholds which are in danger of being breached if the Area Boards continue to work with and expand provision via CMAS. This does not apply if a parish council holds the contract.

Community Capacity

Developing local young people to be Youth Leaders increases the local community's resilience and independence, giving more control to local people. This is greatly enhanced by the many volunteers in our community area, the Area Board recognises all they do and will continue to provide support in terms of advice, promotion of opportunities and success stories and signposting.

Safeguarding and Quality Assurance

To underline, there is a need for all stakeholders involved in youth provision to ensure services are developed safely and with appropriate care.