

Calne Local Youth Network

Needs Assessment and Recommendations to Calne Area Board

11th September 2018

Purpose of the report:

- 1. To make recommendations for further work in the Calne Community Area and create a sustainable model with projected officer support in the future.**
 - 2. To share an assessment of need for the Calne Community Area based on the Joint Strategic Assessment and focus groups conducted in the area.**
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Recommendations

- To appoint a youth and children's champion to assist the CEM in coordinating LYN functions
- To create a partnership with John Bentley School to host the physical meetings of the LYN and provide more youth voice to the decision-making process. All consent will be held by JBS.
- To create partnerships with the Town Council and other funders to devise a coordinated plan for youth provision in the community area. Focused on a paid worker with a ¾ or full-time role coordinating volunteers.
- To approach appropriate youth agencies to invite grant applications for paid workers to address the ideas below.
- The successful youth organisation would employ this worker and direct the work streams based on the aims in the applications. Each funder can liaise on the aims for their section of funding in line with the coordinated strategy and will be able to conduct quality assurance checks.

Needs Assessment

The 2017 Joint Strategic Assessment (JSA) is attached giving an overview of the community area against key indicators.

At the 'Our Community Matters' event in November 2016 the community voted on priorities for the area. For children and young people these were:

- Mental and Emotional Health
- Job Prospects
- Educational Attainment

There were some young people from the local youth network and key children and youth service agency partners present. The conversation did address some of the core concerns of young people and children's services and the community vote reflected these priorities.

In 2017 the Locality Youth Facilitator conducted some focus groups at John Bentley School to gain further opinions from young people in the JSA. Young people from different year groups were asked to attend and the school endeavoured to include young people from a variety of backgrounds and abilities.

These young people looked at all the JSA data, not just the children and young people section.

The salient points from these groups included:

The younger years (7-9) didn't feel there needs to be any more activities. Many are beginning to hang out outside in groups. They felt this was part of growing up and finding ownership of a space.

They discussed the experiences of living in Calne. Some felt there were no-go zones. Where they perceived there would be trouble. This led to discussions about personal safety, groups and ownership of older groups.

This group did have strong views about the link between poverty and educational attainment. They felt there was not enough support if you were poor. They identified a link between education and social care and thought there wasn't enough being done to prevent this. They felt education could be improved

While the older years (10-11) had similar feelings about ownership but did see space for more venues rather than activities.

There was a stronger sense of ownership of place than the young group. Multiple venues discussed as well as knowledge of what goes on in each area. There was discussion about interaction with the police asking them to move on. A lot of misperception of anti-social behaviour. They felt they were viewed as anti-social regardless of their actions.

They struggled to formulate a message to adults to communicate their point of view when asked for it from many adults.

They discussed what Calne needed and felt somewhere to sit and eat like a subway would be extremely good for many reasons. To keep out of the way, somewhere safe and somewhere with provisions and a toilet. Shelter. They also thought some form of entertainment would be good, like lazer quest.

In terms of 'Job Prospects' this was discussed by the year 10-11 group and the sixth form group.

The young of these two discussed tactics they use to get employment and how they feel they are seen as not good enough. A lot of them don't know how to go about getting a job as a teenager. Some felt their job prospects as adults were the same while others thought they would be determined enough to get a career and earn money. A lot of discussion was focused on money and economic growth as their success measurement.

The Sixth form group talked about staying in Calne. Many said they wouldn't, they didn't see the job prospects they desired in Calne. Expected to head to a city. Most felt they could find work in Calne and would know how to, however, they didn't feel they could have a career beyond a teenage job role. These young people have already reached a level of attainment that is not considered a concern.

Under 'Mental Health' there was less awareness in younger years of what is available, the year 10-11 group was mixed between people who felt there was enough support and it was effective and people who didn't know what was available and felt there should be more. One person acknowledged she probably thought there wasn't enough as she had no need to access a service so didn't know what was there. All knew of 'Kooth' and felt they knew where to start if they had concerns.

The Sixth Formers all said they didn't know what was available to them in school and felt what would be available wasn't for them. There was discussion about transitions to adulthood and how services in either adult or children's sectors weren't for them.

At the end of each session the young people voted on the children and young people's priority choices as in the JSA event.

Priority	Group 1 7-9	Group 2 10-11	Group 3 6 th form	total
Child Poverty	5	7	0	12
Job Prospects	3	8	2	14
Positive activities	3	17	4	24
Educational attainment	4	3	5	12
SEND	1	0	1	2
Teenage pregnancy	2	0	0	2
Obesity	2	0	4	6
Mental health	2	0	5	7

- Positive Activities (24)
- Job Prospects (14)
- Child Poverty (12)
- Educational Attainment (12)

This vote demonstrates that there is a possible disparity between what agencies are seeing and dealing with and what young people themselves see as priorities.

There was a short discussion about youth work or positive activities being a space where a lot of the other priorities are addressed. But the conversations about activities centred around space rather than organised activities.

The Local Youth Network

The LYN has functioned since 2014 with a young person chair supported by the LYF/CYO. Calne has had a good youth representation throughout this time while adults from key agencies have been consulted with rather than taking an active role. Although the town council and Launch 2Learning have maintained stronger links and had reps sit on the LYN.

With the potential Wiltshire Community Engagement team restructure and the departure of a dedicated LYF, the Calne LYN and Area Board need to consider how to maintain this youth voice function in grant recommendations and to the area board.

John Bentley School has a strong pupil parliament who have been consulted with by the LYF and has been visited by the current town Mayor Cllr Glenis Ansel. Preliminary conversations with the Head Teacher Mr Tudor have led to the idea that this pupil parliament could host the LYN with the same bi-monthly pattern and include pupils from other secondary's if there is interest.

All young people joining the LYN will need to have consent held by an organisation they are attached to, not an officer from the area board.

A Youth and Children's Champion role has been suggested to help coordinate this new function and maintain contact with the area board. This role could function like the Older People's champion They would coordinate meetings and take actions from meetings to address with the Community Engagement Manager. The role would include children because this age group is also under-represented in the area board.

The LYN would take the JSA priorities to guide their decisions. A combination of the official JSA priorities and the locally focused results will be considered.

The LYN will need to draw in more partners to provide some stability to the LYN group in the absence of a dedicated worker. The LYN could take a commissioning role to fund the dedicated support they require to ensure their actions are delivered professionally.

Ideas for exploration:

Youth Coordinator Role

Commissioning a substantial role for a qualified youth worker in the town could help to put a lot of the following ideas into place. Someone to coordinate volunteers and practically coordinate a couple of evenings of youth work, both centre or café based and street based would ensure that continuous

contact was kept with young people. Face to face engagement with a skilled worker on a long term basis in different settings provides a consistent face for young people and youth voice.

A joint funding model where different agencies fund different aspects of the work and solid partnership agreements will need to be explored to ensure priorities and work streams are clear for the youth worker.

Safe Space.

A group of young people were consulted with in 2016 with Sgt Lungu and Helen Bradley. The idea of a teenage playground came up because young people are often asked to move from the large bucket swing in playgrounds. North End was held up as an inclusive playground space but was very far away. A shelter that you could plug a phone or ipod and play to a certain sound level was brought up as an ideal situation. Young people explored the concept of safety with us and cited physical aspects such as being close to a shop or establishment with adults in case of emergency, somewhere well-lit and somewhere they wouldn't disturb residents. Space is important to young people gaining a sense of ownership and therefore responsibility. Dedicated space for young people, whether a building or outdoor space will be important moving forward.

Positive Tickets

This concept was a successful partnership between the police and area board. It has been agreed to explore this again using more agencies to widen the referral points. Branding and promotion will be key in the success of a new positive tickets model because agencies have less capacity and less face to face time with young people to spot positive acts.

Street Based Outreach

This method is extremely effective but very hard to predict and not consistent. Youth culture and movement has changed a lot in the last 5 years which has been seen across the county. There is now very little intelligence about the effectiveness of street based because most of this provision has been removed.

The LYF has tried to include outreach in grant applications to the LYN. This has had varying success. Young people were met on the street, however the skills of the workers involved did not always bring this to fruition.

There are a couple of agencies with workers skilled in this area. If this were to be pursued, a long term street based approach could be very effective in Calne because of the number of outdoor spaces, including the skate park and because of the feedback from young people in the focus groups.

Youth Café, not Youth club.

Open access spaces are the most requested provision when young people are asked. However, when discussed, a transactionary relationship with adults is often preferred. Young people talk about 'Subway' or 'McDonalds'. A Youth Café can provide a space that is halfway between this client/establishment relationship and a youth work relationship.

There was an attempt to set up a Calne Youth Café however finding someone to coordinate and lead the project proved difficult. Volunteers were abundant and two people attended youth work training in preparation to volunteer but a leader wasn't found. There is a bank account, constitution and potential venue ready to go.

If a paid worker could be found for this role, then I am confident the volunteers would be available to keep a project of this sort running.

Chippenham has a good model of this, run by The Rise Trust. There have been discussions with Rise about youth work in Calne and this avenue could be explored further.

Next steps

As set out in the recommendations. A coordinated approach will be needed to effectively deliver on these ideas. With a decrease in officer support it will be necessary to appoint both voluntary and paid professional support in the Calne area. These elements will support the youth voice function of the area board, support the Area Board officers in delivering aims focused on young people and create solid partnerships to deliver professional youth work.

Prepared by Helen Bradley, Locality Youth Facilitator - July 2018