

Development Service for Young People

Report to South West Wiltshire Community Area Board - 8th December

The past couple of months have seen new young people accessing the Development Centres for Young People across the 3 community areas as older members either move on or become peer leaders. We are continuing to work with young people to develop youth work programmes and we are looking into ways of enabling young people in rural isolated areas to access provision. Leisure Credits continues to run in all 3 community areas and the good work of young people on the scheme was recently acknowledged through an appearance on BBC 1's Countryfile.

Community Area Young People's Issues Group (CAYPIG) News:

Wilton: The Young People have identified their priority projects for the rest of the year and they allocated their curriculum funding based on these discussions. The money was split between the open youth work sessions, the football project, the girls night with an amount being kept for a rural outreach initiative

Tisbury: Young People have been involved in 2 separate groups; a) looking at the development of a new Skate Park in Tisbury - young people helped write a questionnaire about future ideas and b) they have been involved in consultation about the Tisbury Campus

Mere: The young people here have been responding to the proposals in the 13 - 19 strategy and made suggestions about ways in which they could be involved in fundraising to help achieve the local income generation target that Youth Development Co-ordinators are being set.

The annual Locality Planning and Evaluation Residential will be taking place over the weekend of 13 - 15th January. This is the opportunity for CAYPIG members from across Southern and South West Wiltshire to come together with Youth Development Co-ordinators to review the past year and make recommendations for future developments in the community areas.

11 - 19 Strategy:

The details of the cuts to Development Services for Young People generally as well as more locally within the South West Wiltshire Area are not yet clear although we can expect a fairly significant reduction in staffing levels across the county. There is an Implementation Group currently looking at all the recommendations and as things become clearer or decisions are made, they are reported on.

There is an expectation that locally we raise more money to support youth work provision as well Youth Development Co-ordinators working with local communities to create new partnerships and develop volunteers to underpin our open access services.

Each community area will have a Youth Advisory Group (YAG), chaired by a young person under the age of 25 and at least 50% of the group's membership will be aged 19 and under. Terms of Reference for these groups are presently being drawn up by the 11- 19 Strategy Implementation Group and there are four pilot YAG's being developed. It is anticipated that YAG's will be established in all 20 community areas by June 2012. It is presently not clear where this leaves CAYPIG's but as soon as we know this will be reported.

Whilst there is uncertainty around the future of Services to Young People generally we continue to work with local young people providing them with opportunities to develop personally and socially. We will continue to provide open access services as well as working more intensely with those young people most in need. We are fortunate that we have the support of local communities and the Area Board for the work that we do and this is valued and appreciated by staff and young people. Thank you!

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