

WESTBURY AREA BOARD

February 2012

**Westbury CAYPIG-Community Area Young People's Issues Group/  
Youth Development Work update - partner report**

**Purpose of the Report**

1. Update on young people's issues in the Westbury community area generated through the CAYPIG-Community Area Young People's Issues Group
2. Update and profile of young people's involvement in positive, developmental youth work opportunities through the Youth Development Service in Westbury, including those which benefit the wider community.

**Background**

1. The Westbury CAYPIG has been established for just over 2 years now and is coordinated by the Youth Services, part of Integrated Youth Services, through Westbury Youth Development Centre (Sally Willox-Youth Development Co-Coordinator/Team Leader Westbury and Warminster). Over the 2 years, membership has grown and a diverse group of young people are involved and represented with a core group of 10-20. New members are welcome to join at anytime. CAYPIG's take place every 6-8 weeks at Westbury Youth Development Centre and young people can be transported to and from it.

2. The CAYPIG allows young people to raise issues which affect them and others in the Westbury community area and to discuss solutions or positive action which can be taken to help improve or resolve these. This is a democratic forum for young people to become involved in and to have a voice and influence in the community they live in. The CAYPIG is supported by adult representation from Wiltshire Council, including Wiltshire Councillors, Westbury Town Council and their Town Councillors, Youth Services Youth Development Workers, Information, Advice & Guidance PA's, Extended Schools Services, Matravers School, Wiltshire Police, Fairfield Farm College, BA13 Community Area Partnership and other services and organisations. Issues and ideas raised to date have include-Westbury skate park improvements, pavement lighting in certain areas of Westbury, installation of youth shelters in specific locations, leisure credits scheme, smoothy bar project, young people's rural transport scheme, development of a multi-media room at the youth centre, 13-19 Youth Strategy and perception of young people in the community; among others.

**Main Considerations**

Young people would like their involvement in positive activities and opportunities through the CAYPIG and Westbury Youth Development Centre to be highlighted so that the wider community and other services/organisations can help take action/support them and so that they can be viewed positively. Young people also wish to profile their commitment to improving life in the Westbury community area for young people and others.

The main issues the CAYPIG group are currently engaged in are- Multi-media room development and smoothy bar project, among others.

**The first two issues are linked to young people wanting to have more positive things to do and places to go in Westbury.**

**Multi-media room**

Young people came up with the idea of developing a multi-media room within the Youth Development Centre some time ago because they want to have a facility where they participate in film making, photography, animation, music technology, other art forms, computer skill development and other media opportunities, during the evenings and weekends (out of school hours) but have no access to this equipment. Thorough planning took place, along with funding applications being submitted. The group are turning a redundant room in the centre into a multi-media room, which will then benefit the community, specifically young people but also other groups. The group are completing ASDAN Activities, Arts Awards and Duke of Edinburgh Awards to reward them for their hard work and achievements, as well as participating in focused projects, in the main a local heritage project.

The group have been successful in being awarded a grant from the Area Board, as well as other streams. This project is a needs led idea from young people, with a core group of 20 young people leading it. A DVD film produced by young people showing how the grant was spent will be shown at a future Area Board. Young people have been using new equipment to develop film making and photography skills and learning how to use specialist equipment. This is a very exciting resource for young people and the community and is a work in progress. Now that the room has been almost decorated, the next stage is to install a multi-media screen and projector. This is happening in February 2012. Most of the specialist equipment has been purchased and is being used. Furniture has to be ordered next so that the room can be set up and accessible at all times. The ceiling is being finished painted by contractors during February 2012 too.

**Smoothy bar project**

The smoothy bar project has been in existence for well over 18 months now and continues to grow and improve. The idea came from young people because they wanted more positive activities in the area and to showcase their skills to the community and portray young people in a positive light. The project comprises of a core group of 15 young people who have been participating in diverse local community events, where they have either requested to take part or have been invited, running a smoothy bar and hot drinks bar, where they have thoroughly planned recipe's, budgeted, purchased resources, completed food safety qualifications, served the public and evaluated the project. They are also using the project to achieve a section of the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme and gain an ASDAN qualification both of which will greatly enhance their future. They have moved onto cooking and selling biscuits and donuts too as want to continually expand the project.

The group had a fantastic festive season within the Westbury community where they participated in many of the Christmas in Westbury events and also the local church's Christmas tree festival. They thoroughly enjoyed the experiences and continued to prove that they young people can plan and achieve creative enterprise ideas. The community responded very well to their project and great feedback has been received about their work ethos and attitude. The project does not make profit but simply breaks even as costs need to be covered and any extra money has always been donated to local charities, the young people's idea.

The group wish to continue the project and are looking for new events to get involved with so please contact [sally.willox@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:sally.willox@wiltshire.gov.uk) with any opportunities.

### **The Rural Base project-Street Based Youth Work**

This is a relatively new initiative in response to young people requesting a youth work service in outlying areas, estates and villages of the Westbury community area. For some time we have consulted young people through many means to establish what is on offer to them where they live and asking for ideas on how to improve the offer. Young people feel that they are very isolated and cut of from services if they live in outlying areas, estates and villages. Initially, we ran a youth shuttle bus service, transporting young people into the youth development centre various nights per week and also ensuring they could access holiday provision through putting on transport for them. The CAYPIG were successful in securing Area Board/Wiltshire Council funds to provide this for the last year but this fund has all been used now.

A service is still required to continue the access and service for young people so now youth development workers have co-ordinated a project where they drive the centre's mpv out to a different location every Thursday between 6 and 8.30pm and take a youth work service out to them. Staff are trained to enable them to drive the mpv out and costs for fuel are met by the youth development centre at the present time. This is the best option at the moment as minibuses are very expensive to purchase, run and train staff to be able to drive-under Wiltshire Council's policies. The project has started now and details of where it visits and when are advertised on [www.sparksite.co.uk](http://www.sparksite.co.uk), at Matravers School, through Westbury White Horse News, through the Area Board and through posters being placed in and around the community-village notice boards, local shops and so on. The Rural Base offers two youth development workers for young people to be able to speak too, to access advice or information and to engage in fun positive activities through their mobile resources. These include low level cooking and refreshments, games, sports and issue based workshops. Sexual health advice and a service are offered as well as substance use information. Through the rural base, individual young people can be referred to specialist projects or services to meet their needs. This project is in its infancy and the hardest part is getting the word out so any offers of help with promotion will be gratefully received.

### **Youth Work Update**

To date Westbury Development Centre for Young people has engaged with over 800 different young people aged from 11-19, since April 1<sup>st</sup> 2011 and they have participated in a diverse range of positive, developmental activities and opportunities.

**Youth Work is needs led from young people**, thoroughly planned and takes place in various locations throughout the community, including the centre in Eden Vale Road, various housing estates through Street Based Youth Work, Westbury Skate Park and Matravers School. Based on the population of young people aged 13-19 in the Westbury Community Area, which is approximately 1634, this equates to engagement with approximately 47%.

Holiday periods continue to be very popular times and many young people engage in the service then.

There are lots of diverse youth work opportunities being co-ordinated for the winter and spring terms, which young people are busy being involved with.

Throughout the course of participation, young people take part in locally and nationally accredited schemes and awards, including ASDAN, Peer Mentoring Scheme, Arts Award, Duke of Edinburgh Award, First Aid, Food Hygiene and Sports Leadership Schemes, funded by the Youth Development Centre. These provide opportunities to gain valuable skills, qualifications, improve personal and social skills, increase self-confidence and self-esteem, improve resilience, team work, independent living skills and take part in diverse personal and social education programmes of work. To date almost 125 young people have achieved accreditations. **It is important to remember that youth work is needs-led, based on a voluntary relationship between young people and Youth Development Workers, and is informal education and learning, relying on individual and group work in a diverse varied range of settings.**

The centre is open to all young people and qualified Youth Development Workers engage with them up to 5 evening sessions per week, offering both a universal and targeted approach, to ensure the needs of as many young people as possible are met. There is a team of one full time Youth Development Co-ordinator and four assistant Youth Development Workers. The centre has a staffing allocation of 32 hours per week for the 2011-2012 year, excluding the full time workers role, which is used to meet the commitment from Wiltshire Council to offer four evenings per week of professional youth work delivery, following a curriculum to ensure quality opportunities and positive outcomes for young people. The centre provides provision on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays on a weekly basis and regular weekend opportunities, as well as school holiday programmes. Each session works on the ratio of 2-3 staff, mainly comprising of the full time co-ordinator and 1 Or 2 assistant youth development workers, operating a 3 hour long session at one time, using the 32 hours allocation per week to its full potential.

Specialist work is programmed to meet the needs of vulnerable groups, including sessions for those young people with additional needs, single gender work, opportunities targeted at those hard to reach and those at risk of entering the criminal justice system, as well as 1:1 work with very vulnerable individuals. All youth work takes place through 1:1 or group work approach's, tailored to meet the needs of young people and to ensure there are outcomes that benefit young people.

The Youth Development Service (Development Service for Young People) is part of Wiltshire Council's Integrated Youth Service now, along with other services,

including, Youth Offending Team, Connexions, Healthy Minds and others. There will be greater emphasis on an integrated approach to meet young people's needs and safeguarding. This will be achieved through the continuation of individual and group youth work opportunities.

For any information on CAYPIG and the Youth Work opportunities provided in Westbury please make contact as below.

**Report Author: Sally Willox-Youth Development Co-ordinator and Locality Team Leader for Westbury & Warminster Development Service for Young People**

**E-Mail:** [sally.willox@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:sally.willox@wiltshire.gov.uk) (01373) 822335 and look at [www.sparksite.co.uk](http://www.sparksite.co.uk)