

## **Volunteers Update – Increasing the Numbers of People Volunteering in Council funded Youth Centres**

On 13 September 2011 Wiltshire Cabinet approved the Commissioning Strategy for 11 to 19 year olds. This included 7 broad priorities on:

- Employment and training
- Educational attainment
- (These were the top 2 commissioning priorities selected by young people)*
- Housing
- Transport for young people
- Involving young people
- Volunteering
- Improving Integrated Youth Services

Cabinet also approved a Wiltshire Youth Work Offer. The key features of the Youth Work Offer are:

- Open Access Youth Work
- Higher level targeted youth work support
- Better co-ordination of positive activities for young people
- Stronger partnerships
- Increased use of volunteers

An implementation group which includes councillor representatives has been meeting monthly since September 2011 to coordinate delivery of the Wiltshire Youth Work Offer from 1 April 2012. Good progress has been made to date and the Youth Services Implementation Group would like to invite Area Boards to consider this progress and support the following initiatives:

### **1. Increase use of volunteers**

A sub group of the Youth Services Implementation Group has been exploring ways of encouraging more local volunteers to get involved with youth work provided in Council funded youth centres. This links to the Council's overall partnership Volunteering Strategy and Action Plan.

The group has been working on the establishment of a joint process between the Council and the Voluntary and Community Sector for the registration and training of local volunteers to support youth based activities. A guidance pack is now being developed for all Youth Development Centres which sets out the best way to go about registering and training volunteers. Those who wish to volunteer will be able to claim reasonable expenses and develop their skills through appropriate training opportunities.

The group has noted the importance of attracting and encouraging local people within community areas to become involved in volunteering opportunities within their local Youth Development Centre. Consequently, the group would like to invite Area Boards to support this endeavour by supporting local youth centres to promote volunteering opportunities within each community area.

Details of voluntary roles with young people will be available from the Volunteer Centre and/or local Youth Development Centre from 1 April 2012.

## **2. Youth Advisory Groups**

Part of the Wiltshire Youth Work Offer includes the formation of Youth Advisory Groups in all community areas. Pilots are currently taking place in Malmesbury, Melksham, Southern Wiltshire and Salisbury. The groups will play a key role in improving the co-ordination of positive activities for young people in local areas.

The groups will be set up in each local area, linked to Area Boards. Each Youth Advisory Group will be chaired by a young person under 25 and over 50% of members will be under 19 years of age. Advisory groups will plan and shape local services, making sure local young people know what is available and encouraging partnerships which avoid overlap and fill gaps. Mechanisms will be established to ensure knowledge and ideas are shared between Youth Advisory Groups.

Youth Advisory Groups will have commenced in 20 community areas across Wiltshire by the end of October 2012. Learning from the pilots will be used to inform the development of groups in other areas.

The Youth Services Implementation Group would like to invite Area Boards to support these developments and to establish strong and meaningful links with Youth Advisory Groups in each community area.

## **3. Income Generation**

As part of the Wiltshire Youth Work Offer the Youth Development Service has been set an income generation target of forty five thousand pounds. This will be raised through a combination of subscriptions, fund raising and seeking sponsorship.

A revised staffing funding formula has been used to calculate an income generation target for each community area. The targets will be put into place from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2012.

The Youth Services Implementation Group would like to invite Area Boards to support local Youth Development Centres in their endeavours to attract and raise income. For example, supporting local fundraising events and attracting local business sponsorship.

*The Youth Services Implementation Group invites feedback from Area Boards on any of the initiatives highlighted above.*

*Any comments, queries or questions should be sent to [james.fortune@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:james.fortune@wiltshire.gov.uk) by 31<sup>st</sup> July 2012.*

James Fortune  
Lead Commissioner 11-19  
01225 713341