

Integrated Youth Service - Youth Work Team

Report to South West Wiltshire Community Area Board - 16th October 2013

The summer as always has been a hectic time for staff and young people across the South West Wiltshire area with lots of additional youth work activities taking place to complement the regular evening delivery.

During July and August we delivered a National Citizen Service (NCS) programme which is a government led intensive initiative for young people leaving school years 11 or 12 (16/17 year olds). We had a full team of 15 throughout this time with 13 of the group coming from various locations throughout South West Wiltshire (the other 2 were from the Southern Wiltshire area). Over 6 weeks the young people took part in 2 five day residentials away from home where they developed their team working skills as well as some other practical skills and gained qualifications such as a Food Hygiene Certificate, First Aid and an ASDAN Leadership qualification. They also planned and delivered a social action project where they led a group of younger children in some 'leisure credits' sessions on the community garden in Tisbury. The group got a large amount of donations by way of materials and equipment at either little or no cost as well as raising over £640 'bag packing' in a supermarket to enable the project to happen. During these sessions the group worked alongside the younger children to put in a fire pit, make a BBQ from reclaimed bricks, erected some compost bins, decorated some old tyres for use as planters, made a picnic bench and dug out and mulched 2 paths leading to the central area with the compost bins. At the end of the summer the team took part in a celebration event at Oxenwood Outdoor Education Centre, organised by Youth Action Wiltshire, our delivery partners for this initiative. This involved meeting up with the 2 other NCS Teams that YAW had led, taking part in activities, sharing experiences, giving presentations about their social action projects and receiving their certificates.

In addition to this and in partnership with the newly created charity Seeds4Success we also delivered 'Leisure Credits' over the summer for those young people not eligible for NCS. The new charity has been formed to support the Leisure Credits work as our Sowing Seeds funding for this initiative has now ended and we need to generate income for the project to enable it to continue. The scheme is however still thriving with a number of the sessions during the summer having over 15 young people at them and we also ran a spate scheme for our Bridging Project members. Recent jobs the team have completed include various strimming and footpath clearance tasks in Tisbury, Chilmark and Bowerchalke as well as bench restoration and work on our allotment. Over the past few weeks the MTCV group (made up of NEET young people) have recently repaired some steps for Donhead St Mary Parish Council and have been making bird tables to sell which were requested by a local resident. Young people have enjoyed reward activities such as wakeboarding lessons, go-karting and trips to splashdown and the cinema as well as a residential experience in Wales. A number of young people have also completed First Aid and Brushcutter qualifications in the past few months. We plan to continue our delivery of this project in partnership with Seeds4Success engaging young people on alternate weekends (Saturdays in Mere/Tis, Sundays Wilton) as well as during all school holiday periods.

The South West Wiltshire Youth Advisory Group (YAG) met earlier this month and Nicola Morgan, Chair of this group is here this evening to give a brief report following me. Young people from all 3

DC4YP's in South West Wiltshire have been positively engaged in local community events in the recent months with Wilton young people organising a community BBQ and young people in Mere & Tisbury helping out with collections at both of their carnivals.

I am also pleased to inform the area board that the new worker for Fovant Youth Club started at the beginning of September and the numbers are already increasing significantly. They are also managing to recruit some new parent helpers for the tuck shop and are planning to return to offering a weekly provision after half term. I will continue to support the new worker through an induction process, linking her into other local voluntary and statutory youth clubs for ideas as well as advising the committee on operational issues as required.

The evening youth work delivery across all 3 community areas remains positive and engages a diverse range of young people from many rural locations with 3 regular evenings of delivery in the Wilton Community Area and 5 (soon to be back up to 6) regular evenings across the Mere and Tisbury area.

I would like to end this report by thanking the area board and the local communities for their continued support with the various young people's initiatives which enables us to continue to deliver such a varied and developmental programme for young people.

Jaki Farrell, Youth Development Co-ordinator Mere & Tisbury (Locality Team Leader)