

## **Integrated Youth Service - Youth Work Team**

### **Report to South West Wiltshire Community Area Board - 11<sup>th</sup> December 2013**

The past couple of months appear to have passed quite quickly with the youth development centres in Mere, Tisbury & Wilton remaining vibrant and busy places with lots going on for young people. A good mix of projects and initiatives running across the area mean that young people have access to a wide range of opportunities to try new activities, develop new skills, gain qualifications, meet new people and have fun.

A good number of the young people we work with are also prepared to go that extra mile for the benefit of others and this is evident through a number of recent fundraising activities. Young People in the Mere & Tisbury areas have been making items from wood and selling them to raise money for the charity 'Seeds4Success' to help with the funding of 'Leisure Credits' as well as selling refreshments on match days to the supporters of Mere Town FC and their opposition. Wilton area young people have been helping out with a Christmas coffee morning and a Christmas wine evening and have raised a staggering £634 towards a new pool table for their centre as well as selling items they had made at an event run by Wilton Business chamber and raising a further £30.

Sowing Seeds funding for a Project Co-ordinator and resources for 'Leisure Credits' ceased at the end of November although the scheme will still continue to run with the support of the charity Seeds4Success. The Youth Development Co-ordinators will liaise with local communities and the charity trustees to identify work tasks and ensure the project still achieves its goals. Young people have been using up their 'credits' on activities such as Tree Runners, Splashdown and theme park trips over the past couple of months. This is an important element of this scheme as it enables young people to be able to take part in activities they may not otherwise be able to afford and to socialise with their peers. Work sessions have also continued with work taking place in Wardour, Chilmark, Wilton & Tisbury over the past couple of months.

The Youth Advisory Group are currently supporting any groups wanting to apply to the South West Wiltshire Youth Fund (YAG) and are hopeful there will be some exciting presentations at the next area board meeting. The group are in search of a new chair or some rolling chairs as Nicola Morgan, who has done such a great job, is leaving the area in the New Year and will not be able to continue in this role. The next YAG meeting will take place on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> January and the group will be looking through the youth fund applications as well as developing ideas for future community events.

With the festive season upon us there are Christmas Dinners planned in all centres and there will be some youth work and leisure credits sessions running over the Christmas and New Year period to ensure some of our more vulnerable young people still have access to youth work support. Thank you to both the area board and the local communities for the support that you continue to provide to us and your local young people.

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