

Integrated Youth Services Youth Work Update for **Westbury** **Wiltshire Council**

Youth Work update

Sessions that run in the Youth Development Centre and within the community as of December 2013 are as follows:

Tuesdays 6.30-9.15pm-Girls Night, as there was a need for single gender work, this includes ASDAN Award Scheme & trampoline coaching with qualifications from BAGA, as well as building self-esteem and confidence, developing new skills and interests.

From November 2013, a new project Virtual Landscapes commences, this is Heritage lottery funded and focuses on young people learning about their local chalk hill figures, so for Westbury this will be Westbury White Horse and Fovant military badges. They will be exploring what they learn through film production/photography/visual art from on Tuesdays and achieving Arts Awards, nationally recognised qualifications.

Wednesdays 5-7pm- Junior Club & Young Leaders at the centre, for younger 'young people', years 6-7 and older 'young people' aged 16 plus to train as Young Leaders. Heritage Project called Virtual Landscapes, in partnership with Salisbury Arts Festival. This is Heritage lottery funded and focuses on young people learning about their local chalk hill figures, so for Westbury this will be Westbury White Horse and Fovant military badges. They will be exploring what they learn through film, photography and visual art from on Wednesdays and achieving Arts Awards, nationally recognised qualifications. This caters for a Universal Youth Work offer for all young people, as well as some focused projects

6.30-9.15pm- Universal mixed gender open night & focused projects, including Arts Awards, Duke of Edinburgh. The universal aspect allows young people to turn up, socialise, develop new skills and interests and have fun, as well as talk with qualified youth workers and receive any support needed. This session is very quiet currently and the plan is for this to be a young males open night after December, as they have asked us for this.

Thursdays-Street Based Youth Work within the community whereby youth workers walk around targeted areas (after community, professional/police requests) meeting young people, talking to them and promoting our service, as well as signposting them. This is currently not operating due to staff shortages but will recommence in 2014-nearer March 2014.

YAG-Youth Advisory Group development also takes place on Tuesdays and Thursdays, this is a Wiltshire Council initiative and is a forum for young people to plan with adults,

professionals, committees and the community, activities and events for young people, as well as help to take and or initiate action or change to improve where they live. This is in the planning stage for young people of Westbury. The YAG is part of Wiltshire Councils policies and Business Plan and is a vital process for young people to have a voice and influence. The YAG is chaired by a young person and involves professionals/adults to support the process and help take action/make change, with young people, in response to their needs. The YAG will update at each area board from the New Year, the intention of it being a young person reporting and the YAG will be the partner, as opposed to Youth Service/Integrated Youth Service. The YAG used to be referred to as the CAYPIG and the processes are very similar. Westbury CAYPIG was very successful and instrumental.

Targeted 1:1 work at Matravers School or the Youth Development Centre on Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Thursdays for intensive support and guidance/intervention work (as and when required, or through referrals from other panels). Contact Sally Willox to make referrals.

Our overarching aims of the service are to engage young people in positive developmental activities to help them reach their full potential. This is all done with an informal approach and is on a voluntary basis. Young people take part in a diverse range of activities which they plan with Youth Developmental Workers. They can achieve a range of accreditations with us, including Food Safety, First Aid, ASDAN, Arts Award, BAGA Trampoline Awards and Duke of Edinburgh Award. Young people will also have a safe, welcoming, non-judgmental place to come, that is purely for them.

The youth work team provides a high quality Universal Service encompassing early intervention and Safeguarding. Young people can be referred to the service for engagement and intervention and we can make referrals to other specialist services as needed.

If anyone would like Youth Workers to engage with young people in their community/village/estate/establishment including any voluntary sector organisations-as one off sessions or regular ones, please contact Sally Willox on sally.willox@wiltshire.gov.uk

Young people's issues will from time to time be brought to the Area Board to be discussed and young people will present this. A YAG, Youth Advisory Group is being implemented (as detailed above) where Young People can help shape services and activities for them within their community and to make improvements to these, as well as raise, debate and take action on issues that affect them and or are important to them. Partners will be invited to engage in this and there is an Area Board representative. The chair of this YAG will be a nominated young person. We also strive to empower young people to participate in local forums and community groups, like the BA13 Community Partnership, so that they can be involved and represent young people.

Full Youth Work/YAG reports will be submitted to the Area Board prior to each one so that it can be included in the agenda packs and either myself or a member of staff and young people will attend Area Boards to present a verbal update and participate. I will give updates on the numbers of young people engaging with the service too as this is always very helpful.

We offer a busy programme of activities during school holidays too. The summer break was a valuable time to engage more young people. This summer saw the service engage approximately 100 new young people from the community area, in a diverse range of

activities and trips, of which were thoroughly enjoyed. The Christmas period has a number of activities planned but the centre will be closed from after the evening of Wednesday 12th December, until Tuesday January 7th 2014, except for Sunday 15th December trip to Christmas at Longleat (spaces still available) and a swimming pool Christmas party on Thursday 18th December at Westbury swimming pool.

Regards

Sally Willox December 2013

Locality Team Leader Youth Work for Westbury & Warminster, Integrated Youth Services

Children and Families Social Care, Department for Education, Wiltshire Council

(01373) 822335 sally.willox@wiltshire.gov.uk

www.sparksite.co.uk