

Community Area Board Chairman's Announcement

Service : Children's Services / Communities

Further Enquiries to: James Fortune / Steve Milton

Date Prepared: 08 September 2014

Direct Line: (01225) 713341 / (01722) 434255

For the attention of: Area Board Chair's; Democratic Services Officers; Community Area Managers

Implementing a community-led model for youth activities

Introduction

In May 2014 Cabinet agreed to adopt a community-led model for the provision of positive activities for young people. By delegating responsibility and resources to Community Area Boards for youth activities, Wiltshire Council is committed to supporting young people and their communities to come together to develop a responsive and locally driven positive activities offer for young people.

The new model means the positive activities offer will develop differently in each of the 18 Community Area Board areas to reflect local needs. A positive activity can be any educational or recreational leisure-time activity that is arts, sports, leisure, informal education and community based which helps young people achieve healthy and safe lifestyle outcomes.

This briefing provides members with an update on progress and next steps to support implementation.

The current youth service offer

The council's open access youth work offer comes to an end during September in preparation for the commencement of the community-led model on 01 October 2014.

As in previous years, during the school holidays, normal youth work provision was largely replaced with a summer programme, where youth workers focused on providing planned activities.

Community Youth Officers have been appointed in fifteen of the eighteen Area Board areas, with further interviews planned for the remaining posts on 16 September. In addition, three Youth Support Workers have now been recruited to provide 1:1 support to vulnerable young people from October.

For information about current youth work activity and Community Youth Officer appointments, please contact Kevin.Sweeney@Wiltshire.gov.uk

Youth Centre Property Asset Review

The change to the way the youth service is delivered has triggered the need to review the property asset status of the youth centres. This work is currently underway and a further update will be provided to Area Board Chairs in due course.

The council has a vast range of equipment which has been used by young people ranging from games consoles to pool tables. A comprehensive inventory of this equipment has been made on a community area basis and will be made available to voluntary and community sector youth activity providers, subject to Area Board approval.

For information about youth centre buildings or to enquire about the use of any Wiltshire Council owned property asset in connection with the delivery of the new model please contact propertyassets@Wiltshire.gov.uk

Positive activities for young people with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND)

To date, additional staff support has been provided by the council's youth work team to enable young people with SEND to access mainstream positive activity provision. This has taken the form of nine 'bridging projects' which offer weekly/evening, centre-based youth work sessions. 'Bridging Projects' are available in Chippenham, Devizes, Durrington, Malmesbury, Marlborough, Pewsey, Salisbury, Tisbury, Trowbridge and Warminster. Some are well attended whilst others have benefited a more limited number of young people.

'Bridging projects' are part of a much broader and comprehensive range of short breaks and leisure activities that are available to children and young people with SEND.

Going forward children and young people with SEND will continue to have access to a broad range of short breaks and leisure activities provision. In addition, young people with SEND will have access to community based youth activities and it will be important that Area Boards ensure positive activity provision is inclusive and takes into account the needs of all vulnerable groups.

From October, community-led positive activity clubs will be provided in Salisbury and Tisbury. Barnardo's have been commissioned to provide a youth activities service in other areas across the county. Further information on these services will be made available within the next few weeks and the council is working closely with the Wiltshire Parent Carer Council to manage these changes.

Support for Community Area Boards

Area Board briefings

All Area Boards have been offered an initial face to face briefing on the changes, with sixteen having taken place to date.

Each Area Board has delegated authority, a devolved budget and dedicated Community Youth Officer (CYO) to support the implementation of the new model in its area. The CYO will be accountable to the Area Board for the delivery of agreed local priorities and the Area Board will be the responsible body for youth activities at a local level.

Community Area Boards will work within the council's policy as set out in the Leaders Guidance which covers issues such as safeguarding, equalities and the use of resources. A 'Positive Activities Toolkit' will also be available which provides a 'how to do it', 'step by step' guide for developing and delivering provision. The toolkit will be released to Community Youth Officers and Community Area Board Managers shortly.

Each Area Board will establish and maintain a Local Youth Network (LYN), to understand local needs and make recommendations to the Area Board on how funding for positive activities should be deployed. The LYN will be an open network of organisations in the area that have an interest or involvement in the provision of positive activities for young people. The LYN will be supported by a smaller coordination group facilitated by the Community Youth Officer.

One of the early tasks of the LYN will be to work with young people to identify local priorities informed by the needs identified within the Community Joint Strategic Assessment for the area. This will provide Area Boards with a clear direction in terms of youth activities and spending.

To enable Area Boards to satisfy themselves and the local community that budgets are being targeted appropriately, a new system for monitoring the impact of youth activities will be introduced with regular reports to the LYN and Area Board.

Leader's Guidance & Local Youth Network (LYN) Terms of Reference

Leaders Guidance for Positive Activities and Terms of Reference for Local Youth Networks have now been issued by the Leader of the Council (attached). Area Boards are required to read and adopt these documents, as well as commence work to establish their LYN.

Funding providers to deliver positive activities

Community Area Boards will be able to fund providers to deliver positive activities via a grants process and/or procurement exercise.

A specific grant funding scheme for positive activities has been developed, which will be included in the 'Positive Activities Toolkit'. In addition, a catalogue of positive activity providers is currently being developed and will be ready in November for those areas which wish to follow the procurement route and enter into more formal contractual arrangements with providers.

Workshops

A number of workshops have been organised for Area Board members, Community Youth Officers and Community Area Managers. Area Boards are encouraged to nominate one or more members to attend one of the following sessions:

Monday 22 September 1:30pm till 5:00pm, Council Chamber, Monkton Park, Chippenham

Monday 29 September 5:00pm till 8:00pm, Alamein Suite, City Hall, Salisbury

Monday 06 October 9:30am till 1:30pm, Council Chamber, County Hall, Trowbridge

Please e-mail Sukhvir.Kaur@Wiltshire.gov.uk to book places for your Area Board.

The workshops will focus on the Leader's Guidance, Local Youth Network Terms of Reference and 'Positive Activities Toolkit'. This will include taking participants through the grant funding and procurement processes as detailed above.

A market development event for voluntary and community sector providers who are interested in delivering positive activities has also been arranged for **Tuesday 30 September**. This will provide organisations with information about the community-led model, along with detail of how to apply for grants and join the positive activities catalogue of accredited providers. Organisations who are interested in attending this event can use the e-mail address above to book a place.

For further information please contact:

James Fortune (Lead Commissioner Childrens Services) 01225 713341

Steve Milton (Head of Community Governance) 01722 434255