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## **Report on the New Local Youth Network**

### **1. Purpose of the Report**

- a) to provide the board with a progress update regarding the Local Youth Network (LYN)
- b) to ask the board to agree the membership of the LYN Management Group
- c) to ask the board to confirm financial support for a new youth drop-in initiative
- d) to ask the board to note that the staffing arrangements for this new drop in initiative will be managed and administered by Wessex Community Action

### **2. The Amesbury Community Area Local Youth Network**

2.1 A Local Youth Network (LYN) is a sub group of the Community Area Board. It represents a wide range of community stakeholders who work in partnership to facilitate a range of positive activities across the community area. Young people play a central role in all aspects of the LYN.

2.2 The LYN will facilitate closer partnership working at a local level between voluntary and community providers of youth activities. The aspiration is that this approach will develop a more joined up and consistent positive activities offer and help to reduce overlap and duplication.

2.3 LYNs will identify local community needs, priorities and outcomes and make recommendations to the board on how funding should be spent.

2.4 LYNs will include representatives of:

- (i) The board
- (ii) Young people
- (iii) Schools
- (iv) Parish councils

- (v) VCS organisations and groups
- (vi) Police
- (vii) Health organisations
- (viii) Any other organisation which has a genuine interest in promoting the welfare and interests of young people

2.5 Last year, the area board produced a directory of all the community and voluntary organisations which support and actively promote positive activities for young people (13-19 year olds) in the Amesbury Area. This directory includes over 50 organisations, and the intention is to invite each of these organisations to be a part of the LYN. The first gathering of the wider LYN is being organised for the 14<sup>th</sup> January 2015 to take place at the Amesbury Resources Centre (locally known as the "Redworth Club").

2.6 From this wider LYN, a smaller management group has been formed to take responsibility for co-ordinating and planning the LYN's activities.

2.7 The chairman of the management group is to be decided locally and could be a young person. The chairman would work with the nominated area board councillor to formulate reports and recommendations.

2.8 The smaller management group will generally comprise of no more than 10 members including:

- (a) The chairman
- (b) Area board unitary councillor
- (c) A local school representative
- (d) Young people (2 at least)
- (e) Community and voluntary organisations representatives
- (f) Other key stakeholders

2.9 The LYN Management Group first met in early August this year and gave its support to the youth drop in centre initiative (detailed in paragraph 4 below). The next meeting is being organised for the 26<sup>th</sup> November at 1800hrs at the Redworth Club. It will have a leading role in assessing the appropriateness of existing and new positive activities for young people in this area, especially to ensure that the offer is meaningful for those living in the rural villages as well as the main towns and parishes.

### **3. Amesbury Community Area's Youth Budget**

3.1 From October 2014 to the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015, the Area Board has a revenue budget of £18,960.49. Any funds not allocated at the year end, can be rolled forward to the next financial year.

3.2 The revenue budget for 2015/16 is £28,616.92.

3.3 The Cabinet Member for Area Boards has delegated authority to the Community Youth Officer / Community Area Manager to authorise expenditure and costs associated with the delivery of local objectives between meetings, provided that:

- (a) Such decisions are required by reasons of urgency
- (b) Such expenditure does not exceed £1,000
- (c) All members are consulted and agree to the proposed decision
- (d) The decision is reported to the next meeting

### **4. New Youth Drop In Centre / Cafe for the Amesbury Area**

4.1 The Area Board has long aspired to there being a youth drop in centre that caters for the needs of a wider cross section of 13-19 year olds than was previously provided by the county's Youth Development Service.

4.2 It would like to use some of the 2014/15 Youth Budget to pilot a youth drop in centre / cafe at the Redworth Club, which is a centrally based and fully equipped premises available for use in the evenings, except Monday and Thursdays.

4.3 This initiative can use the Redworth Club free of charge, and discussions are ongoing regarding the medium / long term nature of this arrangement.

4.4 The costs of the initiative include the employment of fully trained staff, transporting young people from the area into and out of Amesbury, and associated administration. The staff would be trained and supported by an external organisation to the Area Board.

4.5 The board is asked to confirm an allocation from its Youth Budget of £5,500 to cover the running of this initiative as a pilot from January 2015 to the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015.

4.6 Subject to the outcome of this pilot, future funding of this initiative will need to demonstrate that it can secure contributions other than just from the area board, and develop in such a way that it is partially run by volunteers or youth apprenticeships.

4.7 Two youth events will be taking place at the Redworth Club on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> December to attract young people's use of the facility, thereby helping to establish its future use as a drop in / youth cafe, and going some way to filling

the gap left by the closure of the Wiltshire Council run youth club earlier this year.

## 5. Recommendations

- (i) To confirm the composition of the new LYN Co-ordinating Group.
- (ii) To confirm funding support of the new Youth Drop In / Cafe at £5,500.
- (iii) To note that discussions have commenced with Wessex Community Action to provide staffing and administration support for the drop in initiative
- (iv) To confirm support for the Cabinet Members delegation of authority to the Community Youth Officer and Community Area Manager to authorise expenditure and costs associated with the delivery of local objectives between meetings, provided that:
  - (a) Such decisions are required by reasons of urgency
  - (b) Such expenditure does not exceed £1,000
  - (c) All members are consulted and agree to the proposed decision
  - (d) The decision is reported to the next meeting
- (v) To confirm support for the use of funds up to £1,000 to pay for the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> December events at the Redworth Club (as described in para. 4.7 above).
- (vi) To record the board's thanks to Cllr Richard Gamble, the Portfolio Holder for Schools, Skills and Youth who has been providing support and assistance to the board as it takes up its new role regarding the provision of positive activities for young people in this community area.

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