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## **PROPOSALS TO THE AREA BOARD FOR THE DELIVERY OF COMMUNITY-BASED YOUTH PROVISION IN THE SOUTHERN WILTSHIRE COMMUNITY AREA**

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

- a) to provide the board with an update regarding the development of community-based youth provision in this community area;
- b) to ask the board to agree the membership of the Local Youth Network (LYN) Management Group;
- c) to update the board regarding the “leisure credit” scheme.

### **2. Background**

#### **2.1 Community-Based Youth Provision**

Unlike other Area Boards having to cope with a move to a community-based youth offer, the Southern Wiltshire Community Area organised the delivery of its youth services in this way over a year ago with the creation of our village ‘clusters’. Indeed, Wiltshire Council’s new model of community based youth provision has been influenced by the approach taken by this area. Our new Community Youth Officer, Emma Drage, is therefore in a strong position to take this work forward. Our mission is to support our villages in their creation of new opportunities for their young people to become involved in constructive activities of all kinds and to facilitate closer partnership working at a local level between voluntary and community providers of youth activities.

#### **2.2 What this means for the Area Board**

- (a) Area boards are responsible for overseeing the design, development and delivery of positive activity opportunities for young people tailored to local needs.
- (b) Area boards are now allocated an annual budget for these activities to complement other local resources which are available. Other partners may be asked to contribute additional resources.
- (c) Area boards will need to work in partnership with young people and the wider community to secure positive activities which meet local needs, this work will be facilitated by local youth networks (LYNs) – see 3 below.

- (d) The activities must be for young people 13-19 (or up to 25 for those with special educational needs and/or disabilities) and must be inclusive and accessible to all young people.

### **3. Clusters & the LYN Management Group**

3.1 Rather than having a single, centralised LYN and to better reflect the particular and unique characteristics of our community area, the Area Board is asked to agree to the creation of a LYN for each of our village clusters. Although these will be loose, informal arrangements we must ensure that they are fully representative and include representatives of all aspects and sectors of our community area – churches, voluntary sector, councillors, businesses, parents, carers, young people etc.

3.2 Our village cluster model. offers many advantages:

- (a) Builds on the structure we already have in place and the people already involved.
- (b) More likely to reflect the different needs of our different villages.
- (c) More likely to attract volunteers since it will have a more local focus.
- (d) Different clusters may wish to expand their activities, e.g. both the Alderbury and Whiteparish Fetes struggle to find volunteers.

3.3 The Community Youth Officer and Community Area Manager are building a list of the community and voluntary organisations which support and actively promote positive activities for young people (13-19 year olds) in this Area.

3.4 It is proposed that the work of these village clusters is overseen and coordinated by a LYN Management Group which would also formulate recommendations to the Area Board for the deployment of our allocated funding. In the interim (since the beginning of the new model in October 2014), the Area Board Chairman, Community Area Manager, and Youth Officer have formed the nucleus of this management group. However, there is a need to expand the membership.

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

- (a) The chairman (to be decided by the group)
- (b) Area board unitary councillor(s)
- (c) A local school representative
- (d) Young people (2 at least)
- (e) Community and voluntary organisations representatives
- (f) Other key stakeholders (such as the Police).

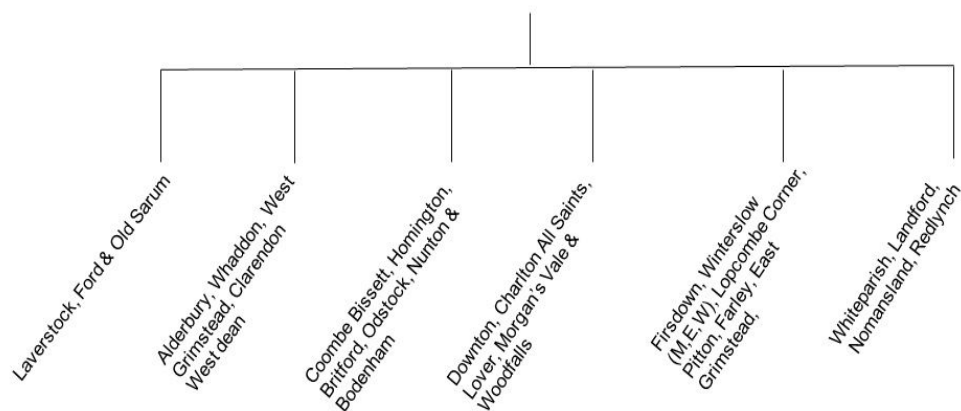
3.6 Although we have already made a start on implementing these new arrangements in this community area, there are some challenges in taking them forward:

- (a) One size does not fit all. The Leader's Guidance is clear that community areas have wide discretion as to how they implement the new arrangements, to reflect local needs, priorities and other relevant factors
- (b) Encouraging people to become active members of the clusters will take time, effort and an ongoing investment in relationship-building with stakeholders – this presents an opportunity for young people to take a lead
- (c) The geographical spread of villages in the area means that we will have to work hard to ensure the positive activities offer really is tailored to local need and supported as such.

### 3.7 The Southern Wiltshire Community Area Model for Community Based Youth Provision

## LYN management group

*This will be a consistent group of people that meets regularly to make recommendations to the board.*



## Clusters

*The cluster meetings will give the opportunity to anyone and everyone who wishes to be involved in having a say about its communities young people and youth provisions.*

The key findings from the cluster meetings which have taken place over the past 3 to 4 months include:

Community needs mapping : there are many parish, community and voluntary groups already in existence, a directory is being put together for this area. The cluster meetings, questionnaires and other activities will assist the

board in establishing the full extent of the communities' needs in terms of positive activities for young people. Having established this, the board will be in a stronger position to deploy its funding and resources to ensure that the offer and reach of positive activities is as responsive and relevant as possible.

Ideas for new positive activities so far listed: (i) a new youth club in Laverstock or transport links to new Old Sarum Youth Group, (ii) after school activities at the Wyvern Schools Hub, (iii) revive the Alderbury Youth Club, (iv) build a list of interesting visiting groups that could vary the programmes already offered by existing groups (request from Alderbury Explorers rep), (v) talk to local sporting clubs, e.g. Alderbury FC to see what potential exists to draw on their resources and expertise, (vi) progress the Community Syllabus idea, working in partnership with Dave Dunford from the Fire Service (i.e. throughout the year there would be a number of workshops available for young people that could cover interesting and useful sessions, including personal development or insight into careers etc), (vii) provide youth leader training to retain the interest/engagement of 17/18/19 year olds and to increase the volunteer base.

#### **4. Southern Wiltshire's Community Area's Youth Budget**

4.1 From October 2014 to the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015, the Area Board has a revenue budget of £11,779.99. Any funds not allocated at the year end, can be rolled forward to the next financial year. £4,400 of this was allocated to the Old Sarum Youth Club in December 2014, and £850 is requested for a project in Whiteparish (see appendix 1). If agreed, the board will have £6,529.99 remaining until the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015.

4.2 The revenue budget for 2015/16 is £18,463.80.

4.3 A scheme, unique to Southern Wiltshire – “Leisure Credits” - currently has £8,000 available for young people to spend on leisure activities. This scheme has been part of Wiltshire Council's Youth Work Offer to young people in the Southern Wiltshire Community Area for the last 5 years. If the Scheme is to continue it is necessary to find another provider to undertake its delivery. This could be an existing organisation or youth club, or the board could set up a working group to oversee the organisation and delivery of Leisure Credits. The board will receive an update on the progress made regarding this scheme.

4.4 The Cabinet Member for Area Boards has delegated authority to the Community Youth Officer / Community Area Manager in consultation with the chairman, 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

## 5. **Online Grants Process**

5.1 Modelled on the Area Board's Community Grants Scheme, the youth budget is available for groups and organisations to bid for funding from the board's Youth Budget. This scheme will be publicised and actively promoted as part of the Community Youth Officer's day-to-day activities and assisted by each cluster. Attached at appendix 1 is a grant request from Whiteparish Youth Group.

## 6. **Recommendations**

- (a) that the board note this report regarding our model for community-based youth provision in this community area and approve the creation of a Local Youth Network for each village cluster (recognising that this approach differs from other community areas);
- (b) that the board agrees to the setting up of the Local Youth Network (LYN) Management Group and comments upon its composition;
- (c) that the board notes the updated position regarding the "leisure credit" scheme.
- (d) that the board considers the grant request from Whiteparish Youth Group

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