

Wiltshire Council

Report for Area Board on the 24<sup>th</sup> March 2015

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## 1 Purpose of the report

To provide the Marlborough Area Board with an update on the current position of the Local Youth Network

## 2 Back ground

To support the community-led model Local Youth Networks (LYN) will be established as a sub group of the Marlborough Community Area Board. The aim of the LYN is to represent a wide range of community stakeholders who will work in partnership to facilitate a range of positive activities across the Marlborough Community Area.

Young people will play a central role in all aspects of the LYN. The LYN will identify local needs, priorities and outcomes and make recommendations to the Area Board on how funding for positive activities for young people should be deployed.

- **Local Youth Network Event**

The Local Youth Network Event took place on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2015 @ the Devotion Youth Project/Christchurch. The Event was organised by Jan Bowra the Community Youth Officer, in partnership with the Youth Leader for Devotion and the Young people from the same project.

The Event began @ 12pm, 10 young people between 13 and 16 participated in an Art Workshop, where they produce a Mural based on 'Community Matters', which was supported by Lee Kirby as Professional Artist.

The number of clubs/groups and organisations, was not high, with only 6 clubs including, the Scouts, Barbados which runs The Phoenix Club for young people with disability and Special Educational Needs and Great Bedwyn Youth Project bringing along information about the activities that they run.

BBC Wiltshire also paid the Event a visited and was played on the radio on Sunday morning between 9.45 and 10am. It was great hear the young people on the radio, which was their first experience.

I would like to thank both Cllr Stewart Dobson and our town Mayor for their support on the day.

- **Local Youth Network Management Group**

The LYN Management group met on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2015 and considered 2 applications resulting in the amount of £1980.00.

It was recommended by the group that one of the applications should be deferred until the next Area Board Meeting in May, in order to gather further information. The applicant has been advised. Jan (CYO) will be working with the group on the missing information.

The process used to obtain whether or not an application meets the approval of the positive activities grant fund, was based on a scoring process to assist with evaluating each application. (See page 15 of the tool kit enclosed).

- **Recommendation to the Area Board**

Hangout@Devotion ran by Devotion Youth Project (Application enclosed)	Total £730.00
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### **The project**

Our project is currently the only youth club in Marlborough. We provide a free and safe space for young people to be themselves, meet with their friends, and access adults who are willing to listen to them and take them seriously.

We have 37 young people on our register, and regularly see 24 each week. We would expect all of these young people to benefit from this equipment, and for it to attract more young people to our club, increasing the number of young people in the community area who are accessing positive activities.

Several of the young people have asked us if we can provide media equipment for various music and film activities. We have been unable to do this, and so suggested to them that an application should be made to this fund. We hope that the equipment purchased would enable more shared activities within the club, giving the young people a sense of responsibility and creativity.

We do not charge young people to access our club (There is a tuck shop on site from which they can buy snacks), and we have in recent weeks provided free toast after assessing that many young people had turned up without having eaten dinner. This ensures that our club is accessible to those of any economic background. The hall we use has disabled access. And our volunteers are trained in safeguarding to ensure that vulnerable young people are cared for.

We welcome all young people aged 11-15 to our club, and the activities are strictly non-religious. The volunteers are open to conversations with the young people about any topic, without being discriminatory or judgemental.

We are currently working with the Community Youth Worker to increase the pool of volunteers in the area, and will use this club as an opportunity for individuals to try out volunteering. The equipment we buy will also be available to other youth groups in the area.

**The LYN Management Group has made a recommendation that the full fund of £730.00 to be awarded.**

See link: [www.wiltshirecouncil.gov.uk](http://www.wiltshirecouncil.gov.uk) for youth grants and report on both of the above application

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