

## **Corsham Local Youth Network (LYN) meeting 18/11/20**

### **Present**

Phil Whalley (Area Board) Ros Griffiths (CEM) Brian Mathew (Area Board) Ruth Hopkinson (Area Board) Alan Brown (Corsham Town Councillor, youth rep) , Neville Farmer (Town Councillor) Gillian Sanders (Vice Chair Town Council) Sharon Thomas (Head of Community Services Town Council) Marcus Chapman (Deputy Head Corsham School) Lewis Francis (Student Leader Corsham School) Emma Drage (Chair of Corsham Youth Zone) Mike Capener (Army Welfare Service Community Development Worker) Will Lawton (Music Therapy Community Outreach) Ella Bryant and Alex Burr (Portable Wellbeing Studio – Art Therapy/Teacher Training)

### **Welcome and Introduction – Phil Whalley**

- The aim of re-launching the LYN is to ensure we have a properly interconnected network of young people, groups and organisations across the community area - so we all know about each other and can break out of silos.
- Ros will hold a database of contacts, organise 2 meetings a year and periodically share news, events and opportunities.
- Groups will be made aware of the Area Board funding offer and grant application process.
- The Area Board members and partners will listen to views, ideas and concerns of young people in the Corsham area at this exceptional time.
- LYN meetings will enable wider discussion on youth issues and priorities so Area Board councillors can prioritise resources and represent a local youth voice at County Hall, helping to shape Wiltshire policies.

### **Area Board funding – Ros Griffiths**

- Each Area Board has funding to support projects that provide positive activities for young people aged 13-19 and those aged up to 25 with special educational needs and/or disabilities.
- A positive activity can be any educational or recreational leisure-time activity which helps young people achieve healthy and safe lifestyle outcomes. It can be arts, sports, leisure, informal education and community based.
- Funding is allocated each year and Corsham Area Board currently has £14,000 of revenue youth funding available.
- Applications are made on-line via the Wiltshire council website, anything over £1000 requires match funding and a maximum of £5000 can be awarded.  
<https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/council-democracy-area-boards>
- There is a separate funding pot of capital money for community projects - if a group or organisation needs equipment in order to deliver a youth based project, they can apply to that fund too.
- The Area Board would like to see a handful of good quality projects coming forward to access this funding before the end of the financial year.
- Examples of projects funded previously include open access youth provision, coaching sessions at local sports groups, youth work in isolated and rural communities, youth festivals and activities in partnership with local organisations.
- If anyone has any questions about the application process or would like to discuss a project contact [Ros.Griffiths@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:Ros.Griffiths@wiltshire.gov.uk)

## **Group Updates**

### **Gillian Sanders – Corsham Town Council**

- Gillian is a partner in Spindles Bikes, a member of Corsham Cycling Club and a trainee Bikeability instructor.
- Gillian highlighted to the group many personal positive experiences of cycling.
- Benefits of cycling include improvement in health, fitness and mental health, reduced stress levels, improved quality of life for communities, improved road safety, reduced traffic congestion and air pollution.
- A youth cycling survey has been carried out with 180 responses received so far.
- The majority of respondents said that safer roads and more cycle paths/routes would make them cycle more often.
- An emerging project was presented exploring what can be done to encourage more cycling so young people can feel the benefits – improving their confidence and independence.
- Funding would be sought for a Youth Cycling proposal – a group or network (part cycling part campaigning) with coaching, accessing and promoting cycle routes, advocacy, events and the purchasing of bikes.
- All primary schools are signed up with Bikeability.
- A school reward scheme is in place encouraging students to keep fit along with a growing network of parents.
- Other past projects include security tattooing and promotion of safety equipment/features on bikes.

### **Sharon Thomas – Head of Community Services**

- Part of Sharon's role is to run Corsham Youth Council and to work closely with local schools.
- The Youth Council (predominantly primary school aged children) are working towards an online meeting.
- The Hub Club – run by Innov8sportz <http://www.innov8sportzco.uk/> and funded by CTC was set up as a means to try and combat anti- social behaviour at the campus, connecting with the older age group through football coaching sessions. It is hoped this will re-start next year.

### **Group discussion on holiday activities**

- Funding from the Area Board could be used to deliver positive youth activities over holiday periods.
- There is potential scope to extend the Hub Club into the summer holidays.
- Sports Camps are usually on offer at Springfield Campus.
- Splash previously subsidised activities for young people in the summer holidays - this scheme could be replicated next year.
- Consultation with young people is needed first, a programme of activities tailored to what young people need/want can then be developed.

### **Marcus Chapman – Deputy Head Corsham School**

- Corsham school is fully open with no significant closures of year groups or bubbles - 95% attendance.

- There is an increased demand for in house mental health/wellbeing services.
- The Year 7 group is a particular concern having attended school for a short time before lockdown, this has created challenges for integration and basic socialisation.
- There is limited interaction between year groups and teachers and a reduced number of extra-curricular activities on offer.
- There is a feeling that youngsters are fed up with restrictions.
- A significant but quieter body of youngsters feel that people should be in permanent lockdown until vaccine rolled out.
- Additional stresses for year 11 and 13 around exams.

#### **Lewis Francis - Student Leader**

- Older students are focusing on exams next summer.
- 6<sup>th</sup> formers would like to organise a celebratory event, Covid -19 restrictions allowing.
- The previous year 11 missed out on this, having this 'rites of passage' taken away can be damaging and students have been under huge strain this past year with the stresses of lockdown and remote learning.
- Funding is required to make the event accessible to all students.
- Suggestions from the group included that this could be linked to a wider town / community event with fireworks, professional bands and crowdfunding...if students are keen for this.
- Some kind of survey or needs assessment is needed to gain insights into young people's views at this time, what support is needed and the types of community based activities they would like to participate in next year.
- Lewis, with the help of 6<sup>th</sup> formers, to facilitate a survey to get a student voice on young people's priorities, to inform the work of the LYN.

#### **Emma Drage – Corsham Youth Zone**

- CYZ has been unable to operate from Springfield Campus as the room normally used is currently unavailable. A smaller room has been offered however guidelines stipulate a maximum capacity of 15 people, this would include a youth worker and volunteer, significantly limiting the number of young people that can be offered support at this time.
- Digital support has been offered although not taken up.
- Wellbeing art packs were distributed during the first lockdown. The Groop platform was used to communicate packs to members, positive feedback was received.
- Pre lockdown there were approximately 70 young people a week accessing the service.
- The CYZ team will need to re-jig activities/support when the normal programme of open access resumes as there is likely to be a much younger cohort attending.

#### **Michael Capener – MOD Welfare Service**

- Mike introduced his role as an Army Welfare Service Community Development Worker.
- AWS currently delivers play, youth and community work projects to military families at the Services Cotswold Centre (Neston), Corsham Community Centre and Colerne Community Centre.
- A project is underway to repurpose the old school building at SCC for youth work which is mainly services based as the majority of intake has to be from serving families, however if a small number of civilian families join work/projects that is within scope.
- Areas of mutual interest such as holiday periods could provide opportunities for joint work.
- A weekly activity pack has been distributed during lockdowns.

- The Colerne Hive site provides information to serving personnel and their families <https://colernehive.blogspot.com/>
- A Kids zone has been set up for 5-8yr olds.
- The community development workers provision is based on need in the community.
- Mike's MOD role is to undergo surveys to facilitate community profiling.
- Mike can also offer support to community sports groups completing risk assessments.

#### **Music Therapy – Will Lawton**

- Area Board funding has been received for capital set up costs to run a music therapy studio at Pound Arts
- Young adults aged 15-19 would be given the opportunity of weekly music therapy sessions on a 1-1 basis over a number of weeks.
- A package of music therapy would be offered to Corsham school.
- Will to liaise with Marcus about the route of referral.
- Talking and music therapy sessions would be offered to young people who are particularly struggling emotionally. The aim will be to help them creatively process their issues by putting them into song and music.
- It is unlikely participants of the scheme would be able to self- fund, so sessions would need to be fully subsidised.
- Area Board application to be submitted and match funding sought.

#### **Portable Wellbeing Studio – Alex Burr and Ella Bryant**

- The Portable Wellbeing studio is a fully equipped art studio and therapeutic space on wheels set up by two art psychotherapists.
- The studio offers one to one or group art therapy, mental health training, wellbeing lessons and arts in health activities.
- The studio is currently in residence at Corsham Primary.
- Alex and Ella are keen to diversify and expand the project and are looking to collaborate with other spaces – theatre, youth centre, park, small village. They are also exploring scope for a residence at a secondary school.
- <https://www.theportablewellbeingstudio.com/>

#### **Open Blue Bus - Andy Weeds**

- The Open Blue Trust uses a converted double-decker bus as a mobile community centre to deliver opportunities to isolated communities in North Wiltshire.
- Area Board funding has been allocated previously to provide youth sessions in Colerne.
- The bus is currently off the road.
- Andy is exploring options for delivering detached youth work in the Rudloe area.
- Andy is also willing to offer some form of future provision in Colerne and is happy to chat with any community leaders or local organisations to make this happen.

#### **Conclusion - Philip Whalley**

- Everyone was thanked for attending and groups encouraged to submit applications.
- Request made to let Ros know if there are other groups that should be invited.