



Local Youth Network Report – Stonehenge Area Board

The LYN met on **30 November** online, attended by 11 groups and organisations along with Cllr Verbinnen and the Community Engagement Manager, Jacqui Abbott.

Stonehenge Area Board Youth Survey 380 responses were completed and our LYN groups and Stonehenge School and Avon Valley College had encouraged their young people to complete the survey. Detailed results would be released and circulated shortly.

Rural Youth Project Stonehenge Area Board funded £5k along with 3 other community areas towards the Rural Youth Project which is conducting in-depth research with young people living in rural areas to check their needs, access to positive activities and ideas for future provision. A second phase of the project will move towards implementing projects and initiatives which make a difference in rural areas.

There is an event on **Wednesday 19th January 11am – 1pm online** to hear all about the work of the project which has been undertaken by Community First. All Parish Councils along with the LYN will be invited to attend.

Cllr Mark Verbinnen is establishing a Stonehenge Area Board Youth Council which will give their views to the Area Board, the Town Council and other local organisations who will be listening to the young people. They will contribute to the LYN management committee.

A county-wide **Wiltshire Youth Council** is also being set up and all secondary schools are encouraged to take part in the process of electing representatives to the Council who will mirror Wiltshire Council and there will also be a cabinet. Both of these youth councils will provide support, training and a few fun activities!

Feedback from young people / LYN organisations – there was a degree of uncertainty around youth clubs and activities given the increase in Covid cases and the new variant of concern. Many clubs and organisations had seen a slow return of young people but it had taken time to build the services back up. It would be extremely worrying if activities were stopped again.

Mental health was a continuing issue for young people and issues continued to increase amongst this group.



District Sports South were providing FREE sports and multi-games at the Bowman Centre on Thursdays 5.30pm to 6.30m and there were a number of places available, ages 6-10yrs.

23rd September – Family Christmas event Bowman Centre – refreshments, snacks, activities, surprises for families 2.30pm – 5.30pm all welcome.

Jonathan Russell of Wessex Circus reminder everyone that they have a lot of excellent circus and fun kit to lend out – please get in touch.

Reminder Area Board meeting Thursday 16th December 6.30m online – bring a mince pie to your desk!

Next LYN meeting would be in February, Jacqui to send date.



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Joanne Woodsford from Health Watch attended the meeting and provided this link to access providers of mental health support for young people.

https://www.healthwatchwiltshire.co.uk/sites/healthwatchwiltshire.co.uk/files/younghwwilts_mh_list.pdf

Please feedback any ongoing issues to Joanne as she may be able to help with commissioned services: joanne.woodsford@healthwatchwiltshire.co.uk There was also a variety of training packages on offer.

A number of organisations were recruiting staff and this was not particularly easy as seen in other sectors and nationwide. Volunteer recruitment was also difficult and an ongoing issue.

Nicole Abela (Abri) suggested that their Employment Officer may be able to help with volunteers as this was often a first step into work: Nicole.abela@abri.org.uk

Grant applications – there was 1 application from the **Salisbury Underground Bunker** which Jacqui and Mark would assess in more detail.

Post-meeting note: this application has been deferred and will be assessed again in January 2022.