

RW Bassett and Cricklade Community Area

YOUTH FORUM notes

28th April 2022



1. Attendees: Allison Bucknell (Wiltshire Council - RWB&C Area Board), Mari Roberts (Royal Wootton Bassett Academy), Angela Jensen (Cricklade Town Council), Sue Hughes (RW Bassett Town Council and LYN), Cole Schwarz (The Rise Trust), Amy Dallimore (Army Welfare Service, MOD Lyneham), Keri Dunne (Inspire to Aspire), Gemma Hall (Inspire to Aspire), Michelle Temple (RW Bassett Town Council), Cameron Strawson (Wiltshire Council - Youth Voice Support Worker), Zoe Markham-Lee (RW Bassett Academy), Alan Low (RWB Rugby Club and Swindon & Wiltshire Sports Partnership), Jane Vaughan (Wiltshire Council – Community Engagement Manager).

Apologies: Jan Kelly – Girl Guiding (Wiltshire North), Janice Bardwell

2. Open discussion:

Young People – Mental Health and wellbeing.

- There was a wide-ranging discussion about current support in schools, out of schools and including parental support.
MR reported that RWB Academy are following national guidance, they have appointed a full-time school counsellor and 5 emotional literacy support advisors and a 'Mental Health First aider' (to help support incidents of panic attacks etc.
- AJ expressed concern that Bradon Forest School was not linking with the group and also wondered if and how the group could link with Kingshill in Cirencester, which is attended by many young people from Cricklade. MR noted that good 'cross school' practices exist. The CEM was asked to confirm links with both schools and encourage engagement with the Forum.

ACTION – JV to make contact with Bradon Forest and Kingshill Schools

- Specific issues of concern reported included an increase in mental health issues affecting boys and of 'boy eating disorders'
- A lack of careers advisors in the area was also noted and it was reported that young people were struggling to find work experience. MT noted that RWB Town Council run a programme with their grounds maintenance team to offer experience.

- AL reported that there are now 40 girls now involved in playing at the Rugby Club but also noted a decline in players aged 16 – 19. The club runs a mental health programme and AB asked whether it could be ‘packaged’ to use with other groups?
- SH noted that the Richard Jones Foundation can provide financial support for young people who may need support in engaging in activities that will help them meet their potential.
- AD noted that community cohesion and a sense of belonging is particularly tricky in a MOD/military setting. Families feel that their kids are missing out. The AWS/Community Centre is trying to put on more activities for military personnel and looking to reintroduce the youth club.
- It was noted that the priorities for actions to address mental health and wellbeing were exercise, addressing food poverty, increasing positive social contact, and the importance of ‘FUN’ including collecting information about positive activities and sharing that information. These actions would be reported to the area board with a recommendation for inclusion on the RWB&C Community Action Plan.

3. Positive activities in isolated communities.

- There was a discussion about provision needed for young people located in more isolated communities (villages and large/remote housing sites).
- It was noted that there was a lack of clarity about this issue. It seemed that young people in rural villages may have more access to transport and more likely to travel to the towns where they go to school and have friends, but there was also a suggestion that new estates like Ridgeway Farm in Purton, may be more isolated as the community infrastructure had not yet caught up with the housing provision (e.g. public transport, community buildings etc.)
- It was felt that more work needed to be carried out to establish the experience for young people in both situations.

4. Recommendations to the Area Board.

- To note that the RWB&C Youth Forum had met, and discussions outlined in the meeting notes.
- To update the RWB&C Community Action Plan as follows:

- Remove actions 1.3 and 1.4 considering the information reported to the Forum (appendix 1) and subsequent discussions held.
 - ‘Year of Fun’ - Encourage a programme of inclusive, positive, fun activities for young people as a means of supporting positive mental health.
 - Research the existence of food poverty among young people in the Community Area and opportunities to address that issue.
 - Engage with Schools, local sports clubs, and leisure centres to consider ways to encourage more young people aged 16-19 to take regular exercise.
- 5. Terms of Reference** – The Area Boards across Wiltshire will be inviting ‘working groups’, set up to respond to local Action Plans, to adopt a simple term of reference. These will be brought to the next Forum for consideration.
- 6. Proposed date for Next meeting: Thurs 29th September, 4:30pm, via Teams**
(This Forum has agreed to meet on a quarterly basis).

**Young People (Mental health, wellbeing, and positive activities)
Cllr Allison Bucknell (Area Board Lead)**

<p>Action 1.1 – Develop Review Local Youth provision, street based and safe space in the towns and assess provision in the villages.</p>	<p>ONGOING - An application for funding development of local youth provision in Cricklade was approved by the Area Board on 15th March. Following a request from RWB Town Council funding allocated in March 2021 was rolled over to develop provision in 2022/23. A Recommendation from the RWB&C Youth Forum, to ask T & PCs to comment on provision and requirement for outreach and safe space style youth provision was agreed by the Area Board on 15th March 2022. 28/04/22 - Limited response received from T&PCs, Street based and Safe Space Youth provision continuing in Cricklade and RW Bassett in 2022/23.</p>
<p>Action 1.3 - Investigate level of mental health support young people and their families should expect and the correct way to access that support.</p>	<p>NEW ISSUE The RWB&C Youth Forum recommended this action is added to the Community Action Plan. Recommendation accepted by the area board on 15th March 2022. 28/04/22 close this issue on the action plan to be replaced by actions emerging from the Mental Health related actions discussed by the youth forum.</p>
<p>Action 1.4 - Establish whether provision for mental health support through the ECHP process is delivering expected outcomes.</p>	<p>NEW ISSUE The RWB&C Youth Forum recommended this action is added to the Community Action Plan. Recommendation accepted by the area board on 15th March 2022. 28/04/22 close this issue on the action plan to be replaced by actions emerging from the Mental Health related actions discussed by the youth forum.</p>

<p>Action 1.5 - 'Year of Fun' – Members of the RWB&C Youth Forum develop a programme of inclusive, positive and fun activities for young people as a means of countering mental health issues.</p>	<p>NEW ACTION linked to Young People, Mental Health and Wellbeing: The RWB&C Youth Forum recommended this action is added to the Community Action Plan.</p>
<p>Action 1.6 - Research the existence of food poverty among young people in the Community Area and opportunities to address that issue.</p>	<p>NEW ACTION linked to Young People, Mental Health and Wellbeing: The RWB&C Youth Forum recommended this action is added to the Community Action Plan.</p>
<p>Action 1.7 - Engage with Schools, local sports clubs and leisure centre to consider ways to encourage more young people aged 16-19 to exercise</p>	<p>NEW ACTION linked to Young People, Mental Health and Wellbeing: The RWB&C Youth Forum recommended this action is added to the Community Action Plan.</p>