

WILTSHIRE COUNCIL

ITEM NO. 6

SOUTHERN WILTSHIRE AREA BOARD
15 OCTOBER 2009

PROVISION OF YOUTH FACILITIES

Executive Summary

Youth work in the Southern Wiltshire Community Area is delivered by dedicated youth workers whose work is limited by the size of the vehicle currently being used. This report therefore proposes that the Area Board supports the idea of a larger vehicle which increases the capacity for youth work across the community area.

Recommendations:

- 1) That the area board, including the parishes and partners, support the idea of a mobile youth facility which serves the whole community area.
- 2) That a bid for the Local Public Service Agreement Performance Reward Grant funding be formulated along with specific details of the project and that it be brought back to the Board at its next meeting on 17 December 2009 for endorsement and subsequent submission by the 31 December 2009 deadline for tranche 1.

Reason for Proposal

This proposal increases the capacity for the delivery of quality youth work across the community area.

Community Area Manager: Tom Bray, email: tom.bray@wiltshire.gov.uk and tel: 01722 434252

PROVISION OF YOUTH FACILITIES

Background - Current Provision

The Wiltshire Development Service for Young People is delivering youth work provision on four evenings a week in a variety of locations around the Southern Wiltshire Community Area. The current pattern for delivery is Monday evenings in Alderbury, Tuesday evenings in Morgan's Vale and Woodfalls, Wednesday evenings in Downton and Thursday evenings in Old Sarum.

Youth work is delivered using the Urbie (a converted van) which has space for approximately 6 to 8 young people at any one time. Over the last few months, the Urbie has provided opportunities for young people to have a go at a variety of arts activities including jewellery making, designing posters for the Urbie and friendship bracelets, and when stopped near parks, the young people and youth leaders have enjoyed a variety of sporting activities including football, cricket and basketball. Young people have also had the opportunity to raise and discuss issues which concern them, these have included self esteem and self worth issues, bullying, peer pressure and family issues.

Whilst the Urbie has been an excellent vehicle for beginning the process of making contact with young people, it is now regularly full to capacity. Its size also means that we are only able to offer one activity at a time to the young people who engage with us.

Proposal

In order to increase the capacity and variety of the opportunities being developed with young people, whilst maintaining the ability to work in a variety of settings across the community area, it is proposed that the possibility of acquiring and running a larger vehicle be explored.

If the Area Board supports this proposal, a report and bid for funding to the Local Public Service Agreement reward grant fund will be prepared for the Area Board meeting in December. This will contain details of the initial costs, ongoing costs and management arrangements for a larger vehicle. This project will be subject to a successful application to the Local Public Service Agreement reward fund, therefore many of the finer details would need to be worked up and consulted on once the money had been secured.

In order to seek the views of the community on this current proposal, at this stage, we would like to:

1. Carry out a discussion at the 15 October meeting to gain initial feedback;
2. Offer the Community Plan steering group, if one emerges at this meeting, the chance to feed into the final proposals brought back to the Board on 17 December;
3. Invite representations on the current proposal by 1 December, by writing to:

Tom Bray
Community Area Manager
47 Endless St
Salisbury
SP1 3UH

or

tom.bray@wiltshire.gov.uk

Alternative Options

1. We could continue with the current situation – however this would mean that the Development Service for Young People is only able to engage with a small number of young people at anyone time and is unable to offer the variety of opportunities which a larger vehicle would offer.
2. We could explore the possibility of a purpose built youth centre somewhere in the community area – this would give the space for the variety of opportunities talked about above, however, due to the size of the community area, a dedicated youth centre is likely to reach less young people than a mobile provision.