

Wiltshire Council

Trowbridge Area Board

14 July 2016

The Activities and Progress for the Trowbridge Community Area Youth Provisions

Introduction

1. The Community Youth Officer (CYO) for Trowbridge came into post on the 2nd February 2015 to help support the local community to embed the community led model in Trowbridge. Since the closure of the Youth Service in Wiltshire in October 2014, there was little youth work, outside of uniform groups being conducted in this area to ensure that the needs of young people were being addressed and it was the CYO job to ensure that the needs of young people in Trowbridge were being met. The CYO conducted a basis needs assessment based on the findings that has been collated at that time using the relevant Joint Strategic Assessment for Trowbridge to help build a picture of the areas that were most in need of support and the areas that needed to be increased to build a better community for young people in Trowbridge and the surrounding areas.
2. The CYO has over the last year build some good relationship in Trowbridge with over 35 different organisations working with the young people who live and are educated in the Trowbridge community which has helped to build a better picture of the needs of these young people. From the needs assessment the finding show that in all activities for leisure pursuits and entertainment there is a need. No element has been totally met for these young people so further work needs to be done in Trowbridge to ensure it helps to meet the need for this cohort of young people and help to grow Trowbridge into providing positive activities for them.

Progress

3. During the last 17 months the CYO has supported 18 organisations apply for funding grants to the Trowbridge Area Board and of these 12 bids have been funded with 3 waiting for final decisions at the Trowbridge Area Board on the 14th July 2016.
4. The range of activities have been well documented that once these activities start to be implemented into the community area the needs of young people will hopefully start to be met however, this takes time.
5. With the grant funding there will be several summer programmes happening from a youth focused element to the Olympics event on the 16th July in Trowbridge Park and from the 22nd August there will be a Pop up Café providing activities, advice and support to young people. Giving them someone to mix with friends in a friendly youth ran provision.
6. New clubs that have opened due to the youth grant funding are with the Harmonics Glee Club, providing a relaxed environment for young people to enjoy singing together as a group and build new friendships helping to build on self-esteem, confidence and increase their personal aspiration.
7. To find out the needs of young people in the Studley area, the CYO with the support of Selwood housing helped to set up a consultation youth group in January 2016, this was a massive success with over 28 young people attend. This pilot ran for 8 weeks originally to get an understanding of the needs in Studley and has been well received and supported by

the young people. This provision is at present still supported by the CYO as the young people enjoy this provision and plans are in place for this provision to be taken over within the Community.

8. In September there will be the opening of another youth club with the Moroccan Association, providing a chilled out space for all young people to enjoy a youth club environment to learn new activities and build better relations in the community they live.
9. Funding has been put in place to support the existing skate Park with the Opline consultation group to have the skate park re-skimmed and a "JamFest" planned for early next year. The consultation group wish to support the local community to help raise funds to have the skate park re-designed to provide better facilities to the novice skaters to help increase this positive activity to all young people. Plans are already under way to get signs and new bins put in the skate park to help raise this provision in the local community. The Opline group have been a valuable access to the CYO over the months and will be attending some team building activities to support them in building a more diverse group for the future planning of the skate park.
10. The LYN MG Group have also support the LGBT community in producing a film to help and support young people be able to embrace their own identity without re-course from society. This should be a very powerful tool to help support this group and once completed will be an educational tool which can be used in schools and other youth settings.
11. Trowbridge Young Carers have been supported in providing funding to start a group in the Trowbridge area which was greatly needed and gives these young people the space to be young without the fear or concerns of their loved ones on them; this is a much needed provision and has been running for several months now. The funding is in place for 1 year.
12. Two other yearlong projects have started in the last few months; one is the Go Fish project, which is to support young people in the world of work, helping to raise their own personal aspirations and development into understanding business. The other is a street football activity, which travels around the Trowbridge community building small football teams with the final outcomes to all come together once a month to play football against each other in a fun environment, helping to build relationships in the local community by using football as their tool of engagement.
13. The CYO has also been involved in making 4 recommendations direct to the LYN MG Group and the Trowbridge Area Board, with the level of work the CYO has implemented during this time there was a valid recommendation to the LYN MG Group for them:
 - i) to fund two youth workers to support the Studley Youth Consultation group and help them apply for funding for additional activities to the wider Studley community
 - ii) to support the Opline group with the development and Jamfest at the skate park
 - iii) to help start a youth club in Seymour or support any existing provisions in place
 - iv) to support the Newtown residents set up the Youth Café in the old cobblers building.

Planning permission and architects drawings have already been submitted to planning and the residents are now in the process of securing funding for the provision with the Youth workers support. The Youth workers will also be supporting Friends of Trowbridge Park help set up the planned Youth Shelter which has been well supported by young people over the last 14 months with various consultation processed supported by this organisation and the CYO. The final piece of work for these youth workers will be to establish a street based youth provision ensuring that all areas of Trowbridge can have some provision in their local

area and help to gain a better understanding of the needs of young people and strive to incorporate these needs with new opportunities and activities. The posts are only 16 hours, with admin time and session planning and the other post is 12 hours. These posts will have a lot to do in a small space of time. The main worker has been secured and accepted the role. This will be starting on the 12th September 2016.

14. Other areas that were identified by the CYO were the level of training in Youth work for volunteers. A small amount of funding was given to the CYO to support equipment and resources for volunteers to engage with youth work values. So far 12 volunteers have been trained in the introduction to youth work and of these five are now committed to volunteering regularly at youth provisions in Wiltshire. Three were already volunteers however, wanted a greater understanding of youth work values and have gained a lot from the experience. The new youth work post will plan to continue training volunteers or staff working with young people to increase their level of understanding and interaction.
15. The CYO felt that as there had not been any large event for young people in Trowbridge since the new community led model had been introduced an activity for them in Trowbridge Park would be a valid recommendation to the LYN MG Group, in all the needs assessment carried out by the CYO, the young people wished for a Ice rink, as this would be outside the funding stream, space and ability the CYO secured funding for a mobile rink to come to Trowbridge in January, this was a huge success with over 500 young people and families attending. The young people felt this was a great idea to have something in the winter months especially after Christmas and there are plans underway to provide some follow up event in January 2017. At present the young people like the idea of a dance night for young people or an outdoor cinema screening.

Future Plans

16. Due to changes in Wiltshire Council the CYO is leaving the Trowbridge Community Area on the 8th August 2016; however their last day is the 28th July as they have planned holiday from this date until the end of their contracted hours. The position has been deleted due to cut backs in services. The CYO would like to acknowledge the enjoyment they have had in taking on this role and as thoroughly enjoying working in the Trowbridge Community Area and meeting all the people that has supported them in achieving some of the desired results to engage with young people and provide positive activities for young people over the last 17 months, with future activities still planned to occur over the coming months.
17. The new post taking over from the CYO will be a Locality Youth Facilitator (LYF) and they will have three areas to cover under this new role. The LYF for Trowbridge will cover Bradford on Avon and Melksham, and support the local Youth Networks and Areas Boards with the Youth they have already started this role in these two areas and are getting to grips with making sure they understand the needs of young people.
18. As the CYO does not finish until the 28th July the handover period will commence on the 18th and a full LYN MG Meeting will be held on the 19th July with the new person meeting with the various organisations involved in the current structure. The LYF will be able to update the Trowbridge Area Board in September on how the role will meet the needs of the Trowbridge community and ensure that positive activities and provision will still be able to increase within the community area at this time.

Sarah Holland, Child Youth Officer
6 July 2016