

CMAS Update

OVERVIEW REPORT ON ROYAL WOOTTON BASSETT, LYNEHAM AND CRICKLADE.

This is a recap on the provision provided by Community mentoring and support in the local areas of Royal Wootton Bassett, Lyneham and Cricklade. Data provided is from September 18 to February 19 inclusive.

The report aim is to inform on sessions, provide data and show effectiveness of the sessions in which young people from the local areas can choose to attend .To provide a safe environment to socialise, access support and advice (and possible referral or sign posting) by trained youth workers .To also give a means of approach to age related issue based information. Also intended is to tackle unwise and risky behaviours that present in the individual areas by means of prevention or reduction at grassroots level working alongside the local PCSO's when necessary.

We offer a safe space where young people can attend (free of charge) and take shelter, have a hot drink and a snack. We offer planned session activities that they can choose to join in .However if they just wish to come and engage with their peers and youth workers that is completely acceptable.

The workers present are trained in all manner of issue based subjects to enable them to help support young people with dilemmas including sexual health in which some workers have no worries training to allow them to give out condoms and chlamydia kits in confidence, (also sanitary products if needed)drugs and alcohol awareness(and have a D&WP educational drugs box).

The young people can talk to workers in confidence and the workers offer support but also refer or sign post young people for more specific help when required. We work at times with Motiv8 (drug and alcohol support)and some of the young people we see are currently receiving one to one support from them. All workers have comprehensive knowledge of current safeguarding legislation and have shared relevant information to the appropriate agencies.

Working and building trusting relationships with young people with risky behaviours or possible complex home life's can be a slow process (especially when they only see a young person in a weekly session) this can vary from each individual as to what is happening to them at present. Some of the young people we see have unstable lives so offering a place away from home to confide with youth workers about (what can be) a myriad of social problems can just offer some calmness within the chaos. During the session some young people may just choose to "pop in and out" whilst more tend to stay for the session.

We have regular young people attending but also young people we might not see for a few weeks at a time. This in part can be due to friendship changes as well as what's going on for them in their personal lives. The numbers we have in fluctuate .It

is the nature of youth work that sometimes when age ranges are similar they all seem to move on at once especially when leaving school and moving on to college. Very often older young people come back in to just see us and tell us what's happening for them and what they have accomplished since last seeing us. This can be really positive to younger attendees to witness positive achievements from peers not too dissimilar in age.

We always pass on any information regarding the illegal supply of drugs to the local PCSO's who call into our sessions on a regular basis when they are able to have a drink and engage with the young people in a less formal setting. Workers also pass on any information to the PCSO's that we may think be useful and likewise if the police have any questions we may be able to assist with, workers are comfortable asking young people for information in a more casual manner.

At all our session there are leaflets available for young people to obtain and take away information on illegal drugs, alcohol, sexual health ,mental health and general support information.

A large proportion of young people in attendance at our sessions have mental health concerns or issues in varying degrees. Some are referred to CAAMHS and are currently receiving help whilst a greater amount are waiting to be seen and are receiving some support from a school counsellor. One of our workers is in the middle of qualifying as a psychotherapist so is able to offer some support when the issue and setting is appropriate .We have referred young people on to Young Minds and Kooth for on line mental health support. We spend an increased amount of time in session talking about what can affect our mental health including drug use and our lifestyles and choices.

We offer a variety of activities to improve engagement and help establish relationships .This can include cooking projects, art and craft therapy ,group games and celebrating various awareness days all decided by consultation with the young people. When planning youth work activities with young people we like to work within the 5 outcomes framework known as "SHEEP" staying safe, health and wellbeing, economic wellbeing, enjoy and achieve and positive contribution.

Royal Wootton Bassett.

Royal Wootton Bassett had funded Cmas youth provision since March 17.The workers include trained staff that originated from the Royal Wootton Bassett Youth Development Centre funded ran by Wiltshire Council. This helps maintain trusting relationships with the young people, who are either familiar with the staff or have older siblings that have been known to the staff. The Session runs from the United Reform Church in Royal Wootton Bassett on a Monday evening .This premises does not come without it challenges and Cmas are currently looking to find a more appropriate community friendly venue. But this has proved quite difficult as there is a shortage of rooms available for hire in the town. We have in the past summer

months worked in a detached style (outside in the local public parks) as we have either not had or not allowed to use the garden facility in the hall we rent. This does allow us to meet some new young people whom perhaps have not attended the session and also facilitate some outdoor activities.

DATA

SEPT

3RD 27Y/P

10TH 27 Y/P

17TH 34 Y/P

24TH 36 Y/P

OCT

1ST 35 Y/P

8TH 32 Y/P

15TH 28Y/P

22ND 28 Y/P

29TH 37 Y/P

NOV

5TH 31Y/P

12TH 26 Y/P

19TH 36 Y/P

26TH 38 Y/P

DEC

3RD 28 y/p

10TH 29 y/p

17TH 32 y/p

JAN

7TH 26 y/p

14Th 38y/p
21ST 33 y/p
28TH 39 y/p

FEB

4TH 28y/p
11TH 31 y/p
18TH 33 y/p
25TH 24 y/p

Total of young people attending the above sessions in the months stated: 81

Provided residential postcodes of the attendees: 85% SN4(Royal Wootton Bassett).The rest being SN15 (Lyneham) SN5 (Purton) SN16 (Malmesbury)

Mixed genders approx. 60% male 40% female

Presenting risky behaviours: 48

Risks being: Drugs, Class B Cannabis, Class A MDMA, Speed, Acid, LSD, Cocaine .Underage Alcohol consumption. Potential risk of grooming for drug dealing and/or sexual exploitation, Carrying an offensive weapon, Theft and all the above resulting in possible unhealthy sexual relationships and ongoing mental health issues. All specific incidents reported to social services and/or police.

Age range currently in attendance is 15 to 18 years.

Lyneham

Lyneham was originally run at the church Hall but when a new community support development worker came into position at the Lyneham MOD site we were offered to work in partnership with her in the purpose build youth facility within the MOD community centre. This has been a really positive move .The person we work in partnership with is a trained youth worker and so working together has proved really positive for both staff and young people.

The facilities the building has on offer is comfortable seating area games room (table tennis ,pool, table football)console game and large cinema screen. This makes engaging and relationship building with the young people easier in that we can spend more time with the young people who require it whilst others have a choice of activity they may wish to partake in. We currently have little provision regarding a kitchen facility as the kitchen is in need of updating in respect of safety. This is being addressed.

Some of the young people in attendance at Lyneham also attend the session in Royal Wootton Bassett. The Young people who attend Lyneham tend to make up one large friendship group even if some are on the peripheral of the group. We have had some new young people attend in recent months and they have been welcomed by the resident group of young people.

At this present time some of the young people in attendance are involved in some anti-social behaviour within the village, mainly littering and loitering around the village hall when it is in use. There has been some damage to Church benches and the young people have been slightly disrespectful when approached by adults wishing to use the hall. One of our workers has had a meeting with a member of the parish council to discuss some potential resolutions to help assist in combating this problem.

We have some young people who attend that are posted and reside on the camp. They are 17 and away from home and are too young to drink in the local pubs etc. so we are happy to have them turn up to the sessions. We tend to see some young people come and go at the sessions due to military moves .Currently the attendees are made up mainly of a civilian background.

We will probably facilitate a few sessions on Slessor Park in the summer months at the youth shelter (which is drastically in need of updating) one worker has recently had conversations with a member of the parish council regarding the update of this structure.

DATA

SEPT

7TH 12Y/P

14TH 11 Y/P

21ST 16 Y/P

28TH 17 Y/P

OCT

5TH 13 Y/P
12TH 22 Y/P
19TH 17Y/P
26TH 15Y/P
NOV
2ND 17Y/P
9TH 18Y/P
16TH 14Y/P
23RD 21 Y/P
30TH 17 Y/P
DEC
7TH 18 Y/P
14TH 14Y/P
21ST 19Y/P
JAN
11TH 15Y/P
18TH 16Y/P
25TH 15 Y/P
FEB
1ST 14Y/P
8TH 12Y/P
15TH 15 Y/P
22ND 14 Y/P

Total of young people attending the above sessions in the months stated: 43

Provided residential postcodes of the attendees: Mostly SN15 also SN11, SN4.

Mixed Genders: Approximately 50 % male and female.

Presenting Risky Behaviour: 24

Risks being: Drug use predominantly Cannabis Class B but also use of Ketamine, MDMA and cocaine. Potential grooming for drug dealing and inappropriate sexual relationships. Ongoing mental health issues without relevant support. Illegal consumption of alcohol resulting in accusations/disclosures reported to the police. Escalation of anti-social behaviour and community isolation.

All disclosures and safeguarding issues have been reported to social services and /or police.

Age currently in attendance: 13 to 18.

CRICKLADE.

Cricklade sessions were firstly established as a detached street based project to engage with older young people with anti-social behaviours. The workers formed relationships with some of the young people whilst some chose not to engage due to them not being from Cricklade but travelling into the town in cars and also some were young adults aged between 20/21. The young people suggested they would like to move back inside in the winter and said they would like the building next to the leisure centre (the old youth centre) The town council coordinated this with the leisure centre. At first there was a mixed age range attending mainly older young people but in time these young people have moved on due mainly because they had reached 18 years of age and had other places they were now able to go to. This has left us with a small group of younger young people (some of which are siblings of the older attendees) they were not known to workers so building relationships has took time. However workers have now been able to form relationships with the young people. The attendees tend to be loud and boisterous with challenging behaviour at times so it has been important to try and provide activities to enable them to focus. The young people always want to cook and it has become known to one of the workers that sometimes some of the young people in attendance have not eaten before they have come to the session. So this has been something that the workers wish to focus on.

The room itself has the potential to provide the young people with what they need ,but for the issue that the Leisure Centre has not made it easy for the young people to feel at home .Sometimes tables have been locked away so we have upright chairs but no tables to do activities on .Sometimes equipment has been left out. But mainly the kitchen area needs cleaning every time we use it as it's not hygienic for cooking use. There is alcohol left around and beer going mouldy in buckets which is hazardous. Workers have approached the staff of the leisure centre and although nothing has improved with the kitchen the tables have been available for us and the equipment has been put away.

One member of the LYN committee has been in to see workers and talk to the young people regarding their needs with a view to improving the facility and resources for young people.

DATA

SEPT

3RD 9 Y/P

10TH 7 Y/P

17TH 10 Y/P

24TH 11 Y/P

OCT

1ST 8 Y/P

8TH 7 Y/P

15TH 8 Y/P

22ND 8 Y/P

29TH 8Y/P

NOV

5TH 7 Y/P

12TH 7 Y/P

19TH 9 Y/P

26TH 13 Y/P

DEC

3RD 7 Y/P

10TH 11Y/P

17TH 7 Y/P

JAN

7TH 4 Y/P

14TH 6 Y/P
21ST 5 Y/P
28TH 8 Y/P
FEB
4TH 11 Y/P
11TH 9 Y/P
18TH 10 Y/P
25TH 9 Y/P

Total of young people attending the sessions in the above months stated:22

Provided residential postcodes of the attendees: SN6

Mixed Genders: Approximately 50% male and female

Presenting Risky behaviour:14

Risks being: Use of cannabis (class B).Potential risk of moving on to class A drugs.AT risk of being groomed for dealing drugs .illegal consumption of alcohol. Some young people risk exclusion from main stream School.Risk of escalating anti-social behaviour. Any safeguarding risks to be reported to social services and /or Police

Age range currently in attendance: 11 to 16 years

Effectiveness

All the groups have regular attendees and value the support of the workers they have built a relationship with. Workers do provide additional support to young people outside the session when necessary. When talking to the workers a large proportion of young people feel that their needs within the areas in which they live are not met

or are less important than other age groups within the community. Most of the premises we use are not purpose built so offer very little in the way of facilities specifically for young people. This can make the workers role more difficult in regard to spaces being appealing to young people. The fact that we still get young people in attendance suggests the need for a safe warm space is needed.

When asked to evaluate the sessions the young people said they felt safe and comfortable talking in confidence to workers about subjects that they would not discuss with other adults .They thought the workers non-judgemental approach allowed them to open up and explore the possible implications of the risks they are or possibly thinking about taking. They also said they felt increased personal safety with somewhere inside to frequent. This has been particularly relevant for the young people within the LGBT community who attend the generic sessions.

Rising crime coincides with past cuts within the youth facilities and whilst we only offer one session a week for a short time this does provide young people with appropriate adults present solely for the support of the young people within a safe space.

Workers have formed good relationships with the local PCSO's resulting in sharing of information but also the PCSO's visiting the sessions and being able to become more familiar with the young people and encourage positive interaction with the Police.

