

Report to	Southern Wilts Area Board
Date of Meeting	9 th December 2021
Title of Report	Rural Youth Outreach Project - Update

Background

1. The Rural Youth Outreach Project (RYOP) started in August 2021, funded by area boards in Southern Wiltshire, Amesbury, Warminster, Tidworth and Pewsey, and delivered by two officers from Community First.
2. The targeted project outcomes are as follows:
 - Improved level of engagement with young people, targeting a reduction in isolation of young people in rural areas.
 - Identification of young people with issues around mental health, educational attainment and physical health issues and signposting to appropriate activities and support.
 - Increased and strengthened community led activity provision, with stronger communications channels between providers and partners across the communities.

Progress So Far

3. Between Sept-Nov Community Organisers have door knocked, visited schools, after school clubs and other areas in the community that young people might be. They have visited different villages within Pewsey, Tidworth, Warminster, Amesbury and Southern Wiltshire. Areas reached within Southern Wiltshire include Allington, Newton Tony, Longhedge, Cholderton, Redlynch, Winterslow and Old Sarum. Where possible a day has been spent within each area but has had to be flexible to fit within the timescales and funding of the original agreement, sometimes meaning this has been done over a number of days.
4. The “listenings” will all be brought together and analysed ready for a stakeholder event on the 19th January. Good connections have been made with the schools in Southern Wiltshire area. This has enabled a lot more of the young people that live in the targeted villages to be listened to.

Over 150 individuals have been listened to within the Southern Wiltshire Areas. There are still some contacts to be reached out to and to reconnect with but some of the highlights of the “listenings” so far include;

- I. Redlynch and Winterslow have both expressed an interest in cycling
- II. Winterslow saw a lot of teenagers working in the main town.
- III. Allington and Newton Tony have young people who are continuing to listen to their peers for us around setting up a youth club that can span the two villages and potentially use Allington's new village space.
- IV. The Old Sarum Youth Club has seen a rise in numbers since the listening activity in the area from the Community Organisers.
- V. Six families with young people who have special educational needs have been identified in Longhedge who would be really keen for local sessions to support this.
- VI. An offer has been made to Old Sarum youth club to see if they would like to be involved in the 'skate park graffiti art' project
- VII. A lot of feedback asking for outdoor activities.
- VIII. Community Organisers have identified a number of key community volunteers who are keen to be a part of or to initiate sessions for young people in their area. (Eg one parent is keen to set up a gaming session)
- IX. Another theme that came up was the lack of transport to other things that are going on and lack of ability to get to other places.
- X. An overall theme that has come out of the listening's is the feeling that currently there is not enough for the young people and that having something put in place to support them would be valued by all the community.

"Me and my mates love to cycle and get out but there isn't anywhere for us to go where we aren't in the way of others"

(Young person from Winterslow)

Next Steps

5. Community Organisers will now finalise the engagement phase by ensuring that all contacts and connections have been included and consulted.

All individual listening sheets will be analysed to draw out themes that can be used at the event on Jan 19th.

All themes and reflections of phase 1 will be combined with work from phase 2 and put into a report for July 2022.

Community Organisers will reach out to individuals that have shown an interest in being more involved with the project and will ensure they remain connected and informed about the timescales and updates of the projects.

Recommendations

6. Currently the recommendation is to follow the structure of Phase 2 of the original project plan. This will be to work with local partners and include people that have been reached throughout phase 1 to increase positive activities in Southern Wiltshire. These people are not only the young people that will benefit from the sessions, but are also the young people that have supported us to listen to others, and adults and organisations/groups who are keen to work together.

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