

Report to	Southern Wilts Area Board
Date of Meeting	26 th May 2022
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 youth and community development 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.

Context

3. Section 507B of The Education Act 1996 requires Council's, so far as reasonably practicable, to secure for qualifying young persons (aged 13-19 in the local area (and up to 25 with SEND)) access to sufficient positive leisure-time activities which improve their well-being, and sufficient facilities for such activities. With an annual budget for positive activities for young people and enabling support from Wiltshire Council Children's Services, this responsibility has been delegated to Community Area Boards.
4. The Southern Wiltshire Area Board is devolved approximately £20k each year from Wiltshire Council's Department for Families & Children to carry out this requirement locally, to facilitate the community led delivery of positive activities and support for young people (see appendix 1 for our local youth network).
5. Wiltshire now, as developed and strengthened since 2014, has a varied community led offer, ranging from grass roots volunteer led activities to Wiltshire-grown, regional or national youth charities delivering the offer, supporting the work of specialist officers, including social workers, youth offending officers, and similar, to ensure the needs of young people are catered for.

6. The Community Engagement Managers (CEMs) in the more rural community areas in the south of the county, reflecting upon how the community led model has developed since 2014, concluded last year that there is a disparity between this offer when compared with more urban community areas, which meant that some young people in Southern Wiltshire, Amesbury, Warminster, Tidworth, and Pewsey were at risk of not engaging for a range of reasons in positive activities.
7. We have around 5000 young people living in Southern Wiltshire, and the majority are fortunate in being able to access positive activities from the community led offer, here and in neighbouring community areas, and indeed counties. Since starting the Rural Youth Outreach Project in August last year, we are steadily gathering data which suggests that a proportion are not able to take full advantage of the offer. Based on the insight gathered, the project has been targeting outreach in a range of villages in the Southern Wiltshire Community Area (see appendix 2).

Progress Update

8. Phase 1 (Aug – Dec 2021) of the RYOP was primarily about research (the conversations with young people, families and parish representatives). Phase 2 (Jan – July 2022) is primarily about delivering on actions to address some of the issues unearthed in phase 1.
9. This work is substantial, and we always knew that 12 months would not be sufficient to reset all that needed to be reset for lasting effect, and we are working up plans to source external funding with the hope of extending the project into Yr2 at least. At the end of 2021/22 the area board set aside £20k of unspent funds (approx £9k capital, approx £11k revenue). The board is also requested to earmark a further £5k for RYOP yr2 from the 2022/23 Youth Budget.
10. The attached appendix 2 lists out the villages that have been targeted as part of this project, with the top 4 in red being progressed as priorities for action in phase 2 (Jan-Jul 2022). The remaining will need to be costed and funded through RYOP y2.
11. Councillors agreed at the December 2021 Area Board meeting to explore the idea of setting up a Youth Support Charity for Southern Wiltshire. An update will follow on this at the September meeting.
12. The Rural Youth Outreach project is facilitated through the pooling of a small local fund from 5 area boards (£25k). We have always been conscious to draw from the strengths of a multi-area approach, whilst balancing the need to ensure the funds achieve equitable impact across the 5 areas. In March 2022, CEMs and the Community First officers facilitated a stakeholder event to further raise the profile of this project's objectives, and to stimulate debate about its merits generally, and specific to each area. We were fortunate to attract around 80 attendees to this online event, ranging from the local scout group leader to the director of regional youth charities and with residents,

parish council representatives, area board councillors, community groups and education colleagues (including the Youth Voice Team) in the mix. Attached are the presentation and report considered at that event. We will be following up with attendees to ensure their input can continue to influence the project.

Recommendations

1. To note the update and work that is ongoing in Downton, Alderbury, Winterslow and the Bourne Valley during phase 2.
2. To earmark £5k from the 2022/23 Area Board Youth Budget to build a fund to enable the Rural Youth Outreach Project to continue for a further year, based on emerging detail in appendix 2.

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***The Community Led Local Youth Network in the
Southern Wiltshire Community Area***

American Football Marauders (Laverstock)	Farley Junior Football Club
Alderbury Tennis Club	The Underground Studios
Alderbury Football Club	Project Spark
Alderbury Scouts and Guides	1st Laverstock Scouts
Bridge Youth Mentoring Project	Laverstock Explorer Scout Unit
Clarendon Juniors FC	23 Salisbury Scouts Old Sarum
Coombe Bissett & Homington Cricket Club	Army Cadets Old Sarum
Woodfalls Methodist Church Youth Club	Bourne Valley Rangers
Downton Tennis Club	
Downton Football Club	
Downton 4 Families	
1st Downton Scouts	
Hamptworth Croquet Club	
St Marks Church, Flipside Youth Group	
Old Sarum Youth Club	
Pheonix Stars Cheerleaders	
Riverbourne Community Farm	
Laverstock Sports & Social Club football activities	
Alabare Christian Care and Support	
Whiteparish Youth Club (not currently meeting)	
Whiteparish Church Youth Group	
Winterslow Youth Club (not currently meeting)	
Winterbourne Cricket Club	
New Bourne Players Youth Group	
Winterbourne Scouts and Guides	
Downton Baptist Church Youth Group	
1 st Pitton & Farley Guides	

