

Corsham Local Youth Network notes/actions – Thursday 23 January at 4pm-5.30pm

Corsham School, 6th form centre

Attendees: Cllr Helen Belcher (Chair of LYN meeting, Wiltshire Council), Cllr Alan Brown (Corsham Town Council), Sharon Thomas (Corsham Town Council), Sarah Leigh (Corsham Town Council), Sarah Gilmartin (My Space), Breanna (The Rise Trust), Alexa Davies (Wiltshire Council).

1. Welcome and introductions: Cllr Helen Belcher welcomed everyone to the meeting and all attendees introduced themselves.
2. Apologies: Cllr Ruth Hopkinson (WC), Jon Hope (WC), Cllr Derek Walters (WC and Corsham TC), Chris Smith (Corsham School), Cllr Steve Abbott (Corsham TC), Josh Kingston (Army Welfare Service), Will Lawton (The Rhythm Practice), Lily Guppy (Spurgeons), Steven Donahue (WC), Helen Dilley (Pound Arts), The Green Room, David Sandberg (Open Blue Bus), Luke Jones (Smash).

3. Youth grant applications:

The below applications were discussed by the group.

Application received from Rewired Counselling requesting £850 towards a full day SPARK event encouraging good mental, physical and emotional health in Corsham School Y13 students. This was an older group of students than when the programme was run previously and the students who had missed out due to COVID-19. The grant had been approved under delegated authority as it had been submitted since the last LYN meeting.

The Peacock Arts Trail requesting £1300 to run a series of six community workshops as part of the Trail in October 2025, working with young people with SEND. Sarah had been experiencing some issues with the grants system which were now resolved and the application has been submitted. Sarah explained they were looking to work with young people from Silverwood School, the Riverbank centre and the Inclusive Play group at Springfields. Since the WC youth grant scheme is for 13-19 year olds, or up to 25 for YP with SEND, Corsham TC suggested they may be able to cover the costs for the younger children's sessions.

Recommendation: Sarah Leigh to speak to Corsham School about involving their students with SEND in the project.

4. Funding available and deadline for future meetings:

The remaining funds for 2024/25 are as follows:

Community grants – £1058

Youth – £1377

Older and Vulnerable adults - £1200

The next Area Board meeting is on Thursday 20 February and the grant deadline is 6 February.

5. The Rise Trust update

Breanna explained the in-school pop ups are going very well with some of the same young people coming to see them regularly. In school they are generally seeing 16/17 people, but this can be up to 30. Youth Zone is going well too, regularly seeing around 11 YP though this can go up to 15.

6. Update from Corsham School

Breanna fed back that the Rise Trust were working closely now with school staff and had been trusted by the Headteacher to help de-escalate a student recently.

7. Group updates, future projects and ideas

Steven Donohue had provided a written update on a proposed music/arts event supporting **Afghan young people**. Steven had met with Will Lawton from The Rhythm Practice a few times and was to confirm if the event (planned for late spring/early summer) would go ahead by the end of the month. Corsham TC updated they had raised Steven's work to integrate Afghan families into Corsham life at the previous Corsham sports forum meeting, as promised at the last LYN.

Sarah Gilmartin from **My Space** provided an update on the 10-week programme which was coming to an end at Corsham School. My Space was a wellbeing group for young people based on Dance Movement Psychotherapy, with the aim to build confidence and self-esteem through creative activity. It had been such a positive group and they had focused on improving confidence. Sarah had received positive feedback from teachers that students taking part had improved their attendance in lessons. The students had also made friends, expressed lowered anxiety and enjoyed the role play and performance. Potential for another arts-based project was being explored, for a larger group for smaller groups to feed into.

Corsham Town Council continued to fund the successful youth outreach work run by The Rise Trust in town on Wednesday and Friday evenings. The Town Council had also agreed to fund the Open Blue Bus, which visits Corsham on Wednesday evenings as part of Rise's work, until Easter. The Rise Trust had also taken on the running of Corsham Youth Zone, the youth club at Springfield Campus on Friday evenings, allowing the volunteers who had run it for many years to step down.

Any Other Business:

Arranging a survey to look at best meeting dates and times was discussed, however it was felt best to work around school availability with greater notice of meeting dates. Corsham Town Hall was kindly offered as an alternative meeting space. As such a year's programme of dates will be put together.

It was noted that it was the last LYN meeting before the elections.