

Devizes Community Area Youth Work Team Report to Area Board – May 2013

Part of The Integrated Youth Service

The Youth Work Team are part of the Integrated Youth Service, and based at the Devizes Development Centre for Young People, sandwiched between Devizes School & the leisure centre. We offer youth work opportunities to young people aged between 13 – 19 years, up to the age of 25 with additional needs. This is achieved through a combination of open and targeted youth work sessions.

The team is managed by Richard Harris, a full time, professionally qualified youth worker. There are currently 5 Assistant Youth Workers with one vacancy which has been recently advertised. These staff work between 6 – 12 hours per week.

How are we doing?

In the 2012 – 2013 year, the youth work team came into contact with 529 (contacts) different young people who visited the centre or met our street based team 14029 times (attendances). A number of young people achieved accredited outcomes, including ASDAN and Duke of Edinburgh awards. Unfortunately due to a change of IT system, I am unable to give an accurate number here – I believe it to be around 5 young people. This is a target area for improvement for the next 12 months.

Financial Position

Wiltshire Council funds most of the building and staffing costs for the youth work program. We have, since February, made a small charge of 50p per session to young people using the centre (with the exception of the Devizes School lunch club) and have limited that so no one pays more than £1 per week (Monday – Sunday). This has raised several hundred pounds, which young people will control to purchase new equipment or materials for activities.

We also have an income generation target of £3000 to be paid back to Wiltshire Council. This will be raised by trading services, profits from the coffee bar and other fundraising.

It can be difficult to gain funding for local authority services, so we are exploring options including a 'Friends of' committee.

Youth Advisory Groups

One of the service's key objectives is to support the development of Youth Advisory Groups (YAGs). These aim to give young people a voice in shaping services in their area, and will meet monthly. The Devizes YAG is in the early stages of development, and I believe an area board representative will be elected at the May meeting.

Program

The centre is open on a Monday, Wednesday & Thursday evening for open access provision. Tuesday night is the Bridging Project for young people with disabilities, supported by peer mentors – we are currently recruiting some new volunteers for this role.

We open on a Saturday afternoon 3 weeks in the month for the Saturday Cafe, which attracts young people from further afield in the community area than our evening provision.

We will have two sessions a week of street based youth work – one in the town and one in the villages – once our recruitment process is complete.

We also support Devizes Children's Centre with a Young Parents Group, and offer a lunch club to year 11 students at Devizes School, which is part funded by the school.

More details of the program can be found on Sparksite – www.sparksite.co.uk – Wiltshire's website for young people. The centre also has a Facebook page which you can 'Like' – www.facebook.com/southbroom.dcup

Other Work

Staff are also involved in supporting young people with additional or complex needs and contribute to various local processes, including the Anti-Social Behaviour Risk Assessment Conference (ASBRAC) and Multi-Agency Forum (MAF). We have also been involved in community groups such as DCAP.

Further information

For further information or to arrange a visit please contact Richard.harris@wiltshire.gov.uk or call the centre on 01380 722598. You can also call Richard directly on 07767 425611.