

# Devizes Community Area Youth Work Team Report to Area Board – July 2013

## So Far This Year

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In the first quarter of the year (April – June) the youth work team made contact with 263 young people. We have recruited four new peer mentors for the Bridging Project who will be supporting young people with disabilities and learning difficulties on a Tuesday evening and working towards an ASDAN Award. We said goodbye to year eleven students from Devizes School as they finished their GCSE exams and we look forward to welcoming year ten students to the lunch club in the last few weeks of term.

The young parents group have organised a trip to Bristol aquarium and young people have been involved in the recruitment of staff, forming part of the interview panel. This is often the part of the interview that candidates fear the most!

The youth work team were also involved in the Integrated Youth Service field tracking exercise, trying to make contact with young people whose work or educational destination was unknown.

## Duke of Edinburgh Award

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Staff will be working with colleagues from the centre in Marlborough to support young people to access the Duke of Edinburgh Award program. This nationally recognised award is available to young people aged 14 – 125 in three levels – Bronze, Silver & Gold and is highly valued by colleges, universities and employers, as well as by the participants and award holders.

## Youth Advisory Group

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The Youth Advisory Group (YAG) met on the 27<sup>th</sup> June and will meet again on 25<sup>th</sup> July. The June meeting was small (due to the poor weather) but productive, with great engagement between Wiltshire Police & the young people present. The four issues the YAG are looking at are:

Young People being targeted by shop security  
Path between Potterne & Devizes  
A lack of affordable facilities for young people  
The need for intergenerational work/ projects

## Program

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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](http://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.dcyf](https://www.facebook.com/southbroom.dcyf)

## Staffing Update

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A second street based youth worker has been recruited and we are awaiting clearance from the Disclosure & Barring Service so they can start in role. We have been hosting a 2<sup>nd</sup> year youth work degree student whose time with us will end at the end of July. Another member of our team has been working towards a youth work degree and has nearly completed it.

Richard Harris has successfully gained a new position within the council – Caf Co-ordinator – and will be leaving the centre on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> July. A recruitment process for his replacement is underway.

## Further information

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