

Update for Corsham Area Board

Community Youth Officer

In the month since the new Community Youth Officer (CYO) has been in post there have been two successful events aimed at young people and voluntary sector organisations, which have launched the community led model of positive activities for young people in Corsham. There has been positive feedback from the events with voluntary sector organisations and young people keen to be involved in the new model. Both events had an element of initial consultation on young people's needs.

The consultation with young people at the Campus taster evening and the Local Youth Network (LYN) launch event went well with young people and groups expressing their views and beginning to think about the needs of young people in the area. The full consultation will be presented at the LYN management group.

The most popular suggestions were:

- developing new sports clubs/sessions - in particular parkour (free running)
- promoting what is currently available, in a format young people will engage with, possibly social media
- improved transport links, especially in the evening to allow more young people to attend activities and use facilities
- Activities that provide help, support, advice and guidance in an informal setting

A full analysis of needs for young people in the Corsham area will be ongoing as local community issues will continue to change as the model moves forward and as the CYOs relationship with young people and the voluntary sector organisations builds.

Since the LYN launch meeting, the CYO has arranged to meet with activity providers and voluntary groups in the area to see what they currently offer and to discuss activities that they could offer in the future with the right support. The CYO has put together a business case for a social media presence for the community youth network in Corsham to promote positive activities of LYN members, which is being developed centrally.

The CYOs role is to facilitate and support this new model and to be on hand to support the area board and the LYN to develop positive activities.

The CYOs aims are to:

- Complete and update the Community mapping exercise that was started earlier this year. To find out what is happening and where for young people.
- Identify gaps in provision and find out what young people's needs are by consulting with them and building a relationship.
- Conduct a young people's JSA – to find out what matters to them?
- Work with providers to develop positive activities and help them through the grant application process
- Support the Local Youth Network management group so they can make recommendations to area board for funding/support to meet young people's needs.

Local Youth Network

- 1 In order to facilitate the community led model of positive activities for young people, each Area Board will establish and maintain a Local Youth Network (LYN), to understand local needs and make recommendations to the Area Board on how funding for positive activities should be deployed. The LYN will be an open network of organisations in the area that have an interest or involvement in the provision of positive activities for young people. The LYN will be supported by a smaller management group facilitated by the Community Youth Officer.

At the LYN Launch event, volunteers for representatives to join the LYN management group were asked to register their interest. Several people applied and to ensure the group was representative of the community area the following people were selected as being appropriate management group members:

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Bob Hancock - Box Green Room Youth Centre
Geoff Fortune - Lacock Youth Group
Naomi Silverton - Pound Arts
Josh Towers - Young Person
Sean Marsh - Urban Saints Adult Helper
Miranda Morgan - Corsham Town Council
Joy Wingrave - Young Person
Chloe Lintern - Young Person
Shelia Parker - Area Board
Alan Macrae - Area Board

There are 2 posts available for representatives from a sports group and from an education provider. These representatives are being sought out by the CYO.

Xina Hart
Community Youth Officer
14th November 2014