

## **Youth Service Review Group**

*Strategic Director:* Rina Singh, Strategic Director – Place and Performance  
*Assistant Director:* Helen Rutter, Assistant Director – Communities  
Kim Close, Assistant Director – Communities  
*Service Manager:* Kim Close, Area Development Manager - South  
*Lead Officer:* Natalie Ross, Community Development Officer  
*Contact Details:* natalie.ross@southsomerset.gov.uk or (01935) 462956

### **Purpose of the Report**

To update members on the progress of the Youth Service Review Group.

### **Public Interest**

In response to Somerset County Council ceasing to deliver direct Youth Service Provision Yeovil Town Council invited local parishes and the district council to form a steering group to look at reducing the impact on local young people.

### **Recommendation**

That members note the report.

### **Background**

Yeovil Town Council convened a group to look at the likely impact of the changes to youth provision and whether the town, parish and district councils could do anything to reduce the impact on young people. The group looked at various options and agreed to commission an experienced person/organisation to carry out research into the needs of young people in the Yeovil area in relation to youth services. The work was put out to tender and Somerset Rural Youth Project were the successful bidders.

In order to fund the consultation the steering group submitted a funding application to the County Council's Youth and Community Service Grant Fund and the consultation took place during April and May 2013.

The results of the consultation were presented to the steering group on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> July and were used to help the Steering Group agree the most appropriate delivery model for future youth services. The results suggested the areas with the least youth provision were the Brympton/Westfield and Wraxhill/Forest Hill/Sampson's Wood areas of Yeovil. Therefore, the steering group decided to provide pilot youth services in these areas.

The organisation that made the successful bid to provide youth service provision in the chosen areas was Active Skills and Learning (ALS) and they commenced the pilot projects in October 2013.

Funding towards the pilots was granted from Somerset County Council. A condition of this funding was that the steering group develop a strategy for youth service provision in the area. A draft strategy was presented to Youth Groups and Providers on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2014 and the comments from this workshop were incorporated into the final document, which was adopted April 2014.

## **Update**

The pilot projects have been well attended and the steering group have received very positive feedback. Therefore, the group have decided to continue with these projects and partners have agreed a funding package that should secure the project for the next three years. The group will of course also seek grant assistance from other external sources as opportunities arise.

Invitations to tender were sent out to local experienced organisations in December 2014. The same specification was used with the addition of a youth club at Milford, as this club had closed since the original consultation was undertaken.

It was agreed that any additional sessions that individual town/parish councils might wish to procure in the future could be negotiated separately with the chosen service provider at an agreed schedule of rates. This approach has worked well with East Coker Parish Council who have commissioned and met the cost of a series of youth sessions delivered by ALS in their village.

The tender documents are due to be assessed on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2015, which is after the deadline for this committee report. Therefore the officer will provide a verbal update on the outcome of the tender process at the meeting.

### **Financial Implications**

None.

### **Corporate Priority Implications**

Focus Four: Health & Communities

### **Carbon Emissions & Adapting to Climate Change Implications (NI188)**

None

### **Equality and Diversity Implications**

None

***Background Papers:*** None

---