

Update on work with Young People in Area East

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Purpose of the Report

This report provides details of work being done to support young people in Area East and brings the Committee up to date on youth activities and facilities in Area East.

Public Interest

Supporting and helping to improve the work of voluntary community organisations in the towns and villages across Area East.

Recommendation

That Members note and comment on the report.

Background

SSDC works with partner organisations to provide support to local groups and individuals working towards maintaining and improving activities and facilities for young people across the District.

Members will recall that the structure of SCC Youth and Community Service had changed to provide one senior youth and community worker covering Mendip and South Somerset. The focus of support available from SCC is now through a grants programme, advice and guidance and the 'Safe and Welcoming' benchmark quality assurance scheme.

Current Youth Club Provision

This report sets out the direct provision of youth work in this area and the support that is available to groups and individuals carrying out this work in communities in Area East.

Bruton

Bruton has a regular club night every Monday run by a team of volunteers. The club continues to grow in terms of membership however, attendance was lower through the winter with an average of 15 attending. The club has a team of 3 volunteers and has once again been successful in gaining a grant from SCC. The grant will extend the contracted support from Somerset Rural Youth Project (SRYP). The focus of the next few months is to recruit new members to make the club viable and to complete the County Council's 'Safe and Welcoming' programme.

Castle Cary & Ansford – Youth Matters

The youth club is going strong with 20 young people registered and 17 to 19 attending every week. The club is run by Somerset Rural Youth Project with volunteer support and a number of trips have been organised alongside the regular Thursday evening sessions.

One of the SRYP project workers also works at Ansford Academy every Friday helping young people access the Eat Cary horticultural project. Other community based projects have been with the young people working with the Town Council to negotiate the equipment to be installed in the play park and working with the Town Council and the football club to design and paint the dug out on the Donald Pither Memorial field.

Most of our youth club members are male; therefore, in order to attract some girls into Youth Matters we hope to start a new group in the New Year especially for girls. It will focus on confidence and will be called 'Making the Most of Yourself'. Our two new volunteers wish to assist in the delivery of this with Vic-Lin.

SRYP gained funding in the summer to provide a new Rural Music project led by James Brookes. James is based in the Town Council office every Wednesday afternoon and is currently promoting taster sessions which have been well attended. The most successful ones will lead to the provision of short courses for adults and young people. He has formed a steering group of young people and he has had a great deal of positive feedback. Youth Matters has funded his music taster sessions in the Shambles.

Wincanton

The Youth Club established in 2013 has been open regularly at the David Sharp centre; Wincanton has struggled to recruit members in any significant number. Wincanton Town Council has decided to close the youth with effect from March 2015.

Wincanton Town Council has set aside a significant budget within the precept to support a programme of events for young people during 2015/16. The programme is likely to include a skate day/competition, support for 2 'Playdays', Basketball & games sessions and environmental improvements. The aim is to encourage young people to engage with existing events throughout the year.

The Charltons

The Charltons youth club continues to meet regularly and is attended by approximately 15 young people. The club has 7 volunteers and 1 paid worker. Highlights include a London trip, a pamper night, technology night and a Christmas meal.

Ilchester Youth Council

Two very strong youth parish councils continue to meet every other Tuesday, 7pm until 9pm. A younger group for young people aged 9 to 12 and an older group aged 12 to 19 are supported by 3 adult volunteers.

Both groups work closely with Ilchester parish council. Highlights of this last year have included the following:-

- a recruitment afternoon laser tagging one another! This resulted in recruiting 5 new members,
- decorating the weighbridge on the square,
- helping to replace and decorate the panels for the bus shelter at Northover that was sadly destroyed after a car crash,
- holding the annual village in lights and 'Ilchester in lights' competitions over Christmas as well as helping with the refreshments at the carols on the green and running a crèche area at the impromptu Christmas eve coffee morning.

Looking to the future the group has planned a breakfast brunch for the village on the 7th March, the idea is to get the young and old together, as well as assisting the sports field to plant trees they have been given, helping the parish council with their bulb planting and finally getting together with the cheese factory to do a litter pick.

The group is used as an example of good practice by Somerset County Council to help other Parishes interested in setting up youth councils.

Keinton Mandeville

Youth Club meets term time on a Friday evening and is attended by approximately 30 young people who enjoy positive activities including hockey, football, darts and indoor games. In the summer the group use the outdoor area at the village hall, utilising the Skate Park, MUGA and grassed area.

The MUGA currently is used by a variety of young people and gives a home base to the following netball teams, 2 under 14 , 1 under 12 and 1 under 16 netball teams during the winter. One Mini football team, and various groups using the floodlit facility on an ad hoc basis.

In the summer Rush Hockey, Rounders, Cricket and Football are played by young people at the MUGA and grassed area at the village. All of the above is encouraged by local adult volunteers from the community.

Other groups

Area East has a variety of other youth groups including church based youth groups, uniformed groups (Scouts, Guides, Cadets etc). A small amount of support has been given to a number of these groups in the past however many are part of national organisations with developed support structures.

SSDC Young People's Officer – Steve Barnes

The support that is given by the Young People Officer includes small grants of up to £500 through the Youth Development Fund, advice on start up and examples of standard documents including Model Constitutions, Health & Safety Statement, Accident Reporting records, Model Child Protection Policy Parental consent forms.

The Young People Officer can arrange for youth group volunteers to be checked through the Disclosure and Barring service. (Previously known as CRB check)

Following the continuing success of the Gold Star event, work begins on the 2015 event which will celebrate volunteering and reward local volunteers. There will be a call for nominations during the summer.

There is a distinct role for both specialist support and more generic local development work. The Young People's Officer works closely with Area Development Staff and in particular the Neighbourhood Development Officer. This ensures that local groups and organisations delivering youth provision benefit from the external support, funding, good practice and advice.

The Youth Opportunities Group

The Youth Opportunities Group is a multi-agency group meeting quarterly to make sure that youth work is provided in a coordinated way across the area. Key partners include Somerset

County Council, Somerset Rural Youth Project, Avon and Somerset Police, Local Community Learning Partnerships.

Training & Development

Training for voluntary youth groups is offered during the year. Recent courses include; First Aid, Food Hygiene level 2 and Introduction to child protection.

National Citizenship Scheme

The National Citizenship Scheme gives young people in years 11 and 12 the opportunity to develop confidence, leadership skills and independence. The scheme consists of a four week programme during the summer holidays part of which is residential. There are three distinct elements:

- Challenging activities including climbing, coast steering, abseiling etc
- Skills development eg. Budgeting, project management, time management etc
- Community project eg. Environmental improvement or organising community events.

The scheme is run by Somerset Rural Youth Project. Further information is available at www.sryp.co.uk or www.ncsyas.co.uk .

Financial Implications

There are no new financial implications as a result of the report.

Corporate Priority Implications

Supporting work to maintain and improve youth activities and facilities makes a significant contribution towards the corporate plan by:

- Improving the health and well-being of our citizens
- Ensuring safe, sustainable and cohesive communities

Carbon Emissions & Climate Change Implications

- Providing access to good quality, local activities reduces the need to travel which therefore reduces carbon emissions.