

## **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.

SCC Youth and Community Service currently provides 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.

### **Henstridge**

The Young Peoples Officer commissioned some targeted work in Henstridge in the Summer of 2015. Somerset Rural Youth Project spent six weeks working with 12 young people in Henstridge and Templecombe towards planning and delivering a 'Youth Day'. The day which included an organised skate competition had an attendance of approximately 150 people. 22 young people took part in the football tournament and many enjoyed the climbing wall, MUGA, inflatable, moped workshop and music. The local WI provided sandwiches and refreshments which was a good link as well.

Since the Youth Day a number of parents and volunteers have formed a group to set up a Youth Club which is now delivering one evening a week for 11 to 16 yr olds. The club offers a programme of activities which currently attracts between 20 and 25 young people.

## **Bruton**

Bruton has had a regular club night every Monday run by a team of volunteers. The club continued with solid attendance throughout the year however, a lack of volunteers has led to the decision to close the club. The group is working with the Town Council to identify a way forward for youth provision in the town. One option being considered is to work with Castle Cary & Ansford Youth Matters.

## **Castle Cary & Ansford – Youth Matters**

The period of consultation with our young people, through Lolly the youth worker, is nearing the end and as a result the Youth Club will start on a Thursday at the Swainson Building with a youth work team provided by Inspired 2 Achieve. They will be speaking further to local young people to establish what holiday activities are required, what trips they would like and anything else they might enjoy both on a regular basis and as one off activities. They will continue to talk to the young people about developments in the town including an active role in the Fairfield planning group. Parents, possible volunteers and carers have been invited to visit the Swainson Building on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March at 7.00 pm.

## **Wincanton**

Last year, a group of 8 young people worked with SRYP to organise and run a youth day. Wincanton Town Council has agreed to support 2 playdays and a Youth Day planned for the Summer 2016. The aim is to encourage young people to engage with existing events throughout the year. The focus of the next year is to refurbish Cale Park play area to improve the facilities for younger children.

## **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. This term the group have been on 3 trips, swimming, carting and bowling. After Easter the group will be in a position to offer a Wednesday night session from 7-9pm with a programme of activities.

## **Ilchester Youth Council**

Have continued to have a positive impact in their village. Below is a list of some of the things they have been up to during the last year.

- The group worked with Streetscene, to put on a litter pick in two parts of the village.
- Ran a scarecrow hunt and make a mini scarecrow activity at village fun day.
- Supported Somerset Rural Youth Project, setting up a, 'Youth Day' in Ilchester.
- Refurbished a bench dedicated to a local man.
- Won a Gold Star Award, for being the best junior club, group or organisation, of the year in South Somerset.

The Youth Council at Ilchester have also planned many things for 2016. These include.

- A fund raising brunch and coffee morning.
- Taking part in a street party to celebrate the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday.
- A litter pick at Pillbridge lane.
- Supporting the local primary school rejuvenating their play space.

## **Keinton Mandeville**

The Friday youth club continues to thrive and the group moves from the Methodist Church to the village hall for sessions when available in order to provide more space and better access for the young people. Alongside the youth club sessions, the young people are also participating in litter picks with one planned on 12 March.

The Sports/Youth facilities continue to be well used. A group runs girl's football on Tuesday nights 5.15-6.15pm with approximately 11 girls taking part from Barton St David, Charltons, Keinton Street and Somerton. Netball is organised with a strong under 16's, 14's and 12's team with some of our over 14's playing senior netball matches at weekends.

A team of college boys hire the MUGA on a Sunday evening and run their own football session. Hockey takes over when the netball season finishes. A large number of local young people access cricket in Lydford.

## **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)

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.

## **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 e.g. Budgeting, project management, time management etc.

- Community project e.g. Environmental improvement or organising community events.

The scheme is run by Somerset Rural Youth Project. Further information is available at [www.sryp.co.uk](http://www.sryp.co.uk) or [www.ncsyas.co.uk](http://www.ncsyas.co.uk) . 45 young people from South Somerset took part over the summer with participants from Marston Magna and Castle Cary in Area East. Social Action Projects included raising money for Mind, running a facebook page to raise awareness of women's body image and running sports activities for young children.

### **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.
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