



Committee	Assets & Services
Month	June 2023
Report Title	Youth Provision Update: Quarter 1 - 2023-24
Report Author	Colette Kerr – Events & Activities Officer
Attachments	Saffron Walden Youth Outreach Review Summer 2023

Agenda item: 6

Background Summary

This report is provided to Committee as an quarterly update on Youth provision in relation to the Service Level Agreement (SLA) between SWTC and Saffron Walden Youth Outreach Project (YOP), re-adopted for 2023 – 2024.

It was agreed at February 2023 meeting that SWTC will support the YOP in the provision of an annual grant of £10k per annum. This is subject to key requirements set out in the SLA being met; namely that YOP has sound plans to provide youth clubs, outreach services and generic youth work for Saffron Walden Youth Provision – and that obligations and key performance indicators, reviewed quarterly are satisfactory.

Financial Implication

SWTC has £20k pa allocated to youth activities, made up of £10k from Uttlesford District Council (UDC) and £10k from its own budget – neither sums are ever guaranteed and are subject to part of an overall budget consideration by both Councils.

Historically, YOP have received an annual grant from SWTC. During 2022 – 23, and with the Events & Activities Officer in post, it was agreed that this arrangement should be formalised. This initially came into force on 27th January 2023, expiring 31st March 2023. The current agreement was renewed on 01 April 2024, expiring on 31st March 2024.

Performance Monitoring and Review

The monitoring and review process will be a joint activity between SWTC and the YOP with the aim of ensuring:

- the best service possible to young people
- the most effective use possible of the resources available
- that issues relating to the provision of the SWYP, the delivery of the Service – and, where appropriate, the condition and use of the building (along with Essex Youth Services) – are resolved

Attached to this report is the YOP performance monitoring and review on the activities and work carried out in this quarter, whilst under this agreement.

Summary of YOP review (extract from report as provided by YOP)

Whilst numbers of young people attending have reduced in this quarter, this is justified by valid reasons, namely the majority who attend are sitting their GCSE exams – and that a small challenging group could be putting off others attending. Positively, there are 11 new members.

Outreach work is ongoing, and successful at times when young people are out and about – interesting to note, that the Skate Park is where young people regularly attend.

The provision of events and activities is varied from new equipment (table football / air hockey) to baking and self-defence sessions.

The volunteer growth and retention is the highlight of this review – three of whom attend regularly and who come with beneficial skills and positive attitudes; this is making a big difference to the staff team. There is evidence of 3rd party funding applications; to include ActiveEssex funding earmarked for extra activities during the summer holidays.

Recommendation

- a) The YOP to continue to undertake to provide a youth club on two evenings each week at the ACL building in Faircroft Road.
- b) SWTC to continue to provide administration support, promotion of specific events, liaising with schools and other youth providers. Also to offer support in person when required and where possible.
- c) Officers to continue to meet with the YOP, to work on future collaborative youth projects; to include additional activity sessions during the summer holidays 2023; a new venue for these activities, such as The NEW Jubilee Hub, may eliminate the issues with the more challenging group of young people.
- d) The Events & Activities Officer to continue to attend its monthly meeting periodically (once per quarter) to discuss future projects and activities.
- e) The Events & Activities Officer to attend a youth club session periodically (once per quarter) to support and observe the provision.