



Committee	Assets & Services
Month	December 2023
Report Title	Youth Provision Update: Quarter 3 - 2023-24
Report Author	Colette Kerr – Events & Activities Officer
Attachments	Saffron Walden Youth Outreach Review December 2023

Agenda item: 5

Background Summary

This report is provided to Committee as a 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. In order to receive UDC's small grants allocation to youth activities, Officers provided (for the first time) a project report on proposed spending and use to UDC's economic development department on 20 September 2023. The £10k contribution from UDC was received on 08 December 2023.

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 2023, 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)

The last quarter has seen a further small reduction in numbers attending both sessions; Wednesday night: 3 – 6 young people per session and Friday night: 3 - 8 young people per session. A series of 4 self-defence classes and some creative design sessions have been provided, in an effort to try and attract new members to the club. Approximately 10 young people have started to attend sporadically to both sessions since the self-defence classes and it is hoped this can be built on in the new year. The plan still remains to keep Wednesdays open for more formal planned and referred into project work while Fridays will remain an open centre for years 8, 9, 10 and 11. Several contacts with Saffron Walden County High School have been made but as yet no referrals have been forthcoming. One idea is to work in the school with the young people first and by getting to know them at an after school session, they may progress to the evening sessions. Outreach sessions have continued, particularly when numbers in the sessions were low. 2 particularly busy Fridays when Christmas events were on saw large numbers of young people in town, mostly in groups, disappearing as soon as the events were over. Activities offered during sessions include cooking, playing pool and Christmas themed art and creative design sessions.

Regular support is provided by 3 volunteers. Due to work commitments, 2 volunteers have been lost. Training through Essex Youth Service for First Aid and Youth Work is being explored. No donations have been received during the period of this report, however, discussion with Active Essex Foundation for funding project work in the new year look promising.

Recommendation

- a) In order to receive UDC's £10K small grants allocation to youth activities in a timely fashion, Officers to provide a project report in January 2024 on proposed spending and use for 2024 – 2025 to UDC's economic development department.
- b) The YOP to continue to undertake to provide a youth club on two evenings each week at the ACL building in Fairycroft Road.
- c) 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.
- d) Officers to continue to meet with the YOP, to work on future collaborative youth projects and advise on possible additional funding options.
- e) The Events & Activities Officer to continue to attend its monthly meeting periodically (once per quarter) to discuss future projects and activities. The 2024 Youth Consultation is to be discussed at the January meeting.

- f) Officers to work with YOP to developed and agree on the 2024 Youth Consultation, with the Consultation to be launched w/c 05 February 2024.
- g) Officers to work with YOP on a volunteer recruitment drive, to run alongside the consultation from w/c 05 February 2024
- h) The Events & Activities Officer to attend a youth club session periodically (once per quarter) to support and observe the provision.