



Committee	Assets & Services
Month	September 2023
Report Title	Youth Provision Update: Quarter 2 - 2023-24
Report Author	Colette Kerr – Events & Activities Officer
Attachments	Saffron Walden Youth Outreach Review September 2023

Agenda item: 8

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. At the time of writing, SWTC still awaits the £10k contribution from UDC.

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 – a possible reason could be the summer holidays. Since the last report 14 sessions, plus a summer program of four self-defence and three creative design classes have been provided. These additional sessions attracted 40 attendances across the five days from 22 young people. The youth club reopened on Friday 15th September and for the autumn term it is hoped that the success of the summer program can be built upon. Activities offered during sessions included some new electronic game options provided by Essex Youth Service. Cooking, playing pool and basic self-defence sessions were also offered. The support of six volunteers continues; three of whom played a central role in the delivery of the summer program.

A donation of £720.00 has been received from Cllr Askers Mayoral fundraising program. Plus £1000.00 successfully awarded by Active Essex Foundation to run its Self Defence class summer program.

Recommendation

- a) In order to receive UDC's £10K small grants allocation to youth activities, Officers are to provide a project report on proposed spending and use 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.
- f) The Events & Activities Officer to attend a youth club session periodically (once per quarter) to support and observe the provision.