

REPORT TO WEST AREA PEOPLE BOARD

3rd APRIL 2019

Activities for Young People in the West of Sunderland 2019/2020

BACKGROUND

Sunderland West Area Committee continues to recognise that meaningful youth engagement continues to be a critical requirement to ensure the safety and welfare of our most vulnerable young people. The West Area Committee have considered the findings from last year's holiday hunger programme, which supported families/young people through a combined approach of activities to encourage young people to participate in meaningful hobbies, as well as reducing holiday hunger. It is now clear that the need to work with young people to reduce risky behaviour and to improve health outcomes is critical moving forward.

OUTPUTS from 2018/2019 DELIVERY – West Youth Activity and Holiday Hunger

Over 200 young people attended youth activities over the school holidays which included a healthy meal.

Delivery was ward-based and therefore targeted to ensure those hardest to reach and most in need were able to attend activities, wherever possible.

Ward members kept up to date with delivery timetables and planned sessions and activities.

Delivery was a mixture of term-time evening and weekend delivery and all school holidays, with the healthy meal supplied during the school holiday delivery. Each provider also distributed hampers to families most in need prior to the Christmas 2018 break.

The total value of the West Youth Activities for 2018/2019 was £118,020. Funding was £28,020 from Together for Children and £90,000 from West Strategic Initiatives Budget 2018/2019.

APPROACH FOR 2019/2020

During the West Area Committee priority setting workshop on the 11th March members agreed to review an approach for youth activities for 2019/2020, which focused upon various elements of youth activity to ensure targeted, and themed delivery focusing on the needs of individual wards. As an example, it is clear that outreach and detached youth work is required in most wards to ensure our most vulnerable young people are targeted, sharing important health messages (smoking, alcohol etc. - age appropriate to sessions being delivered) it is clear from young people that this is what they require most.

The combination and themes for delivery would include:

- Activities during school holidays to support tackling holiday hunger
- Centre based youth delivery to ensure our young people have a safe place to go
- Ward based outreach and detached delivery sessions within the community at key locations to reduce anti-social behaviour as well as reduce young people's vulnerability
- Raising aspirations and creating pride in the area linked to west cleaner and greener – community advocates and local leaders
- Parental engagement understanding safety and health messages, working also with schools

- Physical activity, mental health and wellbeing – how can our partners support young people to participate in new activities
- Understanding the dangers of alcohol and drugs (age specific groups) – working with Public Health and CCG commissioning
- Sexual health (age specific groups) – working with Public Health and CCG commissioning
- The world of work, education and enterprise – link into West CLLD, NEET and Social Isolation projects and ensure parents and carers/grandparents are sign-posted as well as the young people

Members agreed during the workshop in March that delivery should be a combination of term-time as well as all school holiday delivery.

We must continue to ensure that our partners are aware of all activities to allow them to signpost young people to the activities – such as Police, GPs, Schools and medical centres.

Members may wish to consider supporting delivery from 2019 summer holidays through to and including 2020 summer holidays, due to the dates of the Area Committee being June 2019, November 2019, March 2020 and then June 2020.

FUNDING

There has been an allocation from Children's Services for 2019/2020 to West Area Committee to support youth activities, the allocation is £20,000.

As highlighted previously during 2018/2019 the total cost to support West Youth Activities was approx. £20,000 per ward.

People Board may wish to therefore consider presenting a recommendation to June 2019 Area Committee to match-fund the Children's Services allocation (£20,000), to support youth activity delivery for 2019/2020, however delivering a new focused approach to call for projects, which will ensure themed, targeted, specialist delivery.

A call for projects would then be developed for each type of youth activity (separate calls to ensure bespoke delivery and ward-based outcomes) and circulated to the West VCS network, seeking final approval for project delivery at Area Committee's.

It is also proposed to arrange a workshop for interested parties to discuss the requirements and the scoring methodology, following the circulation of the call for projects to the West VCS network. Workshops in the past have been well attended and groups are encouraged to work together collaboratively to ensure the needs for the local area are fully addressed.

RECOMMENDATIONS

People board are asked to consider the report above and make a recommendation to an Extraordinary West Area Committee, date to be confirmed.