

Following West Devon Members support of the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) at Overview and Scrutiny Committee in November 2020, they questioned how Young People could be further supported in West Devon in order to assist the CSP in their work.

A meeting was held with Youth Outreach Workers from across West Devon in early January 2021 which included members from the West Devon Youth Partnership and Space – Devon County Council’s commissioned service for youth provision.

A business case (outlined in this Appendix F) has been created from the information and professional knowledge of those gathered in the meeting, the total of the proposals is **£21,250** which would cover the whole of West Devon. Of this, £11,500 is laid out in the first half of the plan by Tavistock Youth Café and a further £9,750 in the second part by Space. Both providers would work together to further strengthen youth provision (as detailed) in West Devon and the West Devon Youth Partnership.

Naturally there are opportunities to scale this down to fit a smaller funding stream as appropriate e.g. a £15,000 budget, however I am aware of the level of concern raised amongst professionals around young people post Covid and this would go a long way to mitigate these. To clarify, any level of funding from West Devon Borough Council would be used to support a project similar to that outlined in the business plan. Levels of engagement and numbers of sessions and programmes would need to be reduced accordingly and in agreement with Space and Tavistock Youth Café.

I would propose that any funding awarded for this project would be held by the Community Safety Partnership to ensure that financial regulations are adhered to. In addition the project would be monitored through the CSP, where representatives from West Devon Borough Council sit on the board and there is annual scrutiny by way of attendance at the WDBC Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

The following plan has been written by and with the support of West Devon Youth Partnership, Devon and Cornwall Police, Space and Tavistock Youth Café. The report has been collaborated and collated by Louisa Daley, West Devon Borough Council Specialist.

Project: Supporting young people post Covid.

Context

Some young people will emerge from the pandemic restrictions relatively easily. But for others this has been a very traumatic experience and there is evidence of depression and introversion during the third lockdown to a much greater extent than previously.

This has its roots in:

- lack of social interaction
- worries about the future, in particular about educational opportunity and job prospects
- In some cases, domestic abuse, poverty and deprivation and safeguarding issues

It is quite clear that some young people will suffer from a form of post-traumatic stress disorder.

Key principles

The project will be:

- intelligence led and targeted
- Involve all the partners in existing networks, such as the police, the West Devon Youth Partnership, the primary healthcare trust, Space, local secondary schools, and other agencies

Proposals

Intelligence-led

In order to establish which young people are in the greatest need, geographical areas where there is no provision for young people and where best to meet with them:

- meetings of key youth workers from Tavistock and Okehampton to plan and share intelligence
- liaison and collaboration with Space (Devon's commissioned service for youth provision)

Resources - **£200 for meeting time, administration etc.**

Outreach and Detached Youth Work.

Aims:

- to establish a presence in places where young people may congregate
- to create circumstances in which young people will feel safe, talk and engage by providing hot drinks and a portable shelter
- to follow up on individual issues
- to take the portable shelter to areas in West Devon where there is currently no provision
- to be led by Space in identifying gaps in provision and highlight these with strategic partners

Outcomes

- to provide support and guidance, signposting as appropriate to other agencies, for young people
- to engage with those young people who may be disaffected from education or other agencies
- to discourage the presence of unwanted influences that may involve antisocial behaviour, supplying of drug or exploitation
- to support young people in the most isolated of rural areas with the possibility of establishing sustainable provision in the future
- to provide a "safe space" and outreach facility for young people in rural areas of West Devon
- to highlight gaps in provision and highlight these through reporting and monitoring mechanisms such as the community safety partnership to decision makers

Resources

10 sessions for Pop up 5 hour outreach sessions (including planning and delivery and Gazebo) £2,100

6 sessions for Mobile detached 4 hour sessions in villages £900

TOTAL £3,000

3. Diversionary activity for young people

We live in an area of rural isolation which has pockets of deprivation with poor transport links to outlying areas and limited opportunities for young people. A programme of trips and activities builds confidence, tackles boredom and boosts self-esteem. Importantly it will promote structure for young people during the holidays when there is little to do and give them access to advice and guidance from experienced Youth Workers.

Timing: so much will be dependent on Covid restrictions, but it is reasonable to assume that with vaccinations and the onset of warmer weather, it may be possible to offer some activities during the June Half Term, then again in the summer and beyond that in October.

The initial focus will be on outdoor adventurous activities which aim to demonstrate the natural “high” that can be achieved through adrenalin and feel good factor, rather than any other method.

Resources

Youth workers’ hours on average 4 x half term trips	£1,600
Youth workers’ hours on average 8 x Summer Holiday Trips	£3,200
Outdoor Education qualified instructors as appropriate	£2,000
Minibus and fuel	£1,500
Total	£8,300

Outcomes

- up to 50 targeted young people involved in one or more activities
- evidence of young people being supported and helped to overcome issues such as mental health, lack of confidence, advice and support requirements
- to engage young people in activity to promote health and exercise
- to engage young people and encourage them to make positive choices

Summary

Organisation	£200
Detached Sessions	£3,000
Summer/Half term Activities	£8,300
Total	£11,500

The proposals outlined in the above would be provided by Tavistock Youth Café in partnership with other relevant agencies.

West Devon Space* Quote

The following Quote is for two Space Youth Workers to deliver street based Youth work, one evening per week, for one year in a West Devon Town (specific location to be decided with Partners).

Staffing levels:

1x Senior Youth Support Work In Charge

1x Youth Support Worker.

Included in the quote:

Payment for staff time

Planning and prep time

Travel time

Mileage contribution

Contribution towards resources

NI & Pension contributions

Management fee

Administration support

Total quote: £9,750

The proposal outlined above would be provided and any monies paid to Space.

Statement from Space (Devon County Councils commissioned service for Youth provision)

“In our joint discussions we fully support the idea of using funding to increase the offer of our holiday activities programme and also importantly to support rural youth projects. This would involve joint work with the Space communities team, village youth projects, Okehampton and Tavistock youth centres and possibly local Outdoor adventure centres and resources that would act as the hubs for the project.

The outreach projects would also allow young people to be signposted to and sustainably engage with their local provision or access support through other platforms such as the Space discord server, Room 13 in Okehampton, Tavistock Youth Cafe or their own local youth groups.

If we were to jointly receive this funding it would help to combat young people’s rural isolation by engaging with young people that may currently not be, or not been able to engage with any youth provision since March 2020.

We would embrace this opportunity to work collaboratively to enhance the support of young people across West Devon.”

Devon and Cornwall Police

Police Sargent Nathan Walker and Inspector Mark Sloman from West Devon Neighbourhood Police team both fully endorse this collaborative approach towards Youth Outreach and diversionary activity in West Devon. They wished for their views to be made known to the West Devon Elected Members.