

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

28th March 2022

YOUTH PROJECT

The Mayor and Town Clerk recently attended the second meeting of a group brought together by Voluntary Organisations for Young People and Children (VOYC) to look at support for young people in Ivybridge.

The group includes representatives from The Bridge Project, Youth Genesis (currently running the youth Leisure Nights), Police, Community College & VOYC.

The group considered the current situation, many with first-hand experience of the situation in the town, particularly in the evenings.

The strong consensus was that the groups should use the expertise of VOYC, the financial support of the Town Council, and partners such as Youth Genesis & SPACE (a large provider of services to DCC for young people) to put together a partnership to deliver detached youth work in the town to compliment the services already being delivered at The Bridge Project and the Youth Leisure Nights.

The demand outstrips supply at The Bridge and Youth Leisure nights, plus some young people would not want to engage in that organised environment, but may respond to informal interactions on the street, so it was felt this was a good approach to take for the next 6-12 months.

The delivery of detached youth work would require two trained youth workers at any one time. They would be on the streets interacting with young people, identifying and offering help and support with mental health, physical health, drug misuse, education and training, high risk behaviours and personal development.

There are no other suitable sources of funding at the moment, and so the Town Council is being asked to fund the initial period of detached youth work. This would be through funding another organisation, such as Youth Genesis to employ youth workers to deliver the service on the Town Council's behalf. This will ensure they are properly trained and supported by an organisation experienced in this field with all the appropriate supervision and safeguarding structures in place.

The cost to provide 3 hours of detached youth work on a Friday night for 1 year would require funding of £4600 consisting of:

- Salary and on-costs for 2 youth workers working 3 hours per week each providing a 3 hour, one evening per week service in Ivybridge
- £600 for a street bag including things like first aid kit, engagement resources eg card games, plus safety equipment such as torch, alarm etc, with some budget for replenishment.
- This would be for a weekly service, however 7 weeks would not have any service to cover annual leave, and usually these services are delivered over 39 weeks a year (term time), so that

would leave budget for 2 youth workers for 18 hours to deliver extra evening or school holiday activity.

There is a 2021-2022 underspend of £6500 for youth projects, and a reserve of £5930. In addition, there is £8000 budgeted for Young People Projects in 2022-2023. So for 2022-2023 there is a total pot of up to £20,430 to spend during the year including reserves.

It is **recommended** that members instruct officers to work with a suitable partner to deliver this service using the budget set for 2022-2023 and continue to seek out opportunities for the Council to support youth work using the budget set. Any use of reserves will come back to committee for consideration.

Jonathan Parsons
Town Clerk

Overview - Detached Youth Work

Detached youth work is a distinct form of work with young people. As with all youth work it uses the principles and practices of informal education to engage young people in constructive dialogue, within a broad agenda of personal and social development. The work is underpinned by mutual trust and respect and responds to the needs of young people. The basis of the relationship between the worker and the young person is mutual acceptance and parity. Traditional notions of adult power and authority are brought into sharp focus.

All youth work seeks to work on and from young people's 'territory' (as determined by their definitions of space, needs, interests, concerns and lifestyles). Detached youth work, however, is distinct from all other forms of youth work as this concept of territory focuses primarily on the geographical: detached youth workers work where young people have chosen to be, whether this be streets, cafes, shopping centres etc. workers make contact with young people wherever they are. So detached youth work is often free from the constraints of centre based youth work – where buildings are specifically set up for the purpose of youth work. Detached youth workers don't have to manage a building or property. This is not to say buildings won't be used; indeed they sometimes become a feature of more developed practice. But in detached youth work, contact happens on the street, and relationships are developed there too.

Detached youth work is, above all, about working flexibly. As they don't have to look after buildings they can use their geographical flexibility to best meet the needs of young people. They celebrate the uncertainty implied by an open ended way of working and value this for its democratic credentials. They recognize its effectiveness in engaging, in particular, with those young people whose lifestyles are sometimes chaotic and sit uncomfortably with order and prescription.

The experience of many detached youth workers is that imposing an agenda acts as a barrier to working with young people, many of whom are already disengaged from formal learning.

The success of youth work comes from making good judgments in relation to these risks. Pushing too hard can distance young people. Not pushing enough can fail to challenge and inspire them. The agenda must, therefore, emerge from a mutually respectful relationship, where hearing the other's voice is as important as articulating one's own. The concept of negotiation seems to embody this; it does not suggest control, domination or license. It accords instead status to both parties and value to their opinions. A consensus thus emerges.

Youth Genesis Trust (Ltd)



Post Title	Streetbase Worker
Venue	Street based
Hours	variable – e.g. 180 Hours Per Annum
Responsible To	Operations Manager

Statement of Purpose

To work within a Street Based context with young people aged 11 to 19 years, to provide information and group-work.

Key Responsibilities

- As a Streetbase Worker, you will be required to develop the youth provision and to contribute to work in a range of settings for young people.
- To work with the young people to develop positive relationships leading to effective participation in the groups activities and decision-making
- To promote equal opportunities in all aspects of the work

Key Tasks

- To assess each young person to identify needs in terms of their drug use, risk behaviours, mental health, their potential to engage with education, employment and training and their personal, social and educational development.
- Keep up to date with research and training information around drugs and substance misuse, mental health, sexual health and other appropriate issues.
- To provide and explain to individuals and groups of young people appropriate information in relation to this and developing initiatives to address these issues referring to specialists where necessary.
- Network effectively with a wide range of specialist organisations both statutory and voluntary within the community.
- Involve young people in the development and evaluation of the service.
- Keep in regular contact with key agencies i.e. Youth Service, Carers South West, Police, local schools, youth offending service, schools and other referral bodies and organisations.
- Attend regular supervision sessions with your manager and through negotiation agree and set priorities, targets, timescales, and work plans and maintain record keeping.
- Attend and complete training as agreed with your line manager.
- Ensure that the projects profile is raised and maintained in the local community, and that young people are appropriately consulted.
- To undertake any other such duties of a similar level of responsibility from time to time as requested.

Person Specification

Essential

- Ability to make trusting and supportive relationships with young people
- An understanding of the issues facing young people
- A good team worker
- Enjoy activities
- Ability to under take an Enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check

Desirable

- Group work and team building skills
- A youth work qualification, preferably to a minimum of NVQ 2 or equivalent level or a willingness to train to that level.