

**YOUTH INITIATIVES WORKING GROUP held at COUNCIL OFFICES  
LONDON ROAD SAFFRON WALDEN at 5.00 pm on 17 OCTOBER 2002**

Present:- Councillor Mrs S V Schneider – Vice-Chairman in the Chair, Emily Anderson and Rachel Hutchinson – Uttlesford District Council; Linda Barns – Essex County Youth Service; Andrew Broughton - R P S Rainer; Ron Buckley – Essex Association of Boys’ Clubs; PC Don Cahill, Schools Liaison Officer - Essex Police; Myrtle Fisher – Essex County Youth Service; Bill Seccombe – Essex Fire Service; Jane Whitmore – Essex Social Services, Children and Family Team

**1 APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Andrew Arnold, Gaynor Bradley, Linda Bunting, Sarah Hudart, Dot Parker and Ros Stafford.

**2 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 18 July 2002 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Vice-Chairman. There were two amendments to Minute 5 on R P S Rainer Initiatives. '12-25' should be 'under 19' and 'for this project and others' should be inserted before the last sentence.

**3 THE CHAIRMAN’S REPORT**

There was no Chairman’s Report as Andrew Arnold was absent.

**4 ECC FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE**

Bill Seccombe was welcomed to the Group by the Vice-Chairman. Bill introduced himself and said his main reason for attending the YIWG meetings will be to build a closer working partnership between Essex Fire Services and other local youth initiatives. The Working Group were then informed of some of the prevention schemes that the fire and rescue service were working on. These were as follows:

School fire safety visits, Crucial Crew, smoke detector campaigns, arson project in schools, firework safety project, use of parish council notice boards to promote fire safety and Junior fire starters (a scheme to help with counselling of problem children who play with and start fires).

The Working Group were also advised of projects arising in the Braintree area. Bill said as the officers were based in Braintree the projects would initially start there, but stressed that the project should expand over a broader area of the region.

## PERFORMANCE MONITORING – CSAT OBJECTIVES

Rachel Hutchinson informed the Working Group about the aims and objectives of the Community Safety Action Team and how the YIWG Action Plan fitted in. She went through the action plan of initiatives that are ongoing and the budgets available. Rachel informed the Group that funding was available until the end of the financial year for these initiatives and asked the Working Group to study the programmes and let Stuart or herself know of any amendments to action plan/budgets before the end of October. The Working Group would be informed of any update of progress at its next meeting on 19 November or at the February meeting.

Ron Buckley reported on the progress of the Respect Programme saying that it had been a huge success and that it was fully booked until September 2003.

Rachel Hutchinson commented on the bullying campaign and how currently money was being spent on the youth forum website and Teen-by-Teen magazine to cover this issue. Ron Buckley asked how this project was promoted to schools and Rachel said that she would come back to him at the next meeting. Linda was enthusiastic about the magazine and hoped for a second edition before Christmas but realised that it was expensive to produce. She said there was a surplus of the first magazine and these needed to be cleared in order to produce the next one. PC Don Cahill offered to take some for distribution in schools.

There was a lot of concern amongst the Working Group on the issue of bullying. PC Don Cahill commented that there appeared to be real problems in schools at the moment and stressed the need to raise awareness on these issues.

Rachel Hutchinson reported that the majority of schools had protocols outlining procedures on bullying although very few of the schools were using the protocols regularly and many schools did not want to admit that bullying was even a problem in their school. Concerns were raised by the Group that although staff were aware of these protocols often the pupils were not. Young people need to be aware of these programmes and the processes they involve so that they know what will happen if they report bullying to a teacher.

The Group decided that action needed to be taken in raising public awareness of the protocols and putting them into use. Linda Barns requested copies of a general protocol as this would be very helpful for her work.

Andrew Broughton commented that he knew of some individual groups who could help with any bullying issues.

Rachel Hutchinson informed the Working Group that the budget for the youth transport scheme had not been used and more publicity was required to promote the funds available. Myrtle Fisher was excited by the prospect of a transport grant and requested a copy of the transport scheme. Councillor Mrs Schneider said it would be a good idea if everybody could have a copy of the scheme. Rachel added that groups could claim up to £150 for each application in any one year.

## PERFORMANCE MONITORING - AGENCY FEEDBACK

### (i) Essex County Council Youth Service

Linda Barns reported that the mobile information bus had now finished its visits but as demand was popular for this service they were looking to continue the project through funding from Connexions.

Linda had some positive feedback on the Tall Ships Race. The six boys from Stansted, who took part in the race, won their leg and enjoyed their incredible experience. Linda commented that fundraising was still taking place after the event to pay for the boys to take part in the race and said that it would be nice to send others next year.

Youth Week will take place in the first week of November, the theme being global citizenship which would help link youths around the world by popular culture and common ground.

Linda reported that her division would be changing. This would not affect her work in Uttlesford but meetings for the Essex Youth Service will be held in Chelmsford instead of Harlow. Linda then introduced Myrtle Fisher, a new member of staff, to the Working Group. Myrtle is currently training youth workers in youth centres and running special training weekends. Work was also being carried out at rural youth centres with the help of local parish councils. Myrtle reported the popularity of Great Sampford Youth Centre and expressed her enthusiasm for arranging trips outside of villages with the help of the transport grants.

### (ii) Essex Police

Don Cahill reported that the visits to primary schools by the Community Police Team for the Drug Education Programme had come to an end in regards to police input. The emphasis was now on secondary schools working specifically on years 7 and 8. The Community Police Team were also working on minor offences, exclusions and suspension and providing high policing visibility. A lot of schools were not in favour of all of these changes and the situation would be reviewed again at Easter.

### (iii) Essex Association of Boys' Clubs

Ron Buckley reported that Terry, who used to visit rural clubs, had now left and the Group were currently recruiting to replace him. The Elsenham Youth Club had closed as there was not enough staff support. Ron reported this closure as a disappointment as attendance for this club was high. However, there was good news at the opening of a new youth club in Felsted. This club is due to run once a month and 44 boys turned up for the first session.

Thaxted had applied for a lottery bid but this had been turned down. Two boys from Thaxted had applied for the Himalayas trip and there were five possible places available. Ron reported that there were 15 applicants altogether and the five would be selected on commitment and enthusiasm. The successful candidates would be offered work placement training schemes which could lead to employment.

A rural five-a-side football game was planned for 4 December 2002 specifically for youth club football teams and not football club teams.

Kayaking was quiet now but the classes still continued.

Training days for drugs awareness were being held with a drama group in Chelmsford and children were taking part in these.

There were currently four Respect Programmes running per year. These are very busy so next year there were plans to run six.

**(iv) Uttlesford District Council**

Rachel Hutchinson reported on the progress of Motorwise. This initiative had been aimed at lower 6 and upper 6 pupils and raised motor awareness in regards to cost, maintenance, buying of cars, driving safety and drink driving. Rachel said that the Motorwise programme had proved very popular and there was £2,000 funding available from the High Sheriff for this scheme for next year.

Don Cahill commented that there should be a promotional video available to promote Motorwise throughout Essex and nationally, possibly with some help from Ford. Ron Buckley commented that a national campaign already exists called Roadrunners. Rachel added that Motorwise had been adapted from this scheme. Andrew Broughton complimented Rachel on the work and its success. He particularly liked the way that a young person had been included in the Motorwise team and the way in which the Uttlesford District Council team had worked with them. Andrew suggested organising Motorwise to go to Challenge Camp for under sixteens.

There were no update reports from ESS and DCL.

**7 TERMS OF REFERENCE**

Rachel Hutchinson issued the papers to the Group which outlined the legalities relating to grant eligibility.

Rachel requested any comments on this paper to be suggested to Stuart, Gaynor or herself by 31 October.

**8 UPDATE FROM ANDREW BROUGHTON ON RPS RAINER INITIATIVES**

Andrew reported that the Arts and Media Group would have a video up and running by the end of December. On 16-18 December 2002 there would be a job-seeking workshop involving CV writing and interview skills and a qualification would be issued. The prospect of a video with the Alternative Education Project was looking likely. This would take the theme of one year in Uttlesford and an out and about look at the area. He also referred to a project using the basement area of Fairycroft for music and art based work. He was interested in purchasing decks for out of school activities and the possibility of using under-spend to fund a DJ project.

9 **ESSEX EXPERIENCE UPDATE**

Andrew Broughton did not attend this event but said attendance was very good and would bring more feedback to the Group at the next meeting. He reported that 28-30 places were taken by Uttlesford.

10 **GRANTS**

Rachel Hutchinson reminded the Working Group of the funding available from the Community Safety Project Grant Fund. There was currently £4,500 available to working groups and charities with a maximum of £500 for each applicant, providing they met the aims and objectives. Rachel informed the Working Group that the Community Safety Action Team decided who was eligible for these grants.

11 **SUMMER HOLIDAYS SPORTS PROGRAMME**

Rachel reported that once again the Summer Holidays Sports Programme had been a huge success and seemed to go from strength to strength each year. The outdoor sports were extremely popular with referrals from Social Services and Steve Burton would be working alongside the Museum to design a similar programme for them.

12 **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The Working Group discussed the times of the Youth Initiative Working Group meetings. Councillor Mrs Schneider reported that meetings used to be in the daytime and the current time of 5.00 pm was inconvenient for many of the people attending the Working Group meetings. It was suggested that meetings be held in the daytime once again. It was also suggested that in future meetings could be held in the Committee Room rather than the Emergency Planning Centre as they are at present. Councillor Mrs Schneider suggested that the next meeting should be held at 1.30 pm. If there were no complaints then meetings would be continued to be held at this time.

13 **DATES OF NEXT CSAT AND YIWG MEETINGS**

The following dates were suggested for the 2003 meetings.

Community Safety Action Team Meetings –

11 February, 13 May, 29 July or 12 August, and 11 November 2003.

Youth Initiative Working Group Meetings –

16 January, 24 April, 19 June and 16 October 2003