

**YOUTH INITIATIVES WORKING GROUP held at COUNCIL OFFICES
LONDON ROAD SAFFRON WALDEN at 5.00 pm on 21 JULY 2004**

Present: - John Whittaker – Chairman
Gerry Smith – Essex Boys' Clubs
Duncan Lewis – Essex Fire Service
Chris Pegley – Essex Young Peoples Drug and Alcohol Services
Geoff Parker – Essex Scouts
Linda Barnes and Ann Jones – Essex Youth Service
Liz Tay – EST Connexions
Andrew Broughton – RPS Rainer
Gaynor Bradley, Linda Bunting, Darren Connew and Rachel Hutchinson, Councillors Mrs V Pedder and Mrs S Schneider – Uttlesford District Council
Emma Norris and Haillie Goodyer – Youth Forum

1 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Melanie Avis, Don Cahill, Ryan Marshall, Bill Secombe and Jason Thomson.

Chris Pegley, Essex Young Peoples Drug and Alcohol Services (EYPDAS) had taken the place of Donna Marshall.

2 **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 21 April 2004 were confirmed as a correct record.

3 **COMMUNITY SAFETY ACTION TEAM REPORT**

(i) Self Assessment Forms

Rachel Hutchinson reported that the self-assessment system, which was required by the Regional Government Office, had been agreed and accepted by all the agencies represented at CSAT. It was the responsibility of the agencies at CSAT and the working groups to achieve the aims set out in the assessments.

ACTION: The youth aspects of the assessments were to be discussed at the next meeting. Rachel Hutchinson to action.

(ii) Community Safety Audit

Rachel Hutchinson referred to the Community Safety audit which took place every three years. This was a public survey and the results were tallied with data accumulated from all the services. A residents' survey was currently taking place, and the Youth Survey had been completed by all secondary schools across the district, and alternative education. Rachel thanked Haillie Goodyer for her assistance, and Connexions and the Youth Service for their help.

(iii) Persistent and prolific offenders

At the last CSAT meeting, a Regional Government Office initiative to target persistent and prolific offenders was referred to. The initiative was supported by statistical information stating that 20% of the population were committing 80% of the crime rate, and that the majority of that 20% were known by many different agencies for different reasons. Rachel explained that no extra funding was available and that the partnership should name at least ten offenders known to the organisation.

The Chairman suggested inviting a local magistrate to the next meeting to give an outline of their views on the subject to the Working Group.

ACTION: Darren Connew to liaise with the Chairman to arrange the visit.

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BEST VALUE REVIEW – YOUNG PEOPLE

Gaynor Bradley referred to this review which was to reassess young people's services. It was considered that all the agencies would benefit from the review and the Working Group would continue to be updated on progress made.

At this point the Chairman referred to the absence of any representation from Essex Police. It was suggested that for future meetings, if attendance by any agency was not possible then a short report should be submitted, or deputy should attend.

ACTION:

- 1 That Best Value Review should continue to be added to the agenda for future meetings.
- 2 That all agencies should note that if attendance was not possible, a short report be submitted to the Working Group.

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PERFORMANCE MONITORING

Relevant project update

The Chairman went through the action plan for 2004/05 to determine the progress made to date by all agencies.

(i) Development of sports initiatives and support for the Sports Development staff

This was an ongoing item and presently satisfactory. The Chairman asked a question regarding the financial year.

ACTION: It was agreed to diarise the action plan financial commitments for the year. Darren to action "diary" for Chairman.

(ii) Respect Programme

Gerry Smith, Essex Boys' Clubs, outlined details of the Respect programme proposed for the Uttlesford area. The programme was operated in three phases and was intended for 15 – 19 year olds of a variety of criteria. The scheme was contractual in that the individuals concerned would be required to attend their school or college regularly. The programme was also connected with the Duke of Edinburgh scheme. Members were also provided with a contact name for the project.

ACTION: Gaynor Bradley was to obtain information packs for circulation.

(iii) Development of district wide information points within schools

Linda Barnes reported that an information point was being set up at Great Dunmow Youth Centre and was due to open next week, on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays during the school holidays. The points were described as being of the Internet café type.

Ann Jones gave details of a new appointment of an information support worker.

Hailie Goodyer informed the Group of a proposed debate between the Youth Forum and a number of local organisations such as the Police and the Council. It was hoped that the debate would be well attended.

The Chairman said that it would be interesting to hear what went on and asked for a report in the future.

(iv) Support for Essex Experience – September 2004

The Essex Experience camp would be held over the weekend of 11 and 12 September at Skreens Park, Roxwell and ten places had been allocated to young people in the Uttlesford district. Volunteers from all the agencies would be assisting at the camp.

Members of the group exchanged information regarding the camp.

(v) Support Isle of Wight Summer Activity Camp

This camp for young people was being held at the present time. Darren Connew reported that Sarah Huddart was no longer in post for St Mary's Church.

ACTION: Darren Connew was asked to generate a report on the camp for the next meeting.

(vi) Motorwise project

It was reported that a mini project similar to the current Motorwise event had failed in that it had not received the necessary funding to proceed.

With regard to the Motorwise event, Councillor Mrs Schneider commented that the Saffron Walden County High School had never taken part, although school governors were keen for the school to be included in the event.

Rachel Hutchinson reported that the Road Safety Officer was in contact with the school and had negotiated for some students from the lower sixth form to attend this year, which was considered to be some way towards progress in the resolving the situation.

At this point in the meeting Councillors Pedder and Schneider left the meeting for other engagements.

(vii) Networking Seminars

Darren Connew reported that this initiative would probably commence during late autumn.

(viii) Workshop sessions for leaders

Linda Barnes reported on a training weekend, which had been held at Wicken House, for members of the Youth Forum.

(ix) Transport scheme

Haillee Goodyer said that the Young Essex Assembly had talked about public transport and it appeared that there were problems all over Essex. She informed the Group that, from September, a revised and improved proof of age card was to be issued to all those in education up to age 16.

(x) Further development of the Uttlesford Youth Forum

It was agreed that this item should be reported on as and when required.

(xi) Cultural Activities for young people

Liz Tay reported that there was an opportunity for a small amount of funding for this item through Connexions.

A small music project was being staged in September called "Plug in Music" and Darren Connew was asked to report back.

ACTION: Darren Connew was to report back to the next meeting on the "Plug in Music" event.

(xii) Young fire fighter scheme

The Chairman informed members of the Group that he had met with members of the scheme when 'passing out' certificates had been presented.

Duncan Lewis reported that recruitment for this year's group of young fire fighters was in progress at the moment. The start date was 21 September for possibly 18 young people. The scheme was based at Newport fire station.

Ann Jones referred to the transport issue of the young people being able to get to and from the station. Unfortunately, it was not possible for the Fire Service to provide transport for the youngsters and they had to arrange their own. After discussion it transpired that transport and funding may be available through other channels and information was exchanged regarding this.

(xiii) Communication with Youth Strategy Group

The last meeting of the Strategy Group was reported on. There had been parish council representation at the meeting but none from schools. It was considered to be encouraging that parish councils were attending and recognising the problems. The possible closure of Newport and Takeley youth centres had also been referred to.

ACTION: Ann Jones agreed to pass copies of minutes of meetings of the Youth Strategy Group to Darren Connew for information.

(xiv) Needs analysis of young people's issues

Rachel Hutchinson reported on the youth survey she had mentioned earlier, currently taking place and that all schools had now completed it. Many aspects of youth issues were being studied and it was considered that it would be sufficient for a cross section of opinions. When the survey was fully completed and returned it would be available to all agencies.

ACTION: A summary of the survey would be provided at the next meeting.

A young persons question time event had been held, for students from Year 4 to Year 6 forms, organised by Katherine Semar School, held in the Town Hall in Saffron Walden and representatives from all over Essex had attended. A variety of topics had been discussed. Haillie Goodyer said that the event had been good but had not been followed up by the School. It was considered that press coverage of Young People generally had not been good with negative comments.

Rachel Hutchinson referred to the Sports Directory which had been circulated to schools. The directory would be updated approximately every 18 months. It was considered to be a useful document and the Chairman requested that he be given a copy.

ACTION:

- 1 The Chairman to speak to Katherine Semar School with a view to feeding into the Best Value Review for young people.
- 2 Provide the Chairman with a copy of the Sports Directory.

(xv) Support U Festival

This event was to be held in Dunmow on 7 August 2004 between 12.00 pm and 9.00 pm. Many different organisations would be involved with stalls and activities. A few stalls were still available which were being offered to local community groups.

The Chairman commented on the fact that a skateboard park had now been given planning consent and would be constructed at the Lord Butler Leisure Centre site.

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ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(i) Anti-social behaviour – parish councils

Rachel Hutchinson referred to a government initiative whereby parish councils would be provided with training to deal with anti-social behaviour.

(ii) EYPDAS

Chris Pegley said that the organisation was back in business with numbers going up. There were to be local launches to help dispel rumours of closure. He referred to a launch which would be taking place tomorrow at the Council offices which would have displays, stalls etc and invited members to attend.

The Chairman thanked the Working Group for their involvement.

The meeting ended at 6.45 pm.