

**YOUTH INITIATIVES WORKING GROUP held at COUNCIL OFFICES
LONDON ROAD SAFFRON WALDEN at 5.00 pm on 20 OCTOBER 2004**

Present: - John Whittaker – Chairman
Pippa Ecclestone – Magistrate
Peter Pearson – Head of Community Safety & Emergency
Planning - ECC
Gerry Smith – Essex Boys' Clubs
Duncan Lewis and Jason Thomson – Essex Fire Service
Don Cahill – Essex Police Schools Officer
Chris Pegley – Essex Young Peoples Drug and Alcohol Services
Linda Barnes and Ann Jones – Essex Youth Service
Andrew Broughton – RPS Rainer
Debbie Rhodes – St Mary's Youth Worker
Darren Connew, Rachel Hutchinson, Fiona Gardiner and
Linda Bunting - Uttlesford District Council
Emma Norris – Youth Forum

1 **ADDRESS BY LOCAL MAGISTRATE**

The Chairman introduced Pippa Ecclestone, who was a local magistrate. Ms Ecclestone then gave an address on the regional government initiative for prolific offenders and the issues to be aware of. She went on to explain the process of referral orders of three, six and nine months duration, and the many aspects of the initiative. She then answered a number of questions from the floor.

The Chairman thanked Ms Ecclestone for her interesting address. Ms Ecclestone then left the meeting.

2 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Gaynor Bradley, Ryan Marshall, Councillor Schneider, Ashley Seymour and Liz Tay.

3 **ACTION PLAN – PROGRESS**

This item was being taken out of the order of the agenda as Darren Connew was organising another meeting, which was taking place directly after this one. It was therefore decided to accept the six month update of the Working Group budget as it stood at the moment and consider again in six months. Darren then left the meeting.

4 **MINUTES**

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

5 MATTERS ARISING

(i) Minute 3 Community Safety Action Team Report – (ii) Community Safety Audit

Rachel Hutchinson reported on the residents and youth surveys which had taken place recently. The results of the surveys would be analysed and then circulated to all relevant agencies. The main priorities gleaned from the youth survey were the provision of more organised clubs to meet and be themselves; cheaper tickets to leisure facilities and more leisure facilities, such as skate parks and all weather surfaces. All the schools had been sent questionnaires but there had not been a very good response. Rachel also reported that the draft Community Safety strategy was due at the end of November and the final version would be ready in April 2005.

6 PERFORMANCE MONITORING

(i) Respect Programme

Gerry Smith referred to the Respect Programme which was intended for the age range 15 – 19 year olds of a variety of criteria. He reported that the scheme was in the process of recruitment and letters were going out to schools.

(ii) Information Points

It was reported that those points which were already up and running were progressing well. The main problem appeared to be obtaining accommodation to house the points. Linda Barnes reported that Teen City in Great Dunmow had received £500 from Great Dunmow Town Strategy Group and £200 from Great Dunmow Town Council to help in supporting the initiative.

(iii) Essex Experience

Andrew Broughton had attended this event, which he said that been very good with 23 youngsters attending from the Uttlesford district.

(iv) Isle of Wight Camp

Debbie Rhodes, who was the new St Mary's Youth Worker, had attended the camp. She said that 50 young people had attended and it had been a good experience with lots of outdoor activities.

(v) Motorwise

This event had been very successful again this year with 580 students attending. The County High School had also attended for the first time which had been considered to be a step forward.

(vi) Transport Scheme

Rachel Hutchinson said that the Youth Forum had received funding to help with the transport issue. This matter which was on the agenda for the next meeting of the Forum.

(vii) Youth Essex Assembly

Ann Jones referred to the Youth Hustings Day which had taken place on 16 October 2004 to choose two young people as candidates for an election for a place on the Young Essex Assembly and also to discuss the manifesto. The election was due to take place in December. The Assembly would be made up from 79 young people from all over Essex to enable an equal voice on behalf of young people in Essex. She said that it had been a struggle to find the candidates as it was a big commitment for them. It was also considered to be difficult to get a positive message across to the press to advertise the work of young people and it was suggested that the minutes and agenda for the Young Essex Assembly should be circulated to the media along with a review of major points.

ACTION: The Chairman asked to be reminded when Youth Work Week was about to happen so that he could contact the press with a view to having an article published to advertise the work of the Group.

At this point Linda Barnes reported that Emma Norris had been elected as Chair of the Youth Forum. The Working Group wished her good luck.

(viii) U2004

Ann Jones reported on the feedback received from this event. There had been a suggestion of the possibility of developing a cultural field, such as music or crafts. She said that the event had been excellent and well attended. Andrew Broughton said that the general feeling of the day had been very positive.

Andrew Broughton also reported on the music event held at Fairycroft, 'Plug in Music' and said that there had been a low turnout.

(ix) Young fire fighter scheme

Duncan Lewis reported that this year's scheme had now started and at the last meeting there had been 14 attendees with lots of enthusiasm. The scheme was still open to more new recruits.

(x) Communication with Youth Strategy Group

ACTION: Ann Jones was to provide Darren Connew with copies of the minutes of the Youth Strategy Group.

(xi) Needs analysis of young people's issues

Rachel Hutchinson produced a report on the outcomes of the young persons question time event, which had been organised by Katherine Semar School.

ACTION: Rachel was to find out whether a similar event would be held in the future and report back to the Working Group.

(xii) Essex Young Peoples Drugs and Alcohol Service

Chris Pegley reported on changes in the organisation and said that a new black minority ethnic worker (Sangita) had been employed to deal with needs across the county. Her emphasis would be towards young people and she had a 'relatively ambiguous brief'. Chris also explained that Donna Martin's role had changed to the role of training initiatives for peer education projects.

7 **REPORT FROM COMMUNITY SAFETY ACTION TEAM**

Rachel Hutchinson gave a short report on the last CSAT meeting as the Chairman had not been able to attend. She referred to a Home Office initiative which had required an information sharing protocol and strategy regarding 15 nominated offenders. The Prolific and other Priority Offender Strategy had been circulated and discussed at the meeting and CSAT had been asked for assistance to sign the protocol when drawn up and this had been agreed.

The Chairman asked a question regarding the self-assessment forms which were to be completed by all agencies. Rachel answered that, although the aims of the scheme were to be applauded, it was a long-winded process which would evaluate the success, or otherwise, of CSAT.

8 **FIREBREAK**

Duncan Lewis described this scheme, which was essentially intended for young people of between the ages of 12 and 17 who had been abusive towards firemen (and in general). The scheme involved a week's intensive work of basic training with fire fighters to illustrate the importance of the fireman's role in the community. This initiative was proving very popular throughout Essex and was very successful. Jason Thomson explained that the experiences of the abuse that firemen received from young people in this county was very different from that in other parts of the country, some of which were regarded as much worse. The initiative was considered to be costly but very worthwhile.

9 **Z BIKES MOPED LOAN SCHEME**

Andrew Broughton reported on this national scheme which was designed to help young people who had no transport to get to and from work. It was intended for the 16 –19 age group and it was hoped that 22 mopeds would be available in the Uttlesford district by next year. The scheme would provide a moped and most of the related equipment for an initial period of three months. The scheme was a well-respected project all over the country. At present there was plenty of interest from young people but not many applicants at the moment.

10 **ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR**

Fiona Gardiner introduced herself to the meeting as Anti-Social Behaviour Case Officer within Uttlesford District Council and described her work to the Group.

11 **ANY OTHER BUSINESS****(i) Apprenticeships**

Andrew Broughton referred to a bid by a Harlow consortium which would focus on apprenticeships for 70 young people to cover a variety of jobs. He would keep the Working Group informed.

(ii) Youth Directory

Rachel Hutchinson had copies of the Youth Directory still available.

(iii) Don Cahill

The Working Group wished Don Cahill good luck as he was retiring on 4 November. Don thanked the Group and said they had been a pleasure to work with and wished them every success in the future.

12 **DATES FOR NEXT CYCLE OF MEETINGS**

YIWG Dates	Time	Venue
2005		
5 January 2005	5.00 pm - 7.00 pm	UDC
30 March 2005	5.00 pm - 7.00 pm	UDC
29 June 2005	5.00 pm - 7.00 pm	UDC
5 October 2005	5.00 pm - 7.00 pm	UDC
Proposed dates for 2006		
11 January 2006	5.00 pm - 7.00 pm	UDC
5 April 2006	5.00 pm - 7.00 pm	UDC
5 July 2006	5.00 pm - 7.00 pm	UDC
4 October 2006	5.00 pm - 7.00 pm	UDC

The meeting ended at 7.00 pm.