

**YOUTH INITIATIVES WORKING GROUP held at COUNCIL OFFICES
LONDON ROAD SAFFRON WALDEN at 5.00 pm on 5 JANUARY 2005**

Present: - John Whittaker – Chairman
 Gerry Smith – Essex Boys' Clubs
 Jason Thomson – Essex Fire Service
 Kathryn Nessling – Essex Police Schools Officer
 Geoff Parker – Essex Scouts
 Chris Pegley – Essex Young Peoples Drug and Alcohol Services
 Linda Barnes and Ann Jones – Essex Youth Service
 Liz Tay – EST Connexions
 Andrew Broughton and Gary Skull - Rainer
 Gaynor Bradley, Linda Bunting, Darren Connew,
 Rachel Hutchinson, Fiona Gardiner, Councillors Vanessa Pedder
 and Sue Schneider - Uttlesford District Council

The Chairman welcomed Kathryn Nessling to the meeting, in her new post of Essex Police Schools Liaison Officer, having taken over from Don Cahill, who had recently retired from the service.

1 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Duncan Lewis, Ryan Marshall, Emma Norris, Peter Pearson and Ashley Seymour.

2 **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 20 October 2004 were confirmed as a correct record.

3 **MATTERS ARISING**

(i) **Minute 6 Performance Monitoring - (xi) Needs analysis of young people's issues**

Rachel Hutchinson referred to the young persons' question time event which had been organised by Katherine Semar School and said that a similar event would be held in the future but no date had been fixed at present.

Gaynor Bradley referred to a Best Value review for young people, which was currently being carried out, with the final version to be ready in June. Various key points had been raised, such as transport for young people. A strategy was to be formalised. Consultation had been undertaken and was being analysed. The review was considered to be a practical exercise with positive outcomes.

4 **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FROM CSAT**

The Chairman gave his report from the last CSAT meeting he had attended. He had given the members of the group a brief outline of the achievements of the Youth Initiatives Working Group and had reported that all the organisations had been cheerfully 'doing their bit' as lead agencies on the

Group. He had found the CSAT meeting useful and looked forward to attending the next one.

5

PERFORMANCE MONITORING – ACTION PLAN

(i) Provide support and assistance to Sports Development Officer and develop sports initiatives

Darren Connew reported that the objective had been achieved and that two basketball teams had been created. Evaluation forms were to be sent out to lead agencies.

(ii) Respect Project

Gerry Smith circulated copies of a report on the Uttlesford Respect Project. The report outlined dates and venues for the initial activity days, which had been held for year 9 and 10 students from four schools in the Uttlesford district. It was considered that the project required an actively sustained contribution by a Police representative but a problem had arisen whereby they had been temporarily unable to support the project. It was hoped that this problem would be resolved.

At present the project was being staffed entirely by Boys Club (EABC) staff and additional suitable volunteer staff was being sought. There had been a problem with transporting students to and from the venues because only one bus was being used but this had now been overcome. Relationship with the schools was reported to be good.

(iii) Development of district wide information points in schools

Ann Jones reported that this scheme was progressing well with a number of information points being created. Recruitment was a problem as it was necessary to have adult supervision at all times. Ann said that the Town Strategy Group in Dunmow were very supportive of the scheme.

Darren Connew referred to a problem at Helena Romanes School concerning the relocation of the information point to a much smaller room. This situation was considered to be very unsatisfactory, as there was much less space in the new room. Also Capital funding from the Home Office had been provided for equipment to be fitted in the previous location and these fittings had not been moved to the new location.

ACTION: Gaynor Bradley was to contact the school and would report back to the next meeting.

(iv) Essex Experience

Geoff Parker explained to the Working Group that he had taken over attendance at Group meetings from Dot Parker who was no longer able to attend. He went on to inform the Group that nine annual Essex Experience events had been held at Skreens Park, Roxwell and Essex Scouts had now won a prestigious East of England Regional Training Award for its work with the Essex Experience project. A presentation was to take place on 23 February to which the Chairman of the Group had been invited.

(v) Isle of Wight Summer Activity Camp

No representative from the Church was present at the meeting.

ACTION: Darren Connew was to contact with a view to a report being made to the next meeting.

(vi) Crime Prevention Initiatives/Motorwise

Darren Connew reported that over 800 young people had attended the Motorwise event held at the end of September 2004. With regard to funding the event, there had been an overall shortfall for the project. Councillor Sue Schneider asked whether Saffron Walden County High School had attended this year and was informed that selected students from the lower sixth had attended.

(vii) Youth networking seminars/parish briefings

It was decided to drop the funding for this item to £100 as the only costs were the hire of venues. Gerry Smith considered that, before the scheme could be effective, it was important to promote the relevance of events to parish councils to deliver a definite message. Gaynor Bradley suggested possible training for parish councils on the subject of anti-social behaviour orders to get the point over that ASBOs were intended for anyone performing anti-social behaviour, not just young people. Fiona Gardiner commented that this was underway.

(viii) Workshop Sessions

Linda Barnes made a request for the reallocation of funding to enable her to be able to finance a certificated basic food hygiene course for 10/12 young people. This was agreed.

AGREED: That the amount of £150 be reallocated to fund the training of 10/12 young people in basic food hygiene.

(ix) Event transport subsidy

Darren Connew reported that subsidised transport had been provided for the Youth Forum in December to take some members to Freeport. Gaynor Bradley referred to transport being provided to youth clubs to get members to and from leisure centres.

ACTION: Gaynor Bradley was to report more fully to a future meeting on this subject.

Gerry Smith referred to a WSP survey which was looking at transport out of hours and said that there was funding and resources available.

(x) Youth Forum

Linda Barnes said that the number of members in the Youth Forum had grown thanks to the Young People In Local Democracy evening, which had been held at the Council Offices in October 2004. A meeting would be held shortly at which prioritisation of the main youth issues in the area would be discussed. Hygiene and cleanliness in school washrooms was considered to

be an important issue and a letter was to be sent to the schools, outlining the displeasure felt by the Youth Forum over this matter. Councillor Schneider considered that the responsibility for cleanliness of schools lies also with Essex County Council and they should be contacted. Rachel Hutchinson said that the wishes of the Youth Forum on any similar issue should be stated clearly in their minutes, and also in these minutes, as the County Council receive these.

Ann Jones said that the residential training for members of the Youth Forum would be held at Wicken House on 21/22 February.

Also referred to were the Young Essex Assembly elections. There were four vacancies, but at present only two candidates. It was hoped to encourage two more candidates to make up the quota.

(xi) Cultural Activities

Ann Jones reported that the music evening event was slowly progressing. Andrew Broughton said that a bid had gone in for equipment. He said that income was reliant on how much was spent and that the opportunity was there to look at other funding sources.

(xii) Fire Fighter Scheme

Jason Thomson gave a general update of the young fire fighter scheme and said that week 12 of the 37-week course had taken place last night. One new recruit with special needs had joined and was travelling all the way from Chelmsford to take part.

(xiii) Youth Strategy Group

Gaynor Bradley reported that she had advised the Youth Strategy Group of the work that the Youth Initiative Working Group covered and Ann Jones said that she had attended a Strategy Group meeting.

(xiv) Needs analysis of young peoples' issues

Gaynor Bradley reported that this was part of the Best Value Review and would involve a great deal of work.

ACTION: (1) Darren Connew was to distribute year-end evaluations to all agencies by the end of the financial year and these should then be returned to Darren.

(2) Darren was to speak independently to agencies about the draft Action Plan.

Rachel Hutchinson reported that the Community Safety Strategy was to be published in April.

The Chairman stressed that all agencies should work closely with Darren and that the Action Plan should continue to be evaluated at each Working Group meeting.

ACTION: Spare copies of the Action Plan should be supplied at each meeting for the use of new members.

6 **PERFORMANCE MONITORING – PUBLICITY OF WORKING GROUP INITIATIVES**

Promotion of the Working Group's work through the press was discussed. It was considered that the projects and achievements of the Group, and that of the Youth Forum, should be conveyed to the public. It was suggested that a strategy to raise awareness in the work of the Group should be created, with the involvement of the Youth Forum, to help build a relationship with the press.

ACTION: The Council's Communications Officer, James Sadler, was to be invited to the next meeting to advise the Group on the way forward and to explain how local papers operate.

7 **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

(i) Rainer

Andrew Broughton reported that European Social Fund (ESF) funding had been successful and £248,000 would be provided to the Uttlesford and Epping areas over the next two years to supply a range of services to the age range of 16/18, for example, literacy, confidence skills, transport, theatre groups and exploration of the arts.

Fiona Gardner stressed that the age range from 10 – 14 also needed help. She considered that there was a huge gap in the assistance given to this age group and asked for any information regarding support for this group of young people.

(ii) EYPDAS

Chris Pegley referred to a structured day cover project currently taking place in Chelmsford. Further trials were to be taken all over the County.

(iii) Home Office Funding

Rachel Hutchinson reported that £75,000 in funding was currently available from the Home Office. Application forms were accessible on line or by hard copy and the deadline was 4 March 2005.

The Chairman stated that communication between the agencies was good. He asked the group for any feedback on what they required of him.

The meeting ended at 6.40 pm.