

**YOUTH INITIATIVES WORKING GROUP held at COUNCIL OFFICES
LONDON ROAD SAFFRON WALDEN at 5.00 pm on 30 MARCH 2005**

Present: - John Whittaker – Chairman
 Peter Pearson – Essex County Council – Emergency Planning
 Gerry Smith – Essex Boys' Clubs
 Duncan Lewis and Jason Thomson – Essex Fire Service
 Kathryn Nessling – Essex Police Schools Officer
 Chris Pegley – Essex Young Peoples Drug and Alcohol Services
 Linda Barnes and Ann Jones – Essex Youth Service
 Andrew Broughton – Rainer
 Debbie Rhodes – St Mary's Youth Worker
 Gaynor Bradley, Linda Bunting, Darren Connew, Fiona Gardiner,
 Rachel Hutchinson, Councillor Sue Schneider - Uttlesford District
 Council
 Emma Norris – Youth Forum

1 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Rachel Hutchinson referred to item 4 on the agenda, Terms of Reference/ Chairmanship. The terms of reference had recently been updated and it had been agreed that the Chairman should be re-elected each April. Therefore it proposed and seconded that John Whittaker be re-elected as Chairman of the Youth Initiatives Working Group for the ensuing year.

It was also noted from the Terms of Reference that the post of Deputy Chairman could not be a Council officer or a district councillor. Gerry Smith from Essex Boys Club was proposed as Deputy Chairman and he accepted.

John Whittaker said he was pleased to accept the nomination for Chairman and that he wanted to have plenty of feedback from the agencies throughout the year.

2 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Liz Tay.

3 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 5 January 2005 were confirmed as a correct record.

4 MATTERS ARISING

(i) Minute 6 - Performance Monitoring – Publicity of Working Group Initiatives

It was agreed that this item would be deferred until the next meeting so that it could be arranged for James Sadler, the Council's Communications Officer, to attend to assist the Working Group with ideas on the way forward.

5 SELF-ASSESSMENT OF GROUP

Rachel reminded the Working Group of the self-assessment system, which had been required by the Regional Government Office in 2004 and 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. The Chairman said that self-assessment by the agencies was important. It was proposed that Chairman, Rachel and Darren would ensure that the relevant SAF issues were covered in the YIWG action plan

6 TERMS OF REFERENCE

A discussion took place on the changes to the Terms of Reference. Kathryn Nessling referred to the reduction of, and the relevance of, some of the aims and objectives. Rachel said that the document was not 'set in stone' and could be revised. Kathryn considered that the terms of reference should be more specific to the work of the Working Group. Councillor Schneider referred to the word 'reduce' under aims and objectives and believed that this should be changed. Kathryn said that the Working Group should provide or promote ideas, not 'reduce'. The Chairman agreed with these views. Rachel considered that the action plan dealt with specific issues.

Duncan Lewis and Jason Thomson referred to item 5, Membership, and considered that they, as representatives of the Fire Service, should not be permanent members of the Working Group because of their emphasis on safety. Peter Pearson said that they were key players and brought the safety issues into the Working Group. Councillor Schneider commented that the Fire Service had not been represented at the time the Working Group was created and therefore felt that it was important for them to be included in the membership. All those present agreed to this.

Peter Pearson also pointed out that health was not included in the membership and considered that the Working Group should have a PCT representative. Those present also agreed this.

ACTION: Darren to change Terms of Reference accordingly (both issues)

7 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FROM CSAT

Rachel Hutchinson reported from the last CSAT meeting that the Community Safety Strategy had been discussed. The first draft of the Strategy was almost completed and data from the surveys and information from the agencies had been analysed. It was considered that the Strategy was not dissimilar to that previously produced.

The Chairman reported that he could foresee more reviews of the usefulness of the Community Safety Action Team and that it would be interesting to see any growth. He considered that the Action Team would possibly remain as a 'reporting' group. Peter Pearson stated that there was a great deal more work to do to find out what the Action Team's role was.

8 SUPPORT FOR YOUNG PEOPLE – 10-13 YEARS

Fiona Gardiner reported on the lack of support for young people for the age group between 10 and 13 years. She considered that it was a struggle to identify 'where to put them' and that ASBOs were not the best way to deal with them when they commit an offence. A discussion then took place to try to identify, through the experiences of the Working Group, where to find information to assist with this problem.

- ACTION:**
- 1 The Chairman asked the Working Group to support Fiona by giving her the benefit of their ideas.
 - 2 Peter Pearson was also to encompass what had been discussed and speak to Fiona with regard to using the Directory to assist.

9 REVIEW OF 2004/05 ACTION PLAN / EVALUATIONS

The Action Plans were then discussed.

- 1 Sports development – no issues
- 2 Respect Programme – no issues
- 3 Information points – Essex County Council continued to support the process. Rooms which had initially been used for the info points were now being used by the schools which was causing problems.
- 4 Essex Experience – no issues
- 5 Isle of Wight Summer Camp – no issues
- 6 Crime prevention – the high cost of running the Motorwise event was mentioned. The last event had gone well with four schools involved.
- 7 Youth networking – no issues
- 8 Training workshops – no issues
- 9 Transport – Free transport for young people to attend events was referred to.
- 10 Youth Forum – Ann Jones said that Essex County Council were trying hard to employ a youth action worker to encourage young people to take part in democracy.
- 11 Cultural Activities – no issues
- 12 Fire Fighters – no issues
- 13 Best Value Review – no issues
- 14 U-Festival – no issues
- 15 Outdoor pursuits – no issues
- 16 Junior Firesetters – no issues
- 17 Year 3 Project – no issues

Andrew Broughton asked how important it was to go through the objectives. Gaynor Bradley responded that it was not just a number crunching exercise and that it was essential to do this to enable the Working Group to lobby for funding. The Chairman agreed with this and said that it was important to identify evidence and produce supporting data when applying for funding.

10 FUNDING BID PROPOSALS FOR 2005/06

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Darren Connew reported that there had been an under-spend on projects over the last year and there was £1,926 to carry forward, although this

amount was earmarked. The current Action Plan 'wish list' amounted to £24,200 but there would only be enough funding to support 50% of the Action Plan. Therefore it was considered necessary to try to eliminate around £12,000 from that list.

Kathryn Nessling considered that the amounts listed were all very rounded figures and that those agencies requiring funding should be approached to specify detailed amounts.

After discussion it was agreed that:

ACTION: That the Working Group fund the current projects and then establish how many new projects there could be. A timescale for response for new projects of the end of April should be set and a proviso was suggested that if no response was received then there would be no funding available.

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DATE OF NEXT MEETING

5.00 pm on Wednesday, 29 June 2005 in the Committee Room at Saffron Walden.

The meeting ended at 7.10 pm.