

**YOUTH INITIATIVES WORKING GROUP held at COUNCIL OFFICES
LONDON ROAD SAFFRON WALDEN at 5.00 pm on 10 JANUARY 2007**

Present: John Whittaker – Chairman
Darren Riddell and Jason Thomson - Essex Fire Service
Geoff Parker – Essex Scouts
Frankie Hasson – Essex Social Services
Ann Jones – Essex Youth Service
Rosie Anderson – EST Connexions
Lindsay Allen – Extended Schools Co-ordinator
Diana Cross – Rainer
Graham Jones – Schools Sports Co-ordinator
Rev Murray George – United Reformed Church
Gaynor Bradley, Linda Bunting, Fiona Gardiner, Nicole Morton-
Swain, Councillor S Schneider and John Starr – Uttlesford District
Council

Rosie Atkinson was introduced as taking over from Sue Banting for Connexions.

1 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Richard Adams, Sophie Atkinson, Jane Calvert, Kathryn Nessling, Emma Norris, Chris Pegley, Clare Prior and Gerry Smith.

2 **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 4 October 2006 were confirmed as a correct record.

3 **TEENAGE PREGNANCY**

In the absence of Jane Calvert, John Starr circulated a report which she had prepared on sexual health care in schools. John went through the report and said that the C-Card scheme was going well. The scheme enabled young people to obtain condoms although some schools did not support the project. He said that the abortion rate in Uttlesford was high.

It was reported that Jane Calvert's post would cease to be funded from March 2007. It was considered that sexual health 'hot spots', such as Harlow, would be in line for the main funding available. Gaynor Bradley said that the post was not funded by the PCT and that the District Council had agreed to fund the post for a time last year but further funding would now need to be found.

The Chairman said that he would be happy to write to Essex County Council and the PCT in a plea for funding for the post. He said that, as relationships within the post had already been built by Jane, it would be a shame to have to begin again.

ACTION: The Chairman was to write to Essex County Council and the PCT in an effort to gain further funding for Jane Calvert's post.

4 **CRADLE PROJECT**

Diana Cross reported on this project which was currently under way in Basildon. The project helped provide parenting skills for all parents who felt they needed help and had been very successful at building self esteem and confidence. There was only one scheme running in the County. Diana said that Rainer would be willing to run a similar project in this area if funding could be achieved and there was found to be a need. She considered that around £15-20,000 would be required and also premises would need to be found.

Rev Murray George referred to a Salvation Army community research project for young families which it was hoped to start in June/July.

ACTION: The Chairman said that as Rainer had done 'the initial spade work', further information should be presented to the next meeting of the Working Group.

5 **PROJECT FEEDBACK FORMS AND NEW PROJECT FUNDING SUBMISSIONS**

Gaynor Bradley referred to the project feedback forms which had been very helpful last year in identifying funding needs. She said that it was important that the forms be completed this year to enable funding for the next year. The forms should be returned to Gaynor by the end of February in order that she can collate the information for consideration at the next meeting.

6 **YOUTH SERVICE UPDATE**

Ann Jones referred to the current re-organisation within the Essex Youth Service. She circulated an information sheet which outlined the future structure of the Youth Service showing four tiers in the organisation which it was hoped would be implemented by March/April this year.

Also referred to was the establishment of youth fora in Berden, Birchanger, Elsenham, Manuden and Newport. Each new forum had elected members who would take on the roles of chairman, vice-chairman, secretary and committee members. Members from these fora, along with Dunmow, Saffron Walden and Stansted, will come together twice a year to meet as a locality forum.

Four young people were recently elected onto the Young Essex Assembly. These were named as Rachel Bennett, Lauren Harrington, Michelle Meany and Emma Norris. Ann thanked Darren Godfrey and John Starr for co-ordinating the election and count.

ACTION: The Chairman asked that a document describing the Young Essex Assembly be sent to him. John Starr was to deal with this.

7 **UPDATE ON COUNTY SPORTS PARTNERSHIP**

Gaynor Bradley gave a brief update on this item. She said that work was being undertaken to develop an action plan. Sports co-ordinators and schools

were helping the Steering Group to develop a plan an effort needed to be put in locally.

Graham Jones referred to the provision of training courses which were facilitated by the County Sports Partnership. There were currently 450 courses across the country and all schools could take part. A development plan had been submitted in December 2006. There was a programme to promote football to girls and a scheme to enable every child in primary schools in the District to be able to swim 25 metres in ten half hour sessions. In September 2007, there would be access to lottery money of £76,000 to provide more activities to engage un-active children, although this money would be allocated per school.

The Chairman referred to the strength of the Working Group in that different information was circulated and enabled good communication between the agencies.

8 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(i) Electronic Communication

ACTION: The Chairman referred to the item in the last meeting on Electronic Communication. He asked that Gerry Smith be reminded to report on this at the next meeting.

(ii) 21st World Scout Jamboree

Geoff Parker reported that the 21st World Scout Jamboree would be held at Hylands Park, Chelmsford from 27 July to 8 August 2007. It was also reported that 2007 was Scouting's Centenary year.

(iii) Round Table

Jason Thomson said that the Round Table were looking for new base projects in Saffron Walden as approximately £7,000 was available in funding.

(iv) Youth Service

Ann Jones referred to project leaflets for 8-19 year olds. If any were required please let her know as soon as possible. She also referred to a presentation evening on 22 January for young people achievements.

9 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was set as 21 March 2007.

ACTION: Linda Bunting to send reminder to the Working Group approximately two weeks before the meeting and also update the members' list.

The meeting ended at 6.25 pm.