

**YOUTH INITIATIVES WORKING GROUP held at COUNCIL OFFICES
LONDON ROAD SAFFRON WALDEN at 5.00 pm on 21 MARCH 2007**

Present: John Whittaker – Chairman
Brenda Towle – ECVYS
Gerry Smith – Essex Boys' Clubs
Duncan Lewis and Jason Thomson - Essex Fire Service
Kathryn Nessling – Essex Police Schools Liaison Officer
Chris Pegley – Essex Young Peoples D&A Srv (EYPDAS)
Ann Jones – Essex Youth Service
Major Carol Evans – The Salvation Army
Rev Murray George – United Reformed Church
Gaynor Bradley, Linda Bunting and John Starr – Uttlesford District Council

1 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Lindsay Allen, Rosie Anderson, Sophie Atkinson, Diana Cross, Fiona Gardiner, Frankie Hasson, Graham Jones, Cllr D Morson, Nicole Morton-Swain, Emma Norris, Geoff Parker, Clare Prior, Cllr S Schneider and Chris White.

2 **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

Gaynor Bradley took the chair for this item. John Whittaker was asked whether he would be willing to stand again for a further year as the Working Group's independent chairman and he agreed. All those present consented to the re-election of John Whittaker as chairman.

It was proposed by the Chairman that Gerry Smith continue as Deputy Chairman of the Group for the ensuing year and this was agreed.

ACTION: It was agreed that John Whittaker continue as Chairman and Gerry Smith continue as Vice-Chairman for the ensuing year.

The Chairman thanked the Working Group for their continued support and said that he was happy to continue. He also commented that as he had acted as Chairman for three years, it was time for the Group to perhaps look for another contender.

3 **MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING**

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 January 2007 were confirmed as a correct record, subject to the addition of Brenda Towle to the attendance record as she had attended the meeting and had been omitted from the list.

The Chairman requested that the minutes be circulated as soon as practicable after the meetings in future and this was agreed.

(i) Minute 3 – Teenage Pregnancy

With reference to the report on the post of Sexual Health Outreach Worker, Jane Calver was pleased to announce that the PCT had agreed to make her contract permanent.

(ii) Minute 4 – Cradle Project

With reference to the Salvation Army community research project for young families under this Minute, Rev George said that this initiative was still on track for June/July and the premises could be used for the Cradle Project. Ann Jones also said that there may be a possible venue for use for the project in Stansted.

(iii) Minute 6 - Youth Service Update

John Starr reported that the Young Essex Assembly were putting together a promotional pack.

(iv) Minute 8 – Any other Business – (i) Electronic Communication

Gerry Smith updated members on the main areas that needed attention. He stated that security was paramount. He said that it was up to young people to exchange information and that small pilots should be run in schools. He would report more to the next meeting.

ACTION: Gerry Smith to make further report on Electronic Communication to the next meeting.

4

PROJECT REVIEW AND FUNDING APPLICATIONS

Gaynor Bradley reported that, to date, not many project review applications had been received and she had not received any funding requests. She said that funding would be awarded in April and it would help to have a clear idea of where funding was needed. She said that she would extend the deadline to the end of April.

Rev George asked for the Working Group's terms of reference to be circulated.

ACTION: Linda Bunting would circulate the terms of reference with the minutes.

5

MEETINGS RE-STRUCTURE

John Starr reported on a proposed change of structure for the Working Group meetings. It was suggested that the meetings be held later in the evening to enable more people to attend and also to possibly combine them with meetings of the Youth Forum to try a different approach at networking. Three phase meetings were also suggested.

ACTION: The Youth Forum were to be invited to the next meeting to enable young members to be able to put forward ideas for change.

6 **THAXTED YOUTH INITIATIVES WORKING GROUP**

The Thaxted YIWG had been initiated by District Councillor Foley to enable young people to put forward ideas on leisure activities and also to discuss the problem of finding transport to get them around the district for any activities being staged. It was considered that another problem with obtaining transport was finding volunteer drivers for vehicles used as any volunteers would need to have the appropriate training, such as MiDAS (Minibus Driver Awareness Scheme).

7 **PLAY STRATEGY**

Gaynor Bradley reported that she had received most of the consultation papers which she said was a good response. The draft strategy would be starting in April and would be submitted in September.

8 **SAFFRON WALDEN SKATE PARK UPDATE**

John Starr reported that work on the skate park was progressing very quickly. The work was being carried out by American workers who had undertaken similar work in the USA. It was clear that they possessed good skills and abilities with a desire to build a good skate park. There was a website for the park www.oneminetpark.co.uk which contained photographs of the construction so far.

9 **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

(i) Essex Youth Questionnaire

Ann Jones referred to a questionnaire which had recently been distributed and asked members to return the forms as soon as possible as there was a tight deadline.

(ii) IPDAS

Chris Pegley referred to the impending move from premises in New Street, Chelmsford and said that staff would be 'hot-desking' at 114 Springfield Road. He said they were not closing down and it was hoped that there would be benefits in the move. The move would be taking place on 23 April. For information on venues and hot desks contact Chris Pegley.

(iii) Respect Project

Gerry Smith referred to the Respect Project presentation evening which would be held on 20 April in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Saffron Walden from 7.00 pm to 9.00 pm. He invited members of the Working Group to attend.

(iv) Texting Service

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John Starr referred to a texting service. Anyone could start an account as there was spare capacity and more effective than email.

(v) Flame bus

John Starr reported that the Flame bus was no longer in use and was being stored in Stansted. A new bus was being used at the moment. There was not enough staff to run both.

10

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be held on Wednesday 6 June 2007.

The meeting ended at 6.10 pm.