

**EPPING FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL
NOTES OF A MEETING OF YOUTH ENGAGEMENT REVIEW TASK AND FINISH PANEL
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 8 JULY 2015
IN COMMITTEE ROOM 1, CIVIC OFFICES, HIGH STREET, EPPING
AT 6.30 - 8.15 PM**

Members Present: G Mohindra (Chairman), , S Neville, A Patel, C Roberts, B Surtees and M Tinker (Epping Forest Youth Councillor)

Other members present:

Apologies for Absence: S Murray, H Kane (Leisure and Community Services Portfolio Holder) and J McIvor (Epping Forest Youth Councillor)

Officers Present J Chandler (Assistant Director (Community Services)), G Wallis (Community, Health & Wellbeing Manager) and R Perrin (Democratic Services Assistant) E Nkwelle (Youth & Community Commissioner ECC) and L Stirling (Youth & Community Commissioner ECC)

25. SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS (COUNCIL MINUTE 39 - 23.7.02)

The Panel noted there were no substitute Members appointed for this meeting.

26. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest pursuant to the Council's Code of Member Conduct.

27. NOTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The notes from the last meeting on 22 June 2015 were agreed as a correct record.

The Community, Health and Wellbeing Manager, G Wallis advised the Panel that in relation to the notes of the last meeting and the Parish and Town Engagement with the Youth Council; G Wallis handed the Panel copies of the Loughton Town Council and Theydon Bois Parish magazines that the Youth Council had contributed to and advised that the Youth Council would welcome Town and Parish Councils getting in touch if they would any input in their local magazines.

28. TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Panel noted the Terms of Reference.

29. THE WIDER YOUTH STRATEGY AND ENGAGEMENT UNDERTAKEN BY THE COUNCIL

The Assistant Director (Community Services and Safety), J Chandler presented a report on the Council's Community Services and Safety teams work that was considered youth engagement. This included the Youth Council and other activities and projects that were delivered through sports, arts, dance, community and the Museum Service. J Chandler explained to the Panel the breadth of these initiatives, in order to give an understanding of the scope of local provision provided for children and young people. Although, she also stated that not all the activities were deemed

as Youth Engagement specifically, as there was less opportunity to receive structured feedback from participants.

The activity provisions comprised of Mountain Biking; Football and Boxing Projects in Super Output Areas; Street and General Dance Programmes; Netball Clubs; Horse Riding and Horse Care; Boot Camps; Inclusion programme; 'Six For All' funded through Sport England Inclusive Fund to engage young people aged 14 and over with local sports clubs and activities in order to provide them with easy access to sports activities over the longer term; Holiday Programmes; Youth Volunteering Programme; Museum Programmes including 'Takeover Days' which enable young people to create an exhibition, develop education activities and deliver an event at the museum. The majority of these activities were supported by external funding secured from Sport England, Police and Crime Commissioner, Active Essex and Essex County Council.

The Panel were also informed of the more formal Youth Engagement initiatives provided through the Community Services and Safety Team to promote key health, safety and wellbeing messages, which included Crucial Crew, which had been running for approximately 15 years and was targeted at all children in Year 6 within the primary Schools in the District and several schools in Brentwood, who brought into the programme. Crucial Crew involved support from a range of key statutory partners from Essex Police, NHS, Essex County Council and Fire Service, as well as voluntary sector partners including drug and alcohol advisers and experts from the field of bullying and domestic abuse. The sessions included;

- Online safety & Cyber Bullying – Essex Police
- Healthy relationships, in order to raise children's awareness of what a normal family should be like – Safer Places
- Road safety awareness - Essex County Council
- Water safety - RNLI
- Alcohol and drug awareness - AlcoHelp
- Bullying – Red Balloon
- Anti-social behaviour and recycling – EFDC
- Healthy living/smoking cessation – Ace
- Fire safety – Essex Fire & Rescue
- Construction site safety - Mears

J Chandler advised that the Reality Roadshow initiative was introduced following the success of Crucial Crew, to develop a similar awareness programme for pupils in secondary schools in order to reinforce safety messages at a further critical point in their lives. Reality Roadshow was therefore designed by the Council in consultation with partners and provided an excellent resource for young people aged around 14 years old, in Year 9 at state secondary schools during curricular time. It focused on 6 key subjects including;

- Drugs, in particular, "Legal highs"
- Alcohol misuse
- Sexual health
- Consequences of crime, via an offender insight
- Body image and self esteem
- Cyber bullying and internet safety

The feedback from Crucial Crew and reality Roadshow received from all participants and teaching staff had been very positive. In the last two years, £2,700 of funding

from Essex County Council Transitions Fund for Young People had been secured to support the provision of Reality Roadshow which was also funded from the Youth Strategy budget.

J Chandler advised that the remaining Youth Strategy budget was used for Targeted Work in Schools, which was undertaken over a period of 6 – 8 weeks with young people referred from within schools and the sessions were structured and follow a clear course outline and set of aims. Over the previous 3 years, £50,518 had additionally been secured from Essex County Council and One Epping Forest Local Strategic Partnership to undertake this work.

J Chandler advised the Panel that the External Funding generated either specifically for work with children and young people, or as part of a wider project amounts to approximately £750,000 over the last five years.

The Panel acknowledged the wide range of work carried out by the Community Services and Safety teams.

M Tinker advised that he would look to promote the facilities offered to the Council within his school and suggested that other Youth Councillors could also promote the activities on offer.

Councillor Surtees commented on the positive impact of the Crucial Crew and Reality Roadshow events across the District and how most young people could be reached by these important events.

Councillor Patel asked about the costs involved for the venue and transport for Crucial Crew and G Wallis advised that these costs were looked at each year to consider alternatives. As yet officers had been unable to find the same level and quality of amenities available to facilitate the event.

Councillor Surtees enquired whether these type of events could attract funding and support from local business. G Wallis advise that Sainsbury's normally attend the event because of their concern around road safety but that they could look into it further.

Councillor Patel asked whether school Governors and parents were able to attend the events. G Wallis advised that a VIP day was normally held for adults to attend but it was felt that the events worked better and the young people opened up more with only the facilitators present.

Councillor Patel asked for a copy of the structure of the Community Services and Safety Teams. The Panel **agreed** that the structure be included within the minutes of the Panel and **noted** the report.

30. ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL SERVICES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

The District Based Youth & Community Commissioner, Edward Nkwelle from Essex County Council (ECC) Youth Service advised that he had recently reported to the Youth Strategy Group for Epping Forest (EFYSG) about the Districts Youth Services. This Group was attended by dual hatted members of ECC and Epping Forest District Council (EFDC) which included Councillors C C Pond, J Knapman, M McEwen, R Gadsby and J Whitehouse and was chaired by Councillor V Metcalfe. M Tinker advised that three Youth Councillors also attended the Youth Strategy Group.

E Nkwelle advised that three members of staff co-ordinated the Youth Services provisions across the West Essex area, which helped to enable, develop and support Partnerships, Voluntary sector and other Stakeholders deliver services to young people across the District. The EFYSG had around £16,000 per annum, which could be bidden for in order to help support schemes and groups in the District.

The Panel felt that better communication between ECC and the EFDC was required to try to provide the services required by young people. The Panel agreed that the EFYSG report mention by E Nkwelle was required and that it should be circulated to members in order for them to understand the YSGEF.

J Chandler advised that officers within the Community Services and Safety Teams and Ward Members were in a much better position to advise ECC about the needs of the community and were keen to improve communication needed to improve and enable the services to be delivered. The general public were not always aware of who individuals were representing which had resulted in complaints to EFDC.

Louisa advised that (ECC) Youth Service could provide training to support volunteers to lead projects in their communities if that was what was required.

The Panel **agreed** that;

- (a) the Youth Strategy Group - Epping Forest report should be circulated to the Panel;
- (b) a request be out forward for District Members to be included as observers in the Epping Forest Youth Strategy Group; and
- (c) Communication between Essex County Council and the District improved to help deliver services that are no longer provided by ECC.

31. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING

Agreed that the Panel would consider and draft the recommendations to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at the next meeting.

32. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The Panel noted that the next meeting would be Tuesday 11 August 2015 at 19.00 in Committee Room 1.

The Panel noted that the final meeting date would be Monday 14 September 2015.