



St Edmundsbury
BOROUGH COUNCIL

C211

Rural Area Working Party 9 November 2011

St Edmundsbury's Rural Youth Work Programme: Update

SUMMARY

1. This report provides the Working Party with an update about the various activities, events and projects which have been delivered for young people over the past twelve months which form part of St Edmundsbury's Rural Youth Work Programme. It also provides an evaluation of the rural youth work project, 'WOS UP' which is now in its fourth year.
2. The Council is committed to improving the quality of life of young people within the community and to promoting the involvement of young people. The Youth and Community Development Officer will give a presentation at the meeting reporting on all the rural youth projects that have been happening and will outline the future plan for the Rural Youth Work Programme.

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. The purpose of the report is to provide Councillors with information about the rural youth work programme and outline the future of the programme for Members of the Working Party.
2. The range of activities which form part of the programme throughout the year make a significant contribution to the Council's corporate priorities, in particular around improving the wellbeing of the community. Councillors are invited to make comments and suggestions as to how the programme of activities could be improved in the future and provide feedback about the activities of the past twelve months.

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Rural Area Working Party

9 November 2011

St Edmundsbury's Rural Youth Work Programme

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Council works in partnership to deliver a wide range of youth work activities throughout the year. The purpose of this report is to update the Working party on the work which has been completed in the last twelve months as a part of the Rural Youth Work Programme.

2. Partnership working

- 2.1 A key part of the Rural Youth Work Programme's success in previous years has been the projects it has funded that take place within existing youth groups and within services offered by partner organisations.
- 2.2 St Edmundsbury Borough Council works with a number of organisations to develop projects which improve the quality of life for young people in the more rural areas. Projects are usually delivered with smaller groups of young people to tackle specific issues. Often projects can help to address community safety, anti-social behaviour, health improvement and skills development. Due to considerable changes to Suffolk County Council's offer to young people in the rural areas there have not been the opportunities this year to fund joint projects. We have been unable to provide any funding for these smaller projects.
- 2.3 With the introduction of the 'Big Society' this means that future youth work in the rural areas will have more of a focus on working with local groups to provide projects for young people in the localities. This has been an ongoing ambition of the Rural Youth Work Programme but future work will place more emphasis upon this element of youth development.

3. Involvement and consultation

- 3.1 All of the projects that formulate the Rural Youth Work Programme have been developed through consultation with young people individually or as a group. Rural Youth Work Programme, We have tried not to limit the activities and projects on offer to young people in the rural areas.

4. Rural Youth Work Programme Projects

4.1 *'On the Spot Youth Van'*

- 4.1.1 The 'On the Spot Youth Van' came into service in Haverhill in May 2010 after receiving considerable external funding. The project currently operates up to two nights a week in Haverhill and also has been operating a weekly session on Thursday night in Kedington. The attendance has been very good with up to 18 young people attending per week.
- 4.1.2 The Youth and Community Officer is continuing to explore opportunities for taking the project out to Hundon and Clare using volunteers. The volunteers will need to complete Basic Youth Work Training and take part in an induction session for using the Van.

5. 'WOS UP' Project 2011

5.1 *'WOS UP' Mobile Youth Provision*

5.1.1 'WOS UP' is the name for a detached youth work provision delivered in rural areas. Again, in 2011 we commissioned to SCA (Supporting Contemporary Adolescence) to deliver this project. 'WOS UP' is a mobile provision that works with young people. A 'Warrior' 4 x4 vehicle has visited a number of villages providing sports equipment, tuck shop, DJ equipment and a mobile media suite amongst others. These particular items have proved popular with young people.

5.2 *Supporting Contemporary Adolescence) Trading Name Change*

5.2.1 During July 2011, SCA (Supporting Contemporary Adolescence) changed their trading name to IPSUM YP. This name change has not affected the delivery of the 'WOS UP' project in St Edmundsbury in any way. For the purposes of this report they are referred to as SCA.

5.3 *Communication and Publicity*

5.3.1 Communication and publicity responsibility was given to SCA to co-ordinate for this year's programme. The Project Manager from SCA ensured that all local parties concerned were aware of the project coming to their locality in advance. This included local Police, Parish Councils, local youth clubs, village shops amenities and schools.

5.4 *Villages covered*

5.4.1 In 2011, the project has been operating in the following eight villages:-

- (a) Barrow;
- (b) Barningham;
- (c) Ixworth;
- (d) Hundon;
- (e) Gt Welnetham;
- (f) Kedington;
- (g) Stanton; and
- (h) Wickhambrook.

5.4.2 The programme operated in blocks of six or twelve sessions per village on consecutive weeks. Those villages that received twelve sessions were partly funded by the local Parish Councils, with most Parish Councils contributing £500 each to secure the extra six sessions.

5.4.3 Each of the Parish Councils that contributed towards the project will receive a written report with information about the project including attendance statistics.

5.5 *Attendance Statistics*

5.5.1 The 'WOS UP' project in 2011 primarily engaged with 157 individual young people aged 12 to 19 years. The overall attendance, including return visits were 583 young people. This is compared to 541 return visits by young people in 2010.

5.5.2 In 2011, SCA delivered a total of 72 'WOS UP' sessions over eight villages in six or twelve-week blocks between May and September 2011.

5.6 *2011 attendance statistics per village*

Village	No. of Sessions	Total Number of Young People	8-12 Yrs	13-15 Yrs	16-19 Yrs	19+	Male	Female
Barrow	12	171	26	65	72	8	114	57
Ixworth	12	87	38	46	2	1	64	23
Stanton	12	112	12	57	42	1	73	39
Wickhambrook	12	54	8	27	16	3	36	18
Gt Whelnetham	6	33	7	24	2	0	21	12
Hundon	6	11	0	9	2	0	8	3
Kedington	6	53	17	36	0	0	37	16
Barningham	6	62	0	24	38	0	49	13
Total:	72	583	108	288	174	13	402	181

5.7 *2010 attendance statistics per village*

Village	Total Number of Young People
Barrow	89
Ixworth	19
Stanton	148
Wickhambrook	50
Gt Whelnetham	82
Hundon	79
Kedington	23
Barningham	46
Stradishall (not operated in 2011)	5
Total	541

5.8 *'WOS UP' Expenditure paid to SCA 2011*

5.8.1 In 2011, the project cost £12,096 for 72 sessions compared with the cost to operate in 2010, which amounted to £9260.58 for 60 sessions. The increase in cost in 2011 is due to delivering a higher number of sessions for a longer period and increased costs of running the 'WOS UP' Truck. The additional costs where 12 sessions were delivered were met by the Parish Councils.

5.9 *Barrow Youth Event*

5.9.1 As part of the project's excellent response amongst young people in Barrow, the team of youth workers supported the young people accessing the project to organise and deliver a youth event. It was held on 31 August 2011 and activities included a BBQ, Football Tournament, Olympic Trainer design workshop, face painting, mini skate and BMX Jam.

6. Rural Youth Work Programme Budget

- 6.1 The current Rural Youth Work Programme budget is £10,600 per year. We are looking to increase this through external funding from relevant Parish Councils and external funding sources.

7. Future Options

- 7.1 We wish continue to fund SCA or a similar group to deliver a 'WOS UP' Project in the Rural Areas of St Edmundsbury and look to work with Parish Councils to increase the number of sessions.
- 7.2 The Youth and Community Development Officer will look to increase the utilisation of the On the Spot Van through volunteers in the villages of Hundon and Clare.
- 7.3 The Youth and Community Development Officer will look for relevant external funding to develop other areas of work in the rural areas with our partners including looking at innovative projects with an aim to increase the participation of young females in the Rural Youth Work Programme.
- 7.4 Encourage events similar to the one that took place in Barrow that saw young people taking a community leadership role in organising and delivering a day to their peers.
- 7.5 Any changes and new recommendations will be followed up by a period of youth consultation that will be conducted by the Youth and Community Development Officer.

8. Recommendations

- 8.1 It is **RECOMMENDED** that:-

- (1) Supporting Contemporary Adolescence (SCA) or a similar group continue to be funded to deliver a 'WOS UP' Project in the Rural Areas of St Edmundsbury, as outlined in Section 7.1 of Report C211; and
- (2) work be undertaken with Parish Councils with a view to increasing the number of 'WOS UP' sessions.