



## Rural Area Working Party

### 24 January 2013

#### Rural Youth Work Programme

##### 1. Summary and reasons for recommendation(s)

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 fifth year.

The Borough 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 verbal update 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.

##### 1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Borough 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 which take place within existing youth groups and within services offered by partner organisations. In this area there has been a decline because of the lack of regularly running youth activities in the rural areas, for example those youth clubs which have ceased to operate.
- 2.2 St Edmundsbury 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.
- 2.3 The Youth and Community Development Officer has been developing as many local Parish based links as possible to develop opportunities for young people through a variety of different channels from co-funding work with

Parish Councils to supporting work that locally based youth committees are involved with, for example Clare Youth Association who have been developing a BMX track.

### **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. In the Rural Youth Work Programme, the Borough Council has tried not to limit the activities and projects on offer to young people in the rural areas.

3.2 All of the activities funded have been fully evaluated by the young people in the various locations where youth work has been taking place.

### **4. Rural Youth Work Programme Projects**

#### **4.1 'On the Spot' Youth Van**

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 2 nights a week in Haverhill. The 'On the Spot' van has been doing a weekly session on a Thursday night in Kedington. The Youth and Community Officer is continuing to explore opportunities for taking the project out to Hundon and Clare using the existing team of youth work staff.

### **5. Wos Up Project 2012**

#### **5.1 'WOS UP' Mobile Youth Provision**

'Wos Up' is the name for a detached youth work provision delivered in rural areas. Again, in 2012 following the procurement process, IPSUM YP was commissioned 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. Sports equipment, tuck shop, DJ equipment and a mobile media suite provided have proved popular with young people.

The Mobile Youth Provision aims to:

- (a) Enable young people to take part in positive activities;
- (b) Divert anti-social behaviour into positive action;
- (c) Enable young people to gain to youth provision within their community;
- (d) Promote community cohesion;
- (e) Promote healthy lifestyles and choices to young people;
- (f) Offer IAG (information, advise and guidance);
- (g) Encourage community volunteering; and
- (h) Promote leadership and active participation within the community.

#### **5.2 Communication and Publicity**

Communication and publicity responsibility was given to IPSUM YP to coordinate for this year's programme. The Project Manager from IPSUM YP 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.

The Youth and Community Development Officer was responsible for maintaining contact with the relevant Parish Councils and other local organisations to ensure that young people did know about the provision coming to their village.

#### 5.4 Villages covered

In 2012 the project has been operating in the following nine villages Barrow, Stanton, Wickhambrook, Hundon, Kedington, Barningham, Ixworth, Gt Whelnetham and Hopton.

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 Parish councils; three of the Parish Councils contributed £500 each to secure the extra 6 sessions.

Every Parish Council that contributed towards the project has received a written report with information about the project including attendance statistics and an evaluation of the project in the locality.

#### 5.5 Attendance Statistics

The 'Wos Up' project in 2012 engaged with 235 individual Young People aged 10 – 19 years primarily; an increase from 157 in 2011. The overall attendance including return visits were 565 Young People.

#### 5.6 2012 Attendance per village.

<b>Village</b>	<b>No Sessions</b>	<b>Total Number of Young People</b>	<b>10-12 Yrs</b>	<b>13-15 Yrs</b>	<b>16-19 Yrs</b>	<b>19+ Yrs</b>	<b>MALE</b>	<b>FEMALE</b>
Barrow	12	36	9	8	15	0	32	4
Stanton	12	52	15	21	16	0	41	11
Wickhambrook	12	36	15	13	8	0	29	7
Hundon	6	3	2	1	0	0	1	2
Kedington	6	12	4	4	4	0	9	3
Barningham	6	35	12	20	3	0	29	6
Ixworth	6	28	11	15	2	0	20	8
Gt. Whelnetham	6	8	3	5	0	0	6	2
Hopton	6	25	8	12	5	0	20	5
<b>Total:</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>235</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>48</b>

In 2012 Ipsum YP delivered a total of 72 Wos Up sessions over 9 villages in six or twelve week blocks between May and September 2012.

#### 5.7 Wos Up Expenditure

In 2012 the project cost £12,082 for completion of the project. £1,500 of this cost was covered by Parish Councils with the remainder coming from the Rural Youth Work Budget.

5.8 Evaluations results from Young People highlights:

23% have become active in their community  
41% would like to become more active  
84% said that they felt more healthy from these Summer activities  
89% said that they felt safer in their community because the project.

5.9 Barrow Youth Event

Once again this year the project worked with the young people from Barrow to organise a Community Games Event and to join in embracing the Olympic year.

One of the highlights was having groups of young people from Stanton and Hopton taking part in the event. Sports activities for the day included 5-a-side football, hooping, 'be inspired Olympic graffiti wall', field hockey, cheerleading, face painting, volley ball and athletics.

**6.1 Clare Youth Activities**

As part of the programme we have been supporting Clare Youth Association in setting up youth work in the village including the construction of a BMX Track. The Rural Youth Work Budget funded the use of the Football Cage and the 'On The Spot' Van to visit the village as part of a larger public event held in August.

**7. Rural Youth Work Programme Budget**

7.1 The current budget is £10,600 per year. Officers are looking to increase this through external funding from Parish Councils and external funding sources.

**8. Future Options and Recommendations**

8.1 It is recommended that subject to budgetary provision for 2013/2014 the following be recommended to Cabinet that:

- (1) the Borough Council continues to fund IPSUM YP 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;
- (2) the Youth and Community Officer be asked to look at what the future format might be for Rural Youth Work with Shared Services;
- (3) the Youth and Community Officer be asked to investigate relevant external funding to develop other areas of work in the rural areas with the Councils partners including looking at innovative projects with an aim to increase the participation of females in the Rural Youth Work Programme; and
- (4) any changes or new recommendations to be followed up by a period of consultation with Young people conducted by the Youth and Community Officer.

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