

Sevenoaks Town Council
Notes of the Report to the Youth Services Committee Working Party on 30th June 2021
Via Zoom

Available to view on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/yLdWN5DZxPU>

Meeting Started: 7.00 p.m.

Meeting Concluded: 8.00 p.m.

Present:

Cllr Edward Waite, Chairman	Present		Cllr Victoria Granville-Baxter	Apologies
Cllr Rachel Parry, Vice-Chairman	Present		Cllr Roderick Hogarth	Absent
Cllr Nick Busvine	Apologies		Cllr Tom Morris Brown	Absent
Cllr Andrew Eyre	Present		Cllr Claire Shea	Apologies
Co-opted Members:				
Richard Dowling, West Kent Communities	Present		Sarah Gaunt, Kent County Council	Present
Maxine Quinton, Sevenoaks District Council	Present		Caroline Berry, SAYT	Present

In attendance: Cllr Richard Parry, Town Clerk, Senior Committee Clerk

Representations received from Members of the Public: none

140. Apologies for Absence

Received as noted above.

141. Requests for Dispensations

There were no requests for dispensations.

142. Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest at the meeting.

143. Minutes of the Youth Services Committee held on 24th March 2021

RESOLVED: to receive and note the minutes of the Youth Services Committee held on 24th March 2021 as a true record.

144 House in the Basement Youth Café

(i) Update Report

It was noted that 2020/21 had been difficult for the House in the Basement Youth Café which had closed at the beginning of the Covid-19 national lockdown in March 2020, reopened in September 2020, and closed again in November 2020 with the second national Lockdown.

In line with current government guidance, the facility was reopened on 17th May 2021. The number of attendees was currently small, averaging two per day. Staff were hoping to be able to relax restrictions later this month (subject to government guidance) and were using this time to prepare a programme of activities. This information would be circulated to schools.

It was noted that the Lewis Project, whose music centre was based in the Youth Café, had also reopened.

(ii) Finance Report to 31st May 2021

RESOLVED: That the Finance Cost Centre report for the House in the Basement Youth Café to 31st May 2021 be noted.

145. Sevenoaks Youth Council

As a result of uncertainties arising from the pandemic, the holding of elections for a new Youth Council was postponed to 2021. It was noted that the recruitment campaign for the new Youth Council 2021-2023 would be launched in July, before the school holidays, and followed up in September. The closing date for nominations was 30th September, with the holding of the first meeting (AGM) of the new Youth Council to take place on 3rd November 2021.

146. Reports from Co-opted Partners

Noted reports from Co-opted Partners:

(i) Kent County Council (KCC)

Sarah Gaunt reported that the Swanley Hub, the KCC Youth Services base for Sevenoaks District, had reopened. She advised that her team was providing targeted support for identified vulnerable people and some school work. There was also a focus on contextualised safeguarding which included visiting areas of concern to talk to young people about how to keep safe.

She reported that the KCC youth offer was jointly run with West Kent Youth Services.

The Sevenoaks District Youth Assembly continued to meet and a Youth Conference was being planned. The Youth Assembly had carried out consultation with schools in the district and identified the following key issues of concern:

- Mental health
- The environment
- Impact of Covid-19

(ii) Sevenoaks Area Youth Trust (SAYT)

Caroline Berry advised that SAYT was currently recruiting for a senior youth worker. They were planning summer activities and hoped to get some support in to help over that period. They were currently working in Kemsing.

(iii) Sevenoaks District Council, Community Safety

Maxine Quinton reported that Family Fun Days had been arranged across the district during the school holidays, including one in Sevenoaks Town.

She asked for information on the House in the Basement opening hours which she would ask the PCSOs to share with the young people they met.

The team was working on a “Summer Plan” to try to prevent some of the issues that had arisen the previous year as Lockdown had eased. So far, the problems had not materialised in the same way.

One issue of concern within the town was young adults gathering in the early hours of the morning in the car park, by the Sencio Leisure Centre, and in the Environmental Park, causing disruption to local residents. The Town Clerk advised that there had also been groups of young adults gathering between 7.00 - 8.00pm in the evenings which was intimidating for users of the leisure centre. Maxine undertook to raise this with the PCSOs.

(iv) West Kent Youth Services (WKYS)

Richard Dowling, Youth Services Manager, explained that West Kent’s contract with KCC was for two youth workers to provide school and detached youth work across the whole district. In addition WKYS provided separate youth work including an 8 -12 Group for referred young people. Free online guitar lessons were offered.

Detached youth work had taken place each Tuesday for the last six weeks at Greatness Recreation Ground skatepark. The Youth Worker also visited the town and Bat & Ball areas and had responded to issues in Knole Park.

Project work in schools had been very successful, including at Knole Academy. Invitations had been emailed to schools in Sevenoaks and resulted in a lot of bookings.

147. Press Release

It was agreed that a Press Release be issued recognising all the youth work undertaken by the co-opted partners in Sevenoaks Town, including the House in the Basement Youth Café and the Sevenoaks Youth Council.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting.

Signed

Chairman

Dated