

Minutes of the YOUTH COMMITTEE held remotely via Zoom on Tuesday 25 JANUARY 2021

Present:	Councillor	Kevin Roberts (Chair)
	“	Caroline Bettley (Vice Chair)
	“	Mike Davies
	“	Elinor Doherty
	“	Mrs Anne Evans *
	“	Sian Hope *

* Absent

Also Present: Mr Jon Stumpp, Caia Park Partnership
Mrs Carole Roberts, Clerk to the Council

9. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Anne Evans and Sian Hope.

10. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations made at this stage of the proceedings

11. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Youth Committee held on 27 July 2021 as submitted to the Meeting of the Community Council on 21 September 2021 be received and confirmed as a correct record.

12. INFORMATION ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

It was noted that the Council at its meeting on 21 September 2021 had accepted the following recommendation of the Youth Committee (Minute 15.iii refers):

“that any savings made to the costs of the 2021/22 Service Level Agreement for the Acton Youth Work Project as result of savings for room hire costs be used to purchase additional equipment for the Youth Club and to fund the provision of travel opportunities to address the skills shortage identified by this Youth Work Project to enable Young People to be confident and proficient in using public transport.”

13. TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Youth Committee was appointed at the Annual Community Council meeting held in May 2021 and its Terms of Reference (ToR) were noted. In respect of ToR No.7 regarding the 2018 Play Sufficiency Assessment, Members were unclear as to what progress if any, had been made during the Covid 19 Pandemic period. It was noted the next meeting of the Youth Committee was scheduled in the diary for 26 April 2022 but this may be cancelled due to the Local Council elections being held on 5 May 2022.

RESOLVED – that the Clerk write to the Play Development Team of Wrexham County Borough Council to request an update and report to the next meeting of the Youth Committee upon the progress being made on implementation of the 2018 recommendations and to ascertain when the next Play Sufficiency Assessment is due.

14. SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT –ACTON YOUTH WORK PROJECTS

The Committee received and consider the reports and other information provided at the meeting by representatives of the Caia Park Partnership in respect of the 2021/22 Quarter 2 and Quarter 3 performance monitoring to 31 December 2021 on the operation of this Service Level Agreement for the provision of an Open Access Youth Service. It was noted that the October 2021 meeting of the Youth Committee was postponed and accordingly the reports for Quarters 2 and 3 were now being presented to the meeting.

During consideration of the Report the following matters were highlighted: -

- New Welsh Government Guidance had been issued in January 2022 and it was hoped to return to more normal Centre based activities and service provision subject to ongoing Covid restrictions. It had been challenging to continue to provide an adaptive and reactive Service in response to the ever changing Welsh Government restrictions over the last two years. In the main, Detached Youth Work rather than Centre based provision had been used apart from a short period when the area in proximity to the Resource Centre had been used.
- It was anticipated that the numbers of Young People returning to the Centre based provision would initially be less due to the older cohort moving on and their perceptions changing. There was in effect a lost generation of Young People in Acton. The Youth Workers' initial focus now will be on meeting the needs of the older cohort with somewhere warm to meet and chill-out zones at the Resource Centre. The Team will be seeking and encouraging a younger cohort to participate at the Resource Centre and develop activities for the previous attendees. The long term aim was to return to the higher pre-Covid levels of attendance for the Open Access Youth Project. During the darker winter months it had been difficult to reach the really young 8-12 cohort via Detached Youth work sessions due to their age and parental restrictions.
- Limited events and sessions had been organised elsewhere including the World Children's Day at Ty Pawb on 18 November 2021 which had included a number of the young people from Acton
- Moving forward the team are working to develop a full quarterly programme for Pancake day, St David's Day, Chinese New Year and a creepy crawly evening at the Centre. It was hoped these events will again spread the news of the Centre being open at its regular times on a Wednesday evening and numbers will continue to increase to achieve engagement comparable to the pre-Pandemic levels
- The impact of the Pandemic on the Mental Health of Young People was highlighted together with other work the Caia Park Partnership had been involved with in providing the Aim High project of 1-2-1 mentoring for referred young people; some of whom were already known to them through other service provision. The Pandemic had also affected staffing levels and recruitment. Currently there were several Youth Worker vacancies being advertised and it was hoped that following appointments, a dedicated Youth Worker team can be put in place for the Acton provision.
- Members referred to the importance of communicating with the Acton Community Young People, particularly through social media, and to ensure consistency with where the Youth Workers will be; and where the service delivery is, preferably at a given time and place. Some opportunities had been lost for Detached Outreach work at the sunken gardens in Maesydre, Rhosnesni, and Borrás. This issue had been highlighted as part of the Council's new Community Engagement initiative
- The Youth Workers had tried several innovative and improvised ideas during the lockdown such as the use of tents and gazebos for their sessions with varying degrees of success. Around the Country, many Youth Services had shut down during the Pandemic. The Acton staff had tried to provide something in the Community which was not necessarily in the SLA. The Open Youth provision would now have to be developed from scratch again, however there was the ability and experience to do that again;

- Members referred to several successful events that had recently been held in Acton Park, the merits of actively involving the Youth Workers in future as part of any other volunteer Park based events and any other environmental/litter picking events in the Community. The importance of the Youth Team feeding regular updates and information to the Community Council was stressed so that it too can help promote the Open Access Youth Work being carried out under this Service Level Agreement through its social media and other Acton Community based Facebook pages.
- It has been over three years since the Caia Park Partnership team had accessed local Schools to promote the free open access youth project and Members of the Council were asked to try and facilitate this again as School Governors wherever possible.

Members acknowledged the difficulties that had been faced by the Acton Youth workers in terms of gaining access to the Resource Centre and concluding risk assessments. However it was important to have the next quarter end report submitted to the Youth Committee Meeting scheduled in April 2022 to demonstrate the progress being made and the direction of travel for this Service level Agreement.

RESOLVED –

- i) to receive and accept the second and third quarter reports as now submitted in accordance with the Service Level Agreement and to thank the Caia Park Partnership Officers for listening and seeking to address Members concerns as set out above; and*
- ii) A further monitoring report after the end of quarter four be submitted by the Caia Park Partnership to the next Youth Committee proposed for Tuesday 26 April 2022.*

Councillor Kevin Roberts, Presiding Chair

Signed as a correct record this 26th day of April 2022

Presiding Chair