

**Cultural and Economic Services Committee**

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**Date:** 12<sup>th</sup> December 2022

**Title:** TACTIC Update

**Purpose of the Report:** To provide Members with an update of the work that the TACTIC team has been engaged in and with over the past quarter.

**Contact Officer:** Linda Farmer – TACTIC Centre Manager

<b>Corporate Objective</b>	Strategic objective, No.26: To consider ways to support the increase in leisure and personal development opportunities for youth, incorporating ongoing feedback from young people and considering suitability of delivery locations for youth work.
<b>Implications:</b>	
<b>Financial</b>	Within existing budgets
<b>Human Resources</b>	
<b>Operational/Service delivery</b>	
<b>Procedural/Legal</b>	
<b>Risk/Health and Safety</b>	
<b>Environmental Aims</b>	

**1 RECOMMENDATION**

**1.1 To note the report**

**2.0 WORK DELIVERY UPDATES, Oct – Dec (Quarter 2)**

**2.1 TANG Group (Tactic Additional Needs Group)**

TANG are still going strong, with eleven regular members meeting every Monday evening. We have delivered a range of activities involving new skills, quizzes and competitive games that have proved popular with the group. This was instigated from the need to cater for a wider range of needs and has just increased the creativity within the group.

We are sad to say goodbye to one of our young volunteers. Mollie Griffiths, who has been with us for over six months and an invaluable member of our team. Mollie is concentrating on A levels but has completed her Duke of

Edinburgh award at silver level. We wish her the best and hope she will pop back to visit as the young people will be sad to see her go.

## 2.2 Young Persons Drop In

Numbers are increasing following the addition of the Gaming Suite and the darker colder nights.

Themed Thursdays are a new addition to the drop in, and a programme of activities, set by the young people take place every Thursday. These include, Quiz nights, Bake Off, Karaoke and Foods of the World tasting session.

We were also fortunate to have a special workshop delivery of Crystal Healing by our town Mayor, Cllr Farzana Kharawala.



## 2.3 We Are Youth (Youth Forum)

Following volunteer training during half term, we have recruited a few more young people for the We Are Youth Group and are due to meet this month to identify what they want to focus on for 2023.

We will also be recruiting to increase the size of the group with the hope that they can work on one larger project or possibly several different ones and establish a calendar of events across the year.

## 2.4 Referral Mentoring

Mentoring remains consistent with 23 open cases at present. The waiting list has reduced and currently stands at 11 referrals.

We have seen an increase in young people questioning their sexuality and wanting support around this.

It has become clear that when young people who visit the Dr's for Mental Health support, they are initially being referred to TACTIC due to long waiting lists at other

services such as CAMS and CHUMS. Consequently, TACTIC have become a steppingstone to other professionals.

## **2.5 Schools Delivery**

The commissioned Mentoring sessions in Leighton Middle School is ongoing until April 23, when this will be reviewed.

Schools' delivery is busy with Sexual Health workshops in Linslade Middle school taking place.

Lunchtime drop-in sessions remain busy and have proved to be key in increasing numbers to drop ins and activities such as Basketball, Gaming etc. In addition, we have been fortunate to engage more with sixth form students during this time.

TACTIC have also delivered several assemblies in both middle and upper schools. A total of 300-year 12 students took part in the Mental Health assembly at Vandyke, and a further 250 young people attended 2 assemblies on Anti Bullying at Linslade Middle School.

TACTIC have also been asked to provide some information to the young people on 'Vaping'.

## **2.6 Annual Awareness Themes:**

TACTIC support awareness themes weekly and display themes and information in the window for passers-by to view.

Mental Health awareness, Anti Bullying, Remembrance Day and Environmental appreciation week to name a few.

TACTIC also paid tribute to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II with a collection of through the years pictorial memorabilia, and young people signed a book of remembrance.

This month the NYA (National Youth Agency) annual awareness week and celebrate 'Everything Youth Work' with the theme being A Festival of Youth Work. Young people are asked to comment on the impact Youth Work has had on their lives with some pleasing comments coming back. To include:

- *'I feel comfortable talking to you and it helps'*
- *'If it wasn't for TACTIC I would be a mess'*
- *'You've helped me to be who I am'*



### **3.0 NEW PROJECTS:**

#### **3.1 Gaming Project**

This project now runs weekly Tuesdays to Thursdays, 3:30 – 5:30pm. Interest has been vast and as word is getting around this project has increased numbers to drop ins and bought in new young people to the centre.

A group of regulars are now looking at additional games and working with staff around budgets to enable this.

TACTIC are also linking up with 'Grove Corner' youth provision in Dunstable to set up inter club tournaments.

#### **3.2 Box Release**

Following successful meetings with Leighton Boxing Club, this long-awaited project will start in January and run at Pages Park Pavilion on Thursdays 5pm – 6pm.

Leighton Boxing club are supporting this and allowing TACTIC to use some of the initial beginner's equipment, the idea is that once young people are engaged and ready, they will move up to the junior session with Leighton Boxing Club.

Box Release is a non-contact sport and is being supported by a Qualified Sports Coach who is currently putting together a training programme for beginners.

This is another initiative to support and combat where possible Anti-Social Behaviour.

#### **3.3 Basketball**

Basketball is now back and taking place weekly at Brooklands Middle School gymnasium during the winter months.

This project is supported by 2 student sports coaches from Vandyke Sixth Form, who are teaching the young people the skills of basketball to include, dribbling, shooting, passing, and jumping.

Initially numbers were low, but it is expected to increase over the weeks.

The aim of this being to give young people an afterschool activity with a focus on reducing Anti-Social Behaviour.



## **4 OTHER INFORMATION**

### **4.1 Building Hire**

As previously, TACTIC building remains fully booked and up to full capacity and groups are in daily / weekly, with some securing their booking up until April 2023.

### **4.2 Counselling Service**

Counselling sessions continue weekly with 3 young people currently receiving therapeutic support.

It is hoped this additional support for young people can continue until April 23 when funding will be reviewed.

### **4.3 Chatty Café**

This project continues to go from strength to strength with a regular weekly attendance of between 25 – 30 community members.

Digital Champions now attend weekly to help anyone who is struggling with online / IT problems.

Basset Road Surgery continue to support this initiative and now their weekly attendance has encouraged new members.

Modest donations continue to come in supporting this project.

To extend this service, TACTIC have signed up other agencies to come along periodically as an additional information source. These include, Helping Hands, Citizens Advice Centre, and the Wellbeing Team.



#### 4.4 Older Persons Christmas Meal

The above will take place on Tuesday 20th December at Astral Park Community Hall. With the use of all of the large hall, we have extended places to 80 this year with 70 currently booked. This project is also being supported this year by a professional Chef cooking the festive 3 course meal.

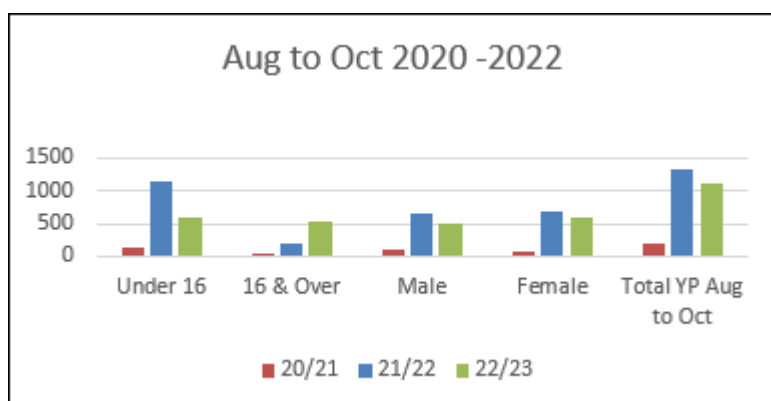
Young people volunteers will assist on the day, and one of our members will be singing.

Donations are being received from Morrisons, Co-op, Waitrose, Aldi, Leighton Garden Centre and Tesco.

## 5 MONITORING DATA

### 5.1 Stats for working with young people:

Aug to Oct 20 - 22			
	20/21	21/22	22/23
<b>Under 16</b>	139	1129	590
<b>16 &amp; Over</b>	39	184	520
<b>Male</b>	104	650	499
<b>Female</b>	74	676	577
<b>Total YP Aug to Oct</b>	194	1328	1112



### Chatty Cafe

Date	Total	Male	Female
02/08/2022	23	7	16
09/08/2022	21	10	11
16/08/2022	24	9	15
30/08/2022	20	7	13
06/09/2022	32	11	21
13/09/2022	35	14	21
20/09/2022	26	11	15
27/09/2022	26	9	17
04/10/2022	26	8	18
11/10/2022	24	10	14
18/10/2022	28	11	17
25/10/2022	30	13	17
<b>Total</b>	<b>315</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>195</b>

**One to One stats**

No. of YP	40
Total Hours	167

Age	M	13
	F	27
	9	1
	10	0
	11	1
	12	8
	13	12
	14	3
	15	7
	16	3
	17	2
	18	1
	19	2
	20	0
21	0	

Presenting Issues	
Sexual Health	1
Parenthood	0
Family relationships	7
Mental Health	9
General Health	44
Homelessness	2
Housing	0
Drugs & Alcohol	0
Smoking	0
Transport	0
job	0
School	18
Apprenticeships	1
Uni	0
College	0
Other	12

**Incoming Referrals**

Total		17
	M	6
	f	11
Age	11	0
	12	8
	13	0
	14	0
	15	4
	16	1
	17	3
	18	0
	19	1
	20	0
21	0	



Referral Taken by	Phone	5
	Email	7
	Letter	0
	Drop in	2
	Other	3
Referring Agency	Parent or Family	6
	Self	2
	School	6
	Doctor	0
	Social Care	2
	Agency	1
	Other	0
Service Request	Talkspace	0
	Mentor	16
	Brook	0
	Doctor	0
	Chums	1
	Sexual	0
	EWS	0
	4YP	0
	Relate	0

## 6. CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 TACTIC are now back in full-service delivery following on from the past 2 years of covid related difficulties and new projects are very much in the forefront for the new year.
- 6.2 Mentoring, schools work and supporting Anti-Social Behaviour will continue to remain a priority for the future .

**End**