



Cultural & Economic Services Committee

Date: 9th December 2019

Title: Update on TACTIC activities

Purpose of the Report: To update members of work at TACTIC in September and October 2019

Contact Officer: Linda Farmer, TACTIC Centre Manager

Corporate Objective/s		VIBRANCY AND VITALITY OF TOWN AND TOWN CENTRE - To consider ways to support the increase in leisure and personal development opportunities for youth.
Implications:		
Financial		
Human Resources		
Operational/Service delivery	√	General Update
Procedural/Legal		
Risk/Health and Safety		

1. RECOMMENDATION/S

Should members be minded, the recommendations are:

- 1.1 To note the report.
- 1.2. To forward the Youth Survey results to Policy and Finance for consideration.

2. YOUTH WORK: SEPTEMBER 2019 – DECEMBER 2019

2.1 Over the three months, TACTIC has delivered the below activities:

- The TANG group (TACTIC Additional Needs Group).
- Awareness information themes on Knife Crime, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Mental Health Awareness, National Youth Work Week, Aids Awareness, Anti Bullying and Sexual Health have taken place.
- Environmental project.
- Love to Dance Project.
- Urban Corner Music Project .
- Schools Offer Workshops/ lunchtime drop ins.
- Youth Crime Assemblies / group work.
- Basketball Project.

3. Satellite Sports

- 3.1 Basketball continues to do well with a regular group of young people attending. TACTIC has secured an indoor venue at Brooklands School to allow for the sessions to continue during the winter months. Despite the new venue, new basketball coach and having to charge a small amount to contribute towards the hire, attendance has improved over the weeks and the young people are currently being taught areas such as shooting and dribbling. Energy is high and the young people are working well as a team.

4 Staffing Update

- 4.1 Officers have sought alternative recruitment for the Senior Youth Worker post. The post remains vacant at the time of writing this report. The staff team is managing the absence.

5 Youth Crime Project

- 5.1 Delivery of the grant funded Youth Crime project has commenced, and TACTIC has been attending assemblies alongside the St Giles Trust, to various middle and upper schools across Leighton-Linslade about Knife crime. As a continuation of this TACTIC will now commence delivery of the targeted group work sessions within schools for up to 10 young people (aged 10-15) who schools are concerned are at risk of becoming involved in crime or being criminally exploited. The sessions will continue until May 2020.

6 Schools Offer

- 6.1 Requests for delivery of the school's workshops have been coming in from 4 schools across Leighton-Linslade. Following the success of the previous lunchtime sessions at Brooklands Middle school, TACTIC has been asked to continue the weekly sessions up until Christmas. Staff are currently delivering support sessions to years 7 and 8 (12 to 13yrs) students who come along in their lunch times to chat about a variety of weekly topics, including: relationships, online safety, crime and anti-social behaviour.
- 6.2 Gilbert Inglefield Academy has requested workshops in the new year with a focus on mental health and wellbeing, and sexual health awareness.
- 6.3 Linslade Middle School has secured 12 sessions on sexual health and online safety commencing after Easter 2020.

7 National Youth Work Week Awards Evening

- 7.1 Alongside Youth Workers from across Central Beds, TACTIC staff were proud to be a part of the National Youth Work Week Awards ceremony at The Rufus Centre, Flitwick. TACTIC took a lead coordinating role for the award scheme.

- 7.2 The awards celebrated the good work both young people and youth workers do throughout the year. Awards were given for several categories including: Young Volunteer, Overcoming Barriers, Personal Achievement and Young Peoples Voice.
- 7.3 Some 100 + guests attended including young people, parents and carers.
- 7.4 Attended by Mayors and Councillors from across Central Bedfordshire, this pilot event went well, and evaluation will take place in due course to measure it's success for future events. The evening concluded with a presentation from the High Sheriff of Bedford Meryl Dolling. TACTIC young people were recipients of awards:
- Tom Shapter-Wheeler won first place for the Personal Achievement Award. Tom took himself out of his comfort zone to improve his confidence and social skills. He is also a key member of the TACTIC Youth Forum.
 - Jordan Drew won second place for the Personal Achievement Award. Jordan has shown perseverance and determination and is now pursuing a career in Barbering.
 - Nicole Janes won first place for the Junior Award. Nicole is also a key member of the TACTIC Youth Forum and takes part in all activities in order to improve her confidence. Nicole is dedicated and always willing to help.
- 7.5 The ceremony highlighted the importance of Youth Work and the impact it has on young peoples' lives. It was extremely rewarding to see both young people and youth workers being honoured and recognised in such a special way.

8 Youth Survey Feedback

- 8.1 At the request of Policy and Finance Committee, Ref. 56/PF, TACTIC was asked to undertake a basic survey of young people aged between 12 and 19 years, to ascertain their views on how and where they would like to spend their leisure time. Below is a brief summary of the Survey Monkey based questionnaire. The full results can be found at **Appendix A**.
- 8.2 To summarise, most of the young people would like additional spaces across the town for young people to meet friends and 'hang out'. Suggestions included, Youth Shelters, Outdoor Table Tennis and pinball games in the parks such as Parsons Close, Astral Park and Pages Park. The Town Centre was frequently identified as an area to focus on.
- 8.3 The Youth Film club was also mentioned as an encouraging activity with just under 50% of the young people highlighting this as positive
- 8.4 In terms of when the young people would like the activities, weekdays between 3pm – 6pm and weekends were the most popular.

8.5 It is worth noting that the total number of respondents was 34. Survey feedback therefore provides an indication of interests, etc. and further research may need to be undertaken to gain a larger response to enable the Council to take action where cost implications could be considerable.

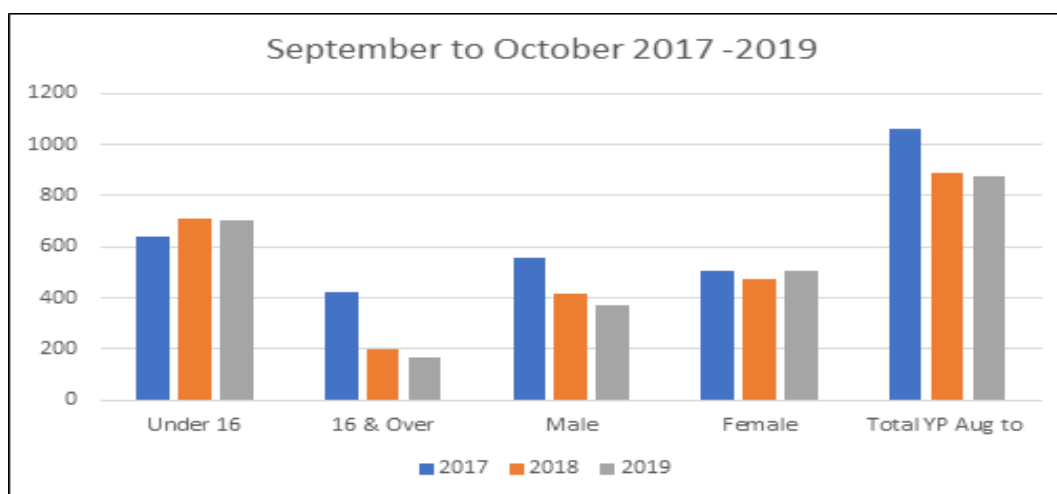
9 Environmental Project

9.1 In response to the Council's Environmental Ambitions, TACTIC is looking at ways to deliver the aims. Staff will be implementing the programme of activity listed in the attached document , **Appendix B**, which incorporates ensuring the young people are aware of the difference they can make to the environment.

10 Attendance Statistics

10.1 The table below presents attendance figures for September and October future quarters will be as follows:

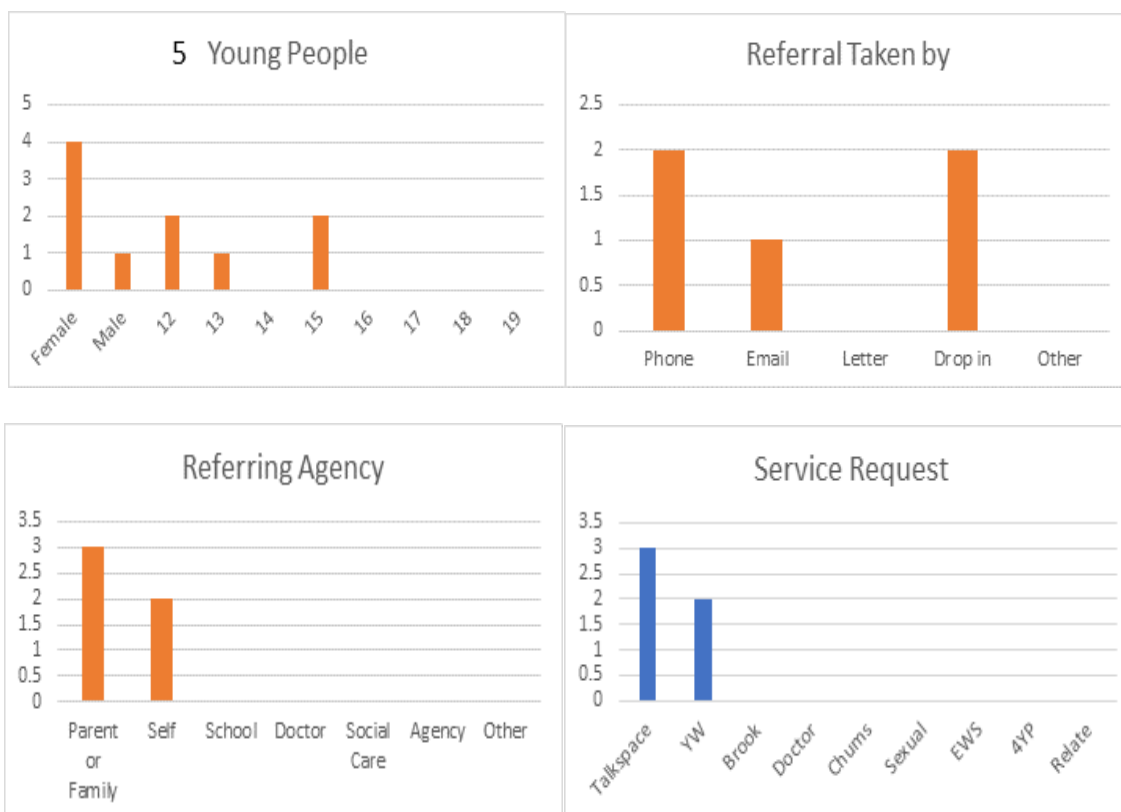
- November December and January
- February, March April
- May June July
- August September October



Sep - Oct 17-19	2017	2018	2019
Under 16	640	708	705
16 & Over	420	197	166
Male	557	416	373
Female	503	471	505
Total Young People- Sep to Oct	1060	887	879

10.2 Overall general attendance at the centre has increased compared with the same period over the last two years. This is due to the newer younger age range of young people we are encouraging to attend i.e. under 16yrs, and more schools work and attendance of assemblies to promote the centre.

10.3 The tables below present more detail on incoming referrals between September and October 2019



11. One to One support

11.1 Delivery of individual one to one support with a TACTIC Youth Worker has been quieter with less referrals than previously during this period. During September 2019 to December 2019, 18 were undertaken, either via mentoring support or drop-in. The order of most presenting issues is:

- Sexual Health,
- Mental Health,
- Relationships, and
- Family.

11.2 Sexual Health - over the past 2 months TACTIC has supported young people in the following areas:

Presenting Issue	Total number of Young people supported Sept – Oct 19
Contraception	6
Chlamydia Testing	3
Pregnancy testing	1
General 1-1 sexual health advice and information during drop-in	11

12. VERU FUNDING APPLICATION (Violence and Exploitation Reduction Unit)

The Police and Crime Commissioner and Bedfordshire Police have been awarded Grant Funding as part of the Home Office Violence Reduction Programme. The initiative is to work with young people and divert them away from crime. A grant application has been submitted for £6,000 to launch a *Box Release* project focusing on young people's mental health and wellbeing. The aim is that young people will work with a trained coach using Pad Boxing as a tool to release any anger, aggression and frustration they may have in a controlled and constructive way. Should the bid be successful the project will commence in February half term for 8 weeks, with the aim of continuation into the summer months.

At the time of writing the report a decision as to the outcome is still awaited.

13. Future Project Work over the coming months include:

- Basketball satellite sport project at Brooklands Middle School
- Delivery of the Youth Crime group work Project within schools
- Older People's Christmas meal.
- Environmental project
- Easter Playschemes
- Schools Offer Workshops

END