

Cultural & Economic Services Committee

Date: 7 September 2020

Title: TACTIC Service Update

Purpose of the Report: To inform Committee of work progress

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

Should members be minded, the recommendation is:

1.1 To note the report.

2. INFORMATION

2.1 This report provides a review of the previous year's work plan delivery, Two-Year Delivery Plan 2018/19 to 2019/20 before providing an update on the first two quarters of the current financial year. The current year's update is presented in two parts, 1 and 2, to reflect the pre and current Covid-19 pandemic timeframe.

3. TACTIC Two-Year Delivery Plan 2018/19 to 2019/20

3.1 This reporting period for the two-year delivery plan saw a change in senior management with the retirement of the Centre Manager and the promotion of an existing member of staff to the post. This left a vacancy for the Senior Youth Worker which has now been appointed to.

3.2 Overall, delivery work has gone well. The latter period of the work plan timescale saw an increase in attendance of the drop-in sessions, averaging 30 per session. This followed the initial dip in attendance. Whilst there is no 'absolute' known reason for a dip, it is common for a cyclical change in young people's attendance as young people move on and a new influx of attendees establishes. This is shown in the attendance figures recorded at para. 4.6, below.

3.3 Links with local schools increased though delivery of the grant funded project focusing on youth crime and this transferred into more take-up from the schools for the TACTIC Schools Offer delivering themed workshops and invitations from Middle schools for more contact.

4. PART 1 – PRE COVID-19, FEBRUARY 2020 – MARCH 21ST, 2020

4.1 Prior to Lockdown (up until March 21st, 2020) TACTIC delivered:

- The TANG group (TACTIC Additional Needs Group).
- Awareness information themes on Mental Health, Self-Harm and Crimes and Sentences within the centre.
- Introduced the Council's Environmental Aims work – ongoing.
- Urban Corner Music Project - ongoing
- Schools Offer Workshops/ lunchtime drop-ins.
- Basketball Project.

4.2 Satellite Sports - Basketball continued to do well with a regular group of young people attending. TACTIC arranged to move the sessions to Pages Park from the end of March in line with Summertime. Several new members joined the group and numbers averaged 10 per session.

4.3 Youth Crime Project (Grant funded) - The youth crime project has been placed on hold due to COVID-19 and will resume when the situation is eased and schools re-open.

4.4 Schools Offer - Weekly lunchtime sessions at Brooklands continued up until 21st March 20 and another 14 were planned to be delivered in March, April and May at Gilbert Inglefield and Linslade schools. Once again due to COVID-19 these are on hold at present.

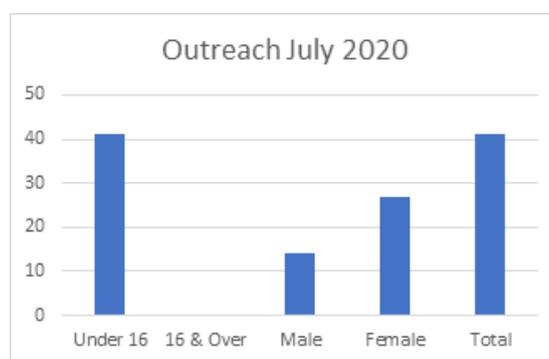
4.5 Staffing Update – Following the successful recruitment to the Senior Youth Worker post, the new staff member commenced work on 31/03/20 just as lockdown had started.

4.6 Centre Hire - Due to the current situation with COVID-19 the hire of the centre is suspended. This will have an impact on the future year's income targets.

5 PART 2 - TACTIC WORK DURING LOCKDOWN

5.1 During lockdown staff have been proactive in reviewing and updating all the workshops for delivery in schools, e.g. Schools Offer. Due to Covid-19, staff have increased the options of the workshops to include one named, 'Switch', which is all about how the pandemic has affected young people, their families, etc. and how at the flick of a 'Switch' normal daily living has changed. It is hoped that this workshop will allow young people to address any issues that they may have encountered during this time and reflect on how things were before COVID-19, what they took for granted and what things may look like in the future.

- 5.2 Virtual meetings with Youth Forum - Weekly virtual meetings with the Youth Forum have taken place allowing the young people to continue with their Puzzled Minds. Group members have successfully filmed themselves giving the advice within the booklet and these short films have been posted on the social media platform of Instagram; '10 top tips' to help with Mental Health issues. The group has also used this time to reflect on how the Pandemic has affected them and their families.
- 5.3 Telephone mentoring - Staff have been working remotely with the most vulnerable young people known to TACTIC and providing weekly telephone mentoring to ensure they are supported during this difficult time.
- 5.4 Keeping in contact - Activity packs have been created and distributed to TANG group members.
- 5.5 Outreach work - In July 2020 TACTIC commenced Outreach work in a variety of locations. This allowed the team to catch up with young people in a socially distanced manner. To date, the team has covered the locations of Vandyke, High Street, Parson's Close, Pages Park, Linslade Memorial Playing Field and MacDonald's area. This has also allowed the team to introduce themselves to young people who were not familiar with TACTIC. Following the Outreach sessions, TACTIC have picked up 2 one to one mentoring sessions and are now supporting these young people.



- 5.6 Youth Survey - The team is also using this opportunity to continue work previously planned in relation to the Youth Survey and are talking to young people whilst on their Outreach sessions. To date some 18 surveys have been completed and findings will be reported at next Committee in December 2020.
- 5.7 Maintaining Contact with Partners – The centre Manager as well as staff members have maintained contact with other youth service delivery organisations attending remote meetings on a regular basis. More recently, this ongoing engagement with partners has included case conferences for young people who have needed additional assistance.
- 5.8 Supporting Council services – Whilst able to undertake back office activity in developing new workshops, updating, and deleting records as necessary, etc., due to the closure of the Drop-In sessions, staff have offered their available time to colleagues. This has been noticeable with their help in ensuring public reassurance and monitoring distancing on the twice-weekly market. Staff also assisted in background development of the Council's Town Centre Welcome

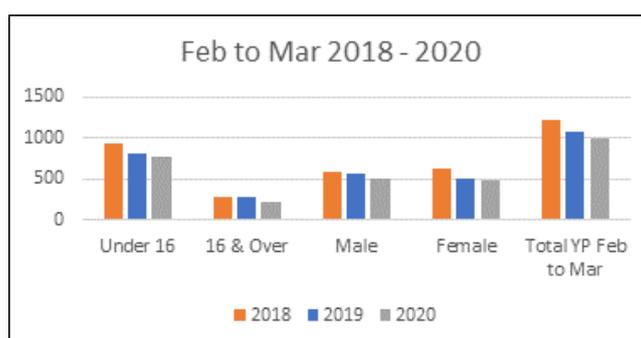
Back campaign.

5.9 Staff Training - Staff have taken this opportunity to ensure all their relevant training is up to date and attended several Webinars of interest.

6. ATTENDANCE STATISTICS

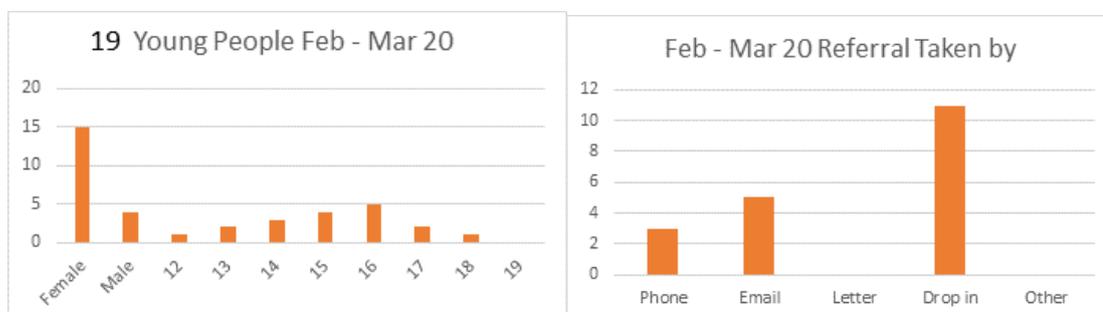
6.1 The table below presents attendance figures for February – March 2020.

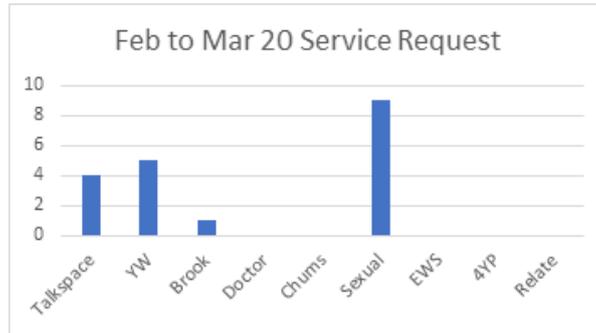
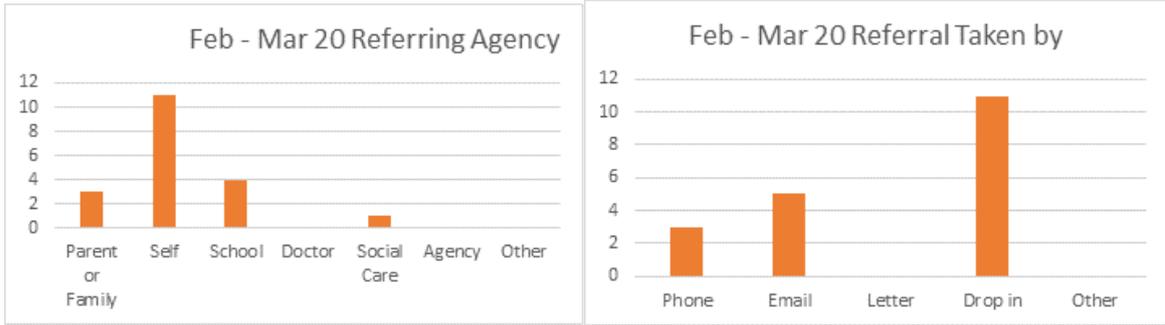
Feb-Mar comparisons 2018-20	2018	2019	2020
Under 16	940	806	784
16 & Over	275	278	219
Male	587	572	515
Female	626	512	488
	1215	1084	1003



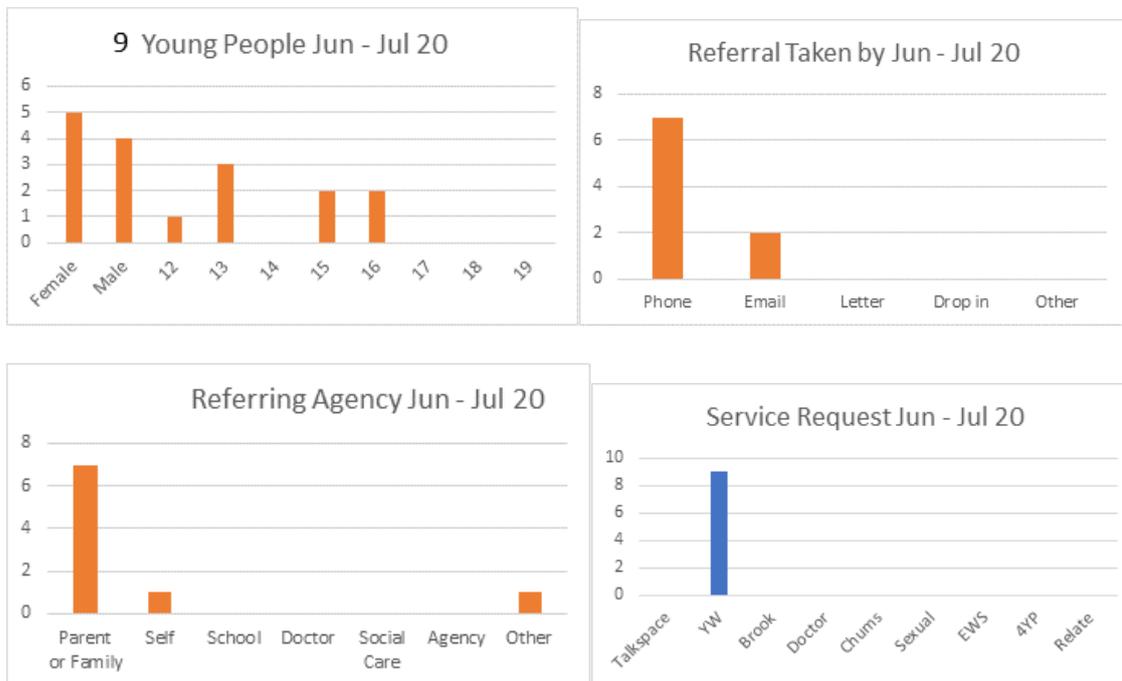
6.2 Prior to lockdown, overall general attendance at the centre had been experiencing an increase. It is envisaged that this will continue to increase once the team is able to return to normal working within the centre.

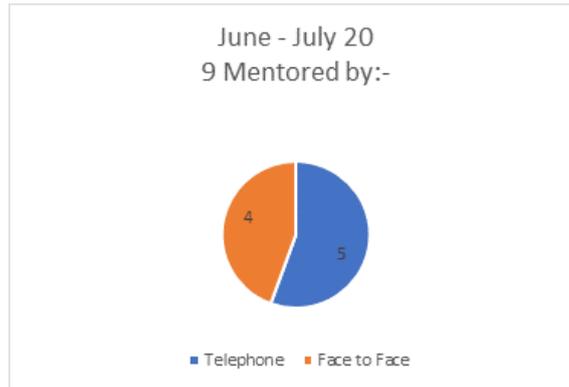
6.3 The tables below present more detail on incoming referrals between February 2020 – March 2020.





6.4 The tables below present referral figures for April – 31st July 2020. (During Covid – 19).





- 6.5 One to One support - Delivery of individual one to one support with a TACTIC Youth Worker has been reduced due to the current COVID-19 situation. However, 1-1 support has continued 'virtually' whenever possible and more recently back within the TACTIC centre. Issues include:
- Anxiety
 - Impact of COVID-19
 - Relationships

- 6.6 Sexual Health - over the past 6 months TACTIC has supported young people in the following areas:

Presenting Issue	Total number of Young People supported February – July 2020
Contraception	4
Chlamydia Testing	2
Pregnancy testing	
General 1-1 sexual health advice and information during drop in	3

7. SUMMARY

- 7.1 All Council services have been interrupted and impacted upon by the COVID-19 pandemic. TACTIC staff have been positive in in the willingness to divert their time in support of Council-wide service needs.

- 7.2 Unfortunately, for the time being, the following activities have been put on hold:
- Basketball satellite sport project at Pages Park.
 - Continuation of the delivery of the Youth Crime group work Project within schools.
 - Continuation of the Council's Environmental Aims work/projects.
 - Schools Offer Workshops.
 - School Assemblies, attendance.
 - Box Release – yet to start, funded via the Community Safety Committee.
 - TANG (TACTIC Additional Needs Group).
 - Daily young person's 'Drop-in'.
 - Centre Hire.

- 7.3 Whilst undertaking alternative work activity, TACTIC has not lost sight or ceased its collaboration with partner agencies. Staff have continued to provide one to one mentoring via alternative means and stayed in contact with members of TANG by providing activity packs.
- 7.4 More recently, TACTIC staff have undertaken outreach work and have increased their one to one support having picked up the need through this approach.

End