



Date: 12 March 2018

Title: TACTIC Update

Purpose of the Report: To update Members of work undertaken at TACTIC During December 2017 & January 2018

Contact Officer: Tracey Quinn, TACTIC Manager

Corporate Objective/s	LLTC Three Year Plan: No 14. Expand the reach of TACTIC by initiating a “hub & spoke” model across the town.	
Implications:		
Financial		
Human Resources		
Operational/Service delivery	√	Whole report
Procedural/Legal		
Risk/Health and Safety		

1. RECOMMENDATION

Should members be minded, the recommendation is to:

1.1 To note the report.

2. BACKGROUND – Youth Work Programme

a. December 2017 to January 2018

Over the two months, awareness raising and information at the centre has included the following youth work awareness themes:

- ❖ Information on mental health/suicide and where to go for help.
- ❖ Anti-social behaviour and use of bikes in the town and on roads.
- ❖ Sugary snacks and how to stay healthy in national obesity week.
- ❖ An achievement award took place for young people who had committed their time to help others over the year or achieved goals and made progress in their lives in their time at TACTIC. The Town Clerk and Head of Cultural and Economic Services handed out the certificates with kind words of encouragement.

‘Schools Offer’ update – two workshops have taken place in December and a meeting with Oakbank has taken place to develop work in the spring term.

b. Youth Forum

The TACTIC Youth Forum held another successful Christmas lunch for older people of the town. The group made good use of Astral Park kitchen facilities and young people had a busy afternoon serving tables and getting to know a different generation.

Residents gave warm comments on how helpful the young people were and all enjoyed the meal and are looking forward to next year's.

In the run-up to December the group were also collecting donations for a Christmas shoe box appeal for the homeless charity in the area. The community's response was great and the group managed to hand over 25 large Christmas wrapped shoe boxes full of essential and warm items to the 'watch your back/ ruck sack appeal' for homeless people to receive over the holiday period.

New Projects for 2018 include a WW1 Arts Mural project and planning a weekend away to an activity centre during the summer holidays. The group also has new members and is a mix of 12-14yr olds and 16-19yr olds. A residential weekend away is a good way to do team-building using adventurous outdoor activities. One of our members will soon be turning 20yrs and has agreed to stay on to support the youth forum as a TACTIC volunteer, and also volunteers with a local Brownie group.

c. Hire of Centre Update

TACTIC commenced the hire of the building to community/charitable organisations in December 2017. To date six organisations are using the building Monday – Thursday times varying from 9:30am – 3pm.

These include:

- CAMHS – using 1-1 room weekly (1-1 support for young people)
- SNAP – Using 1-1 room weekly (or as required)
- Katherine House Hospice – twice monthly at present.
- MIND – Charity. 2 x weekly meeting point for community group.
- Home Education – weekly sessions for parents and children.
- Richmond Fellowship – weekly initially. Support for unemployed adults with mental health issues.

Hire charges have been set at affordable prices based on a comparison with similar facilities in the immediate area. This will be reviewed in the new financial year once a core group of users/contacts is established.

To date from December 2017 to March 2018, the forecast hire income is £1,300.

Interested groups are still contacting us with reference to hiring the facility. Future confirmed bookings include a Counselling Foundation Training group for April – May 2018. Enquires have been received by a Counsellor to use a 1-1 room and a film production company for young people using the building for their project.

d. Satellite Projects

The youth work delivery at Sandhills, based at Astral Park, has been reviewed and TACTIC will be starting the Girls Awareness Project (GAP) for 11-13yr olds looking at topics such as peer pressure, bullying, risky behaviour, confidence, self-esteem and healthy lifestyles. This commences on 21st February.

TACTIC has met with Aldwyck Housing Association who said they do not have any staff resources to support us with a future project at this time. Therefore TACTIC youth workers will seek to set up a TACTIC Action Group (TAG) and gather ideas from local young people on what activities they would like to be involved in. A survey will be circulated later in April to gather ideas. This would work similarly to a youth forum but with a Sandhills focus.

The TACTIC additional needs group (TANG) continue to meet weekly at Mentmore Pavilion with varied activities taking place using arts and games, e.g. homemade ice cream made scientifically. The group has a regular group of 8-10 young people and 2 volunteers.

e. Agencies

TACTIC has the following specialist agencies onsite offering their service and using TACTIC as a key town centre base for young people. During December 2017 and January 2018, 36 appointments were held in the centre. The centre was closed over the Christmas holiday period:

- **4YP** (contracted by Central Bedfordshire Council) offer specialist careers, employment and training advice on a weekly basis at TACTIC. **10** appointments for those who are not in education, training or employment (NEET) were supported.
- **Relate** (Provide the 'Talk Time' youth counselling services) and **14** appointments were held. Our waiting list has increased recently due to the increased awareness of mental health issues amongst families and those seeking support, as well as recent incidents in the town.
- **Brook** (the young person's specialist sexual health service) could not provide us with a nurse over this period due to sickness.
- **Work Club** run by TACTIC in partnership with Amicus Trust for 16-21yr olds (NEET's) had **6** young people supported.
- **Other** appointments included **2** CAMH, **2** Plan B and **2** other.

f. Individual support

During December and January 30 young people were engaged in one-to-one work with the TACTIC Youth Workers giving advice & support. The order of most presenting issues were Family, Mental Health, Jobs, School and Relationships. Incoming referrals over the two months requiring more intensive work, 129 young people were supported. 15 of these were referrals received to TACTIC and 13 were directly from parents with 2 others were from other professionals.

TACTIC were invited to both upper schools in early February to discuss support services available for teenagers with parents and we have seen an increase of parents contacting us for mentoring or counselling support for varies reasons.

g. Staff Update

We have recruited to a part-time (7hrs) administrator post at TACTIC to support the Centre Manager. This new member of staff will start in post on 8th March. The role will be to support the Youth Promise grant and general admin/statistical information required at the centre.

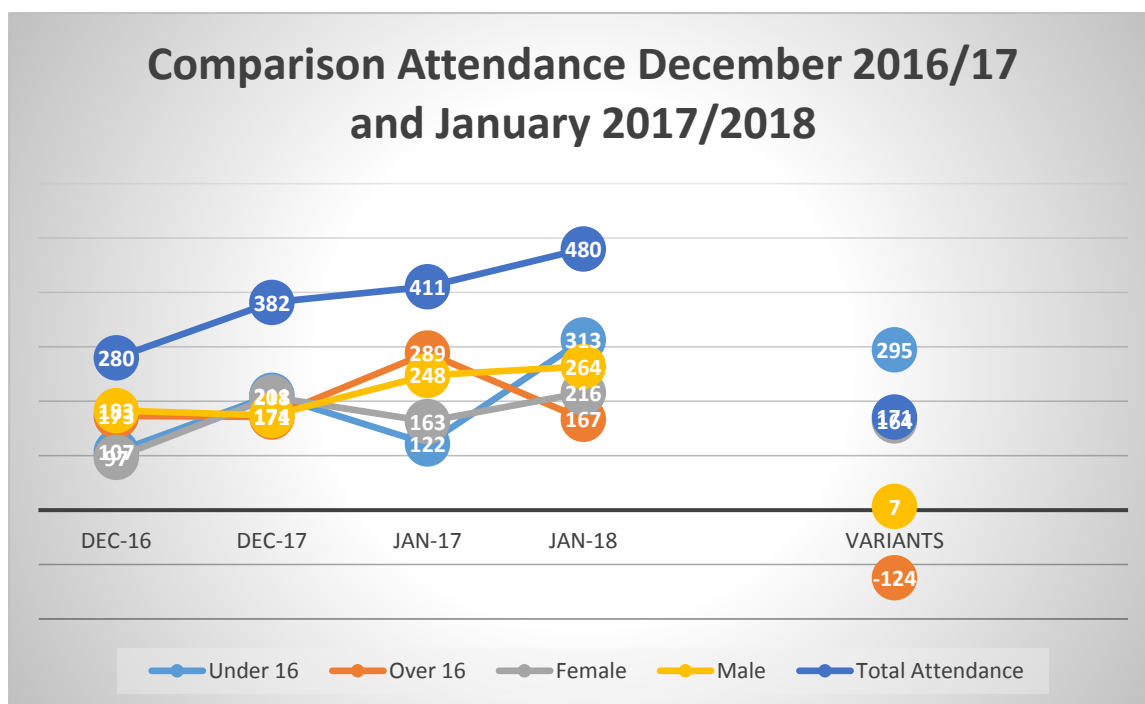
We are also recruiting to a part-time (8hrs) Youth Support Worker post. When writing the report interviews were due to take place.

The staff team have had training or are undergoing training on the following topics: Attachment issues, Sexual identity awareness, Social media and updated on Safeguarding training requirements.

h. Attendance

Attendance/contact comparisons for this period in the previous period i.e. December 2016/2017 and January to January 2017 and 2018 can be seen in the below graph. This graph shows an increase of 295 in under 16yr olds attending and a decrease of 124 in over 16's, and an increase of 171 in attendance overall.

The change of trend over the past 12 months has also seen an increase of 164 girls attending the centre with boy's attendance remaining the same.



i. Forthcoming Projects :

- Half-term and Easter Holiday projects
- GAP Girls awareness
- TAG – action group
- Easter Play scheme

END