

Cultural & Economic Services Committee

Date: 7 December 2020

Title: TACTIC service update

Purpose of the Report: To update members of work at TACTIC in August, September, October 2020

Contact Officer: Linda Farmer, TACTIC Centre Manager

Corporate Objective/s	VIBRANCY AND VITALITY OF TOWN AND TOWN CENTRE 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.	
Implications:		
Financial	Yes	Spend of earmarked (970/9020) reserves to fund the CHUMS service
Human Resources		
Operational/Service delivery	Yes	General Update
Procedural/Legal		
Risk/Health and Safety		

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

Should Members be minded, the recommendations are:

- 1.2** To endorse that a total of £4,719.60 be allocated from TACTIC earmarked reserves to commission CHUMS to deliver the Talk-space Wellbeing Service in 2021/22, and that it is split into £3,855.60 from 970/9020 and £864 from 970/9049, as per para. 5.2.
- 1.3** To carry forward unused funds from budget line 104/4100 (maintenance) into earmarked reserves to facilitate future building repairs and maintenance, as per para 8.1.
- 1.4** To carry forward unused funds from budget line 104/4014 (projects) to assist with project work delivery in 2021/22, as per para 3.4

2 WORK DELIVERY UPDATES FOR AUGUST, SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER 2020

- 2.1** General Youth Work - The list below shows the themes of work undertaken in quarter 2:

- Tang Group (TACTIC Additional Needs Group)
- Young Persons Drop In -
- Youth Forum
- Basketball
- Outreach
- Mentoring
- Older Persons Christmas Hampers
- Schools Offer
- Volunteer Training
- Young Peoples Awards
- Work Club
- National Youth Work Week Campaign

2.2 Key Project Work:

2.2.1 Outreach Sessions:

Staff continued to deliver sessions during September and were able to continue delivering support to the young people whilst TACTIC was closed.

2.2.2 Drop-In sessions:

TACTIC have phased back in their weekly youth drop-ins for the young people, and whilst strict COVID-19 rules and measures are in place, it is pleasing to see some of the most vulnerable young people attending. Numbers are restricted to 10 (with staff) but has proven to be successful to date allowing staff to maintain support and contact with the group. Sessions ran for 6 weeks but are now suspended due to the second COVID-19 lockdown.

2.2.3 Youth Forum / National Youth Work Week:

Young people were supported to work together with Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) Youth workers to run their campaign celebrating National Youth work week. This year's theme was 'Ambitious for Youth Work', and the group put together various video and photo messages that were posted on Social Media Platforms throughout Youth Work week - 2nd to 8th November

2.2.4 Youth Awards:

Together with the Grants Sub Committee, Staff are supporting the delivery of awards for young people who are nominated for either of the following criteria:

- Personal Achievement,
- Overcoming Barriers.

Closing date for nominations is 30th November and winners will be chosen by Committee panel and awards presented in early December. (date to be confirmed)

2.2.5 Older Persons Christmas Hampers:

Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 we are unable to deliver the annual Older Persons Christmas Lunch. However, to ensure we reach out to these residents, we are preparing Christmas Hampers to be doorstep delivered to their homes in December. It is anticipated 50 hampers will be dispatched. This is being supported by local supermarkets, Morrison's, Co-op and Waitrose.

3. SATELLITE PROJECTS

3.1 Basketball

Having been postponed due to COVID-19, basketball resumed in September and continued through until November. Due to dark evenings and being unable to secure indoor venue until next year, the sessions have now stopped for the winter months. It was pleasing to see the regular group come back and join us after such a long break.

3.2 TANG (TACTIC Additional Needs Group)

We re-opened in September following the recent COVID-19 restrictions, and all the regular members are now attending. Sessions are run in a socially distant manner with all necessary measures in place. The group remains open during this second lockdown as a supportive service.

3.3 Box Release:

Due to Covid-19 the project that was due to start in April 2020 had to be postponed. However, the budget for this of £2,139.20 (410/4401) , earmarked from Operation Dodford, is still in place and it is hoped to commence this project in the new year depending on Government guidelines. Prior to lockdown some of the budget was used for start-up resources to support the activity (£707.78) however, the remainder is still available for delivery of the project. (£1,431.42).

3.4 It is requested that current underspend of project money be carried over to next year's budget to enable TACTIC to provide more quality activities in 2021, that otherwise would not be possible within the usual budget allocation. For example, projects such as Box Release and Basketball were reliant on additional funding in order to proceed, so it is proposed this money be carried over to fund projects such as this in 2021.

4. SCHOOLS OFFER

4.1 Due to the lockdown a vast amount of school workshop delivery was postponed. We are now back up and running in some of the schools including Cedars, Vandyke, Brooklands, and Gilbert Inglefield. A variety of workshops have been requested by the schools to cover subjects such as, Protective Behaviours, Healthy Relationships and in particular Anxiety. Delivery has commenced and schools are happy for youth workers to attend during second lockdown as a supportive service.

5. MENTORING AND ONE TO ONE SUPPORT

5.1 Throughout lockdown staff continued to provide 1-1 support to young people via telephone. Now the centre has reopened we are able to meet the young people within the TACTIC centre for socially distanced face to face sessions. In addition, we have been called back into the schools to support students on a 1-1 basis. Many of the issues identified are around anxiety and how they

have coped during lockdown. Currently staff are working with 16 cases each week.

- 5.2 Due to Covid-19 restrictions the commissioned Talk-Space service ceased to operate. This created a saving in the original allocated earmarked reserves budget of £662.40. Anticipating the ongoing and future need for the service, it is recommended to allocate TACTIC earmarked reserves to the sum of £4,719.60 to commission the work in 2021/22 (split into £3,855.60 from 970/9020 and £864 from 970/9049). A new service agreement will be entered into for this period. Whilst the requested amount is for the academic year of 39 weeks, it is proposed that the service will be reviewed and commissioned on a monthly basis.

6. TRAINING

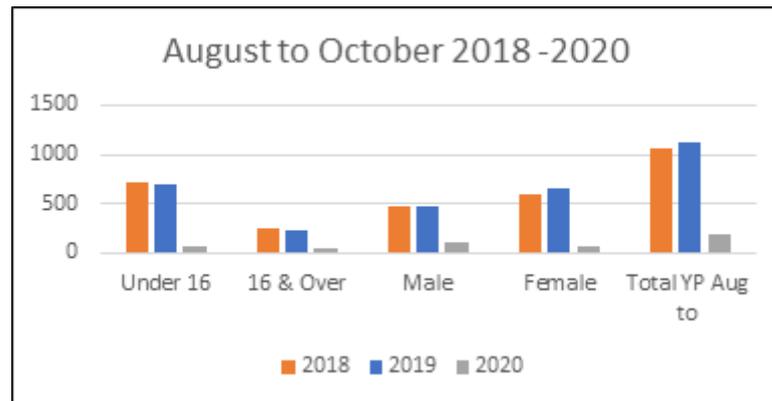
- 6.1 Staff are working together with MENCAP to deliver training to their newly recruited volunteer young people. Up to 9 young people attended training over 3 sessions to enable them to understand the roles and responsibilities of a young volunteer. It is planned to follow this up with First Aid training in the new year.
- 6.2 TACTIC Staff are receiving 4 sessions of inhouse refresher training including Professional Boundaries, Data Protection and County Lines.
- 6.3 Following on from the Black Lives Matter National Campaign, Staff have attended 3 sessions of Equality and Diversity Training. These sessions were designed to focus on the wider subject of Diversity and to allow staff to reinforce and refresh themselves on the subject.
- 6.3 Alongside the above training, TACTIC delivered a thought-provoking window display for Black History Month incorporating discussion points on Black Lives Matter. TACTIC received several communications thanking the service for the display. An example of which is shared below:

"I would just like to say that I was really pleased to see black history month being showcased by TACTIC. Every weekend I walk with my daughter into town to the market and we always look in the windows of shops, etc., as we go by. And just having this little educational stop on the way was really beneficial. It got us talking about a lot of things I think I wouldn't have otherwise known about in terms of the history of Leighton Buzzard and the contributions from a lesser known part of society. My daughter was also really interested in how other kids feel growing up and feeling/being treated differently. Anyways, wanted to say well done for that and look forward to more conversation starters from the TACTIC windows!"

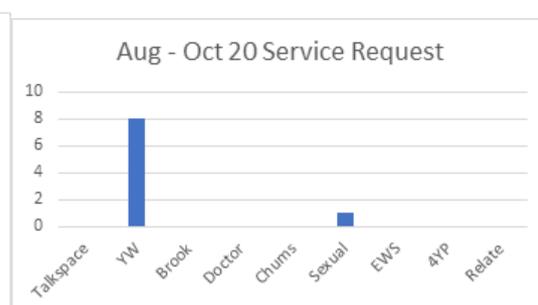
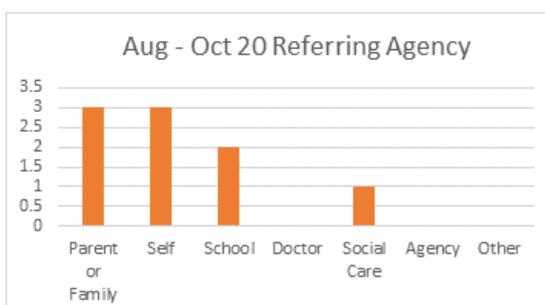
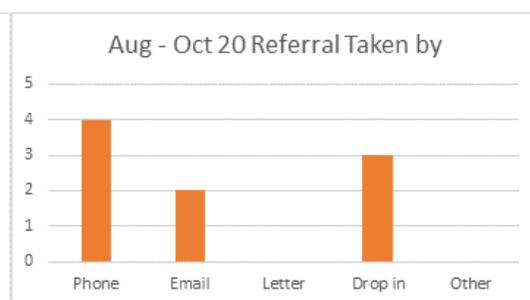
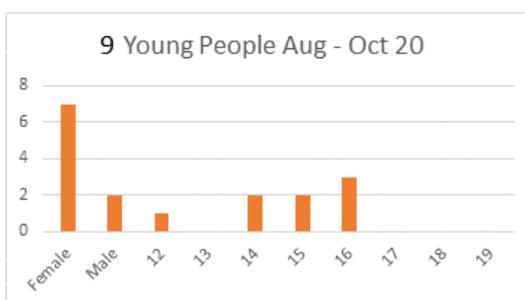
7. ATTENDANCE STATISTICS

- 7.1 Figures for this quarter remain low due to Covid-19 restrictions with activity resuming from September 2020. Activity has again been impacted upon by the second November lockdown.

7.2 Attendance during September and October increased slightly due to restrictions being eased and Drop-In session resuming with limited numbers. The recent one to one figures remained steady during lockdown with telephone consultations taking place. Once TACTIC was able to resume face to face sessions, attendance increased with currently 16 young people receiving support. Most of the requests for support relate to anxiety issues, particularly around COVID-19 and the lockdowns, others were around relationships and family.



Aug - Oct 18-20	2018	2019	2020
Under 16	708	705	73
16 & Over	256	228	39
Male	475	468	104
Female	598	656	74
Total YP	1073	1125	194



7.3 School work is slowly increasing with workshops planned for the coming months up until Christmas. Both Cedars and Vandyke have requested support with small groups of students around protective behaviours and Anxiety related issues.

8. TACTIC BUILDING

8.1 During this year staff took the opportunity to decorate the interior. Over the coming months the roof of the toilet block will receive some attention to remove moss and ensure sufficient drainage. Given the age of the building and the need to upkeep it, it would be prudent to ensure sufficient funds are in place for larger upgrades and repairs. For this reason, it is proposed to carry forward underspend of the maintenance (104/4100) budget into earmarked reserves.

9. CONCLUSION

9.1 As with all Council services, the TACTIC experienced disruption causing young people to lose a regular source of face to face support. Staff have supported council-wide services during lock down whilst maintaining ongoing contact with peers and vulnerable young people known to them.

9.2 During 2020, the commissioned Talk-Space service ceased to operate. This created a saving in the original allocated earmarked reserves budget of £662.40. Anticipating the ongoing and future need for the service, it is recommended to once again reserve funds from TACTIC earmarked reserves to the sum of £4,719.60 to commission the work in 2021/22. A new service agreement will be entered into for this period.

9.3 Future Project Work over the coming months include:

- Basketball satellite sport project at Pages Park/ Brooklands School
- TANG (TACTIC Additional Needs Group)
- Youth Work Week (November 2020)
- Christmas Hampers doorstep dropped for 'older' residents
- Volunteer training
- Return of Youth Drop in
- Work Club support project

END