



Date: 23rd August 2021

Title: TACTIC

Purpose of the Report:

To note the report

Contact Officer:

Linda Farmer – TACTIC Centre Manager

Corporate Objective/s	LLTC Five Year Plan – 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	Within existing budget
Human Resources		
Operational/Service delivery	Yes	Work delivery
Procedural/Legal		
Risk/Health and Safety		
Environmental Aims		

1 RECOMMENDATION/S

Should members be minded, the proposal is:

1.1 To note the report

2 GENERAL YOUTH WORK UPDATES, APRIL – JULY 2021

2.1 Committee was unable to convene for its June meeting. The service updates originally drafted for that meeting are **attached** at Appendix A, to serve as background to progression of activities.

2.2 Tang Group (Tactic Additional Needs Group)

This group has continued throughout most of the pandemic and now has 2 new

members. The young people attended trips over the summer break to Tring Museum and Rushmere Park. The group also took part in this year's carnival working with the Centre for Carnival Arts UK based in Luton, which links to Council's Black History Month activity. The group portrayed characters such as Tom and Jerry and Mary Poppins in keeping with the Carnival theme and won first prize in the children's section. This secured a £50 prize which has been invested in the group's activities.

2.3 Young Persons Drop In

Covid continued to impact on young people attending the drop in. Due to restrictions on numbers of people allowed within the centre, attendance has been sporadic and much lower than normal. Staff will again reach out to the young people in September at school assemblies to rebuild the attendance. Sessions are currently running Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 3:30 – 6:00pm.

2.4 We Are Youth (Youth Forum)

This activity has now been revamped and renamed (as above), following the natural departure of previous members who have moved onto college and university. The purpose of the group is to provide young people with the opportunity to express their views, make changes in their community and take responsibility for decisions that affect their lives. 5 new young people are now actively working within the group and are planning an art project to introduce themselves and the group to their peers.

2.5 Mentoring

A vast increase in referrals have been received, with current numbers for open cases at 24, (at the time of writing), and a waiting list of 12. Referrals come from schools, parents, young people, Doctor's surgeries, and CAMS. Issues affecting the young people are anxiety, panic attacks, low self-esteem, family problems and relationships. Since Covid-19 began we have seen a 50% increase in numbers of referrals being received.

2.6 Schools Offer

As part of the schools offer TACTIC has been commissioned by Leighton Middle School to provide 3-hours per week to the students for mentoring purposes. This will commence in September and will last for 39 weeks during term time.

2.7 Garden Project

As part of the summer programme TACTIC started a major overhaul and revamp of the garden area. This is being supported by funding and gift donations received from young people, parents, Morrisons and a local business called 'On the Level'. Young people have been active in helping design and deliver this work. A new storage unit has been purchased and the old shed taken down, fences painted, flowers planted, BBQ area, upcycling of pallets to make garden furniture, mosaic art to paving slabs and repainted picnic bench and garden seating. A celebratory BBQ opening day took place on 1st September.

2.8 Youth Survey

TACTIC is working with the Partnership Committee's Community Forum contact creating a survey targeting young people aged 12- 16yrs. The focus is on youth

provision, e.g., parks, facilities for young people, etc., rather than issues that neither the Town nor unitary authority can respond to. Informal discussions with other community groups, and the police are taking place. It is planned for the survey to be delivered face to face with community groups and in schools as well as online. Partnership Committee's budget is funding this work.

2.9 Building Hire

Requests for building hire are now coming back in, and general promotion of the facilities has restarted. This will generate income as per our income targets and building usage as well as familiarity with the facility over the coming months.

2.10 AQA accreditation

TACTIC is in the process of re-registering for the AQA young people's awarding body. Two staff members will undertake coordinator's training in October. The Award Scheme is a unique recording of achievement, rather than a qualification. It offers learners the opportunity to have their achievements formally recognised with a certificate each time a short unit of learning is successfully completed. Certificates will go towards the student's school record of achievements.

2.11 Summer programme

A 5-week programme was produced giving the young people opportunities to join in activities both centre-based and within the parks. A weekly tables tennis tournament in the park was delivered. This utilised the table tennis tables that previous youth survey work identified a desire for. The programme was slightly reduced this year as it was planned with Covid-19 sensitivities in mind.

3 ONE-TO-ONE WORK

3.1 Incorporated into TACTIC's core service offer is one-to-one support/mentoring. The demand in requests for this work is witness to TACTIC's success rate in delivering positive outcomes. In this quarter a total of 38 young people have benefited from a combined total of over 178.5 support hours. The two tables below provide a record of the related subject matters and recipient data.

a. Referral pathway and presenting issues:

Family	Relationships	Mental Health	General Health	Jobs	School	College	Other
9	8	26	3	1	19	2	8

b. age & gender breakdown

		Age						
M	F	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
12	26	1	10	5	6	7	6	3

4 STAFFING

4.1 TACTIC currently has one full time staff member on maternity leave until June 2022. Two part time staff members decided to leave the service for reasons of career development, etc. At the time of writing, one vacancy was being advertised with a closing date of end of August.

5 ANNUAL WORKPLAN

5.1 The annual workplan is **attached** at Appendix B. In reviewing the annual work plan, officers have identified the need to make some adjustments to delivery activity in order to ensure current needs of young people can be met.

5.2 Open drop-in sessions are offered as a diversionary activity to help reduce anti-social behaviour and are tailored to providing a safe space of activities for young people after school. There is an increase amongst young people in social anxiety as we continue to come out of Covid-19 circumstances. This has led to an increase in demand for 1:1 support and mentoring has increased dramatically. To meet current service demands, a reduction to 3 drop-in sessions a week has been instigated thus allowing staff adequate time to deliver one-to-one support both within schools and within TACTIC.

5.3 Satellite activities such as TANG continue. Once staff have been recruited it is intended to again continue with the Box Release project towards reducing anti-social behaviour.

5.4 Schools Offer continues to be in demand and it is anticipated that workshops will commence with the return to school in September.

5.5 As detailed in the plan, it I proposed to reinstate the CHUMS Wellbeing Service at TACTIC. Meetings have been held and staff are currently waiting on costings from CHUMS to see if this can be actioned. Earmarked reserves were allocated for this service prior to COVID, (meeting references - Ref. 71/CE and Ref 108/Council). It is proposed to offer this service for 3 hours per week to meet demand.

6. CONCLUSION

6.1 The pandemic has had an impact on service delivery and changed the current demand for support with the young people of Leighton Buzzard and Linslade. Due to lockdowns and isolation, there has been a general drop in attendance of drop-in sessions. In contrary to this there has been a sharp dramatic rise in demand for one-to-one support.

6.2 With some normality returning to people's lives and our working days, the next quarter will focus on promoting the centre to increase take-up of the drop-in service

and building young people's confidence to enter the TACTIC building again. There will also be an emphasis on delivering school workshops and key project awareness raising work as is part of the youth work remit.

End