
CULTURAL AND ECONOMIC SERVICES COMMITTEE (14TH JUNE 2021)

2 WORK DELIVERY UPDATES FOR FEBRUARY, MARCH AND APRIL 2021

2.1 General Youth Work.

2.1.2 The list below shows the themes of work undertaken in quarter two.

- a) Tang Group (TACTIC Additional Needs Group)
- b) Young Person's Drop In
- c) Youth Forum
- d) Mentoring
- e) Schools Offer
- f) Garden Project
- g) Carnival

2.2 Key Project Work:

2.2.1 Drop-In sessions

Sessions were reinstated in February due to relaxing of COVID-19 restrictions. These remain active with 3 sessions per week and restricted numbers. Attendance has been low and sporadic with some of the regular members not attending due to exam pressures. A small group of vulnerable young people have remained and continue to do so.

It is planned to relaunch the sessions in September pending government amendments to current restrictions. This will consist of 2x sessions for the 12–14 age group, and one for young people aged 15–19. The aim of dividing the ages is to see if it will encourage some of the younger aged young people to attend. Facilitating this is particularly relevant during their transition from middle to upper school. Sessions will be promoted through schools and social media.

2.2.2 Youth Forum

TACTIC is currently recruiting for new members of the group and will relaunch under the name of 'We Are Youth'. To date we have three young people ready to join. More promotion activity is taking place within the schools. The aim is to have this group up and running by September.

2.2.3 Garden Project

This project was planned for last year, but due to COVID was put on hold. Now with easing of restrictions, TACTIC is working with 6 young people on redesigning the garden area. This includes replanting of flowers, cutting back

of existing shrubs, demolishing old shed and replacing with storage unit, stencilling of paving, painting of fencing and upcycling of pallets to create seating area. It is planned for this to continue over the summer holidays with a launch day in August.

2.2.4 Carnival Project

Staff are working alongside the Luton based UK Centre for Carnival Arts (UKCCA) to deliver costume workshops in readiness for TACTIC young people's attendance at the Leighton-Linslade Carnival procession on 10th July 2021. TANG (TACTIC Additional Needs Group), members are being tasked with making headdresses and costumes for them to wear when joining the procession through the town.

This work links directly into Committee's wish to celebrate and raise awareness of diversity as per Council's publication of its revised Equality statement. The approach uses a shared theme of work, Carnival, to explore how different cultures celebrate and in doing so, creates a shared experience.

2.2.5 Summer Programme

Staff have begun planning activity to run a summer programme this year whilst keeping some restrictions on sessions due to the uncertainty of whether COVID restrictions will ease. It is also planned to run the usual drop-in service for two sessions per week with a regular themed activity every Wednesday. Themes are yet to be determined.

2.2.6 Youth Survey:

TACTIC is supporting the Partnership Committee's Community Forum's work in delivering a Youth Survey. The agreed theme for the survey is focused on the 'youth provision' in the area. This translates to include service provision as well as community placed infrastructure in parks, etc. Partnership Committee is interested in gathering information that the Town and Central Bedfordshire Councils can directly respond to. At the time of writing, questions are being finalised. The survey will take place in September 2021.

3 SATELLITE PROJECTS

3.1 TANG (Teenagers with Additional Needs Group)

TANG has continued during the latest lockdown period as a support service for vulnerable young people and continues as normal. Sessions have moved back to Linslade Memorial Pavilion with full attendance from its members. The group is currently working on making costumes and Headdresses for the Carnival.

4 SCHOOLS OFFER

4.1 Whilst staff have been actively working within schools delivering 1:1 support, workshops have been paused due to COVID restrictions. Staff have taken this

opportunity to update all the current delivery programmes and add new ones where required. One school has requested a workshop on suicide due to some recent issues, and others are still requesting support around anxiety, eating disorders and self-harm due to current themes. It is planned to reintroduce workshops within the schools from September 2021.

- 4.2 As part of the Schools Offer, TACTIC have been successful in securing regular, weekly mentoring sessions within Leighton Middle school. This will consist of staff attending for three hours per week, at regular allocated times, during the school term of 39 weeks. This will bring in an income of around £2340.00 per annum.

5 MENTORING AND ONE TO ONE SUPPORT

- 5.1 This area of work has taken a very different work angle in terms of requests for 1:1 support. The demand for this service has become a huge focus for TACTIC in terms of delivery hours. Referrals are coming in from schools, parents, self-referrals from young people, CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services), and increasingly from Doctor's surgeries.

The ongoing theme for support is around anxiety, Panic attacks, self-esteem, and relationships. To date TACTIC has 27 open cases, and a further 12 cases on a waiting list. As above, (para. 4.2) TACTIC has secured regular mentoring sessions in Leighton Middle school from September.

6. VOLUNTEER TRAINING

- 6.1 TACTIC is linking up with 'High Fives' group to deliver training to young people volunteers for both TACTIC and High Fives. The training will run over 3 days during May and June 2021, and will consist of an introduction to volunteering, key skills, building resilience, health and safety and basic safeguarding.

To date 11 young people have signed up to the session. Should more young people want to get involved then a further session will be arranged.

7. ATTENDANCE STATISTICS

- 7.1 Figures for this quarter remain low due to Covid-19 restrictions and closure of general drop-in sessions although to date the 1:1 work remains steady as per above. 1:1s are given on a face-to-face basis when possible as well as by telephone. Demand for the service continues to increase.

Feb to Apr	2019	2020	2021
Under 16	1080	784	46
16 & over	356	219	36
Male	747	515	48
Female	689	488	34
Total for Feb to Apr	1437	1003	82

7.2 School workshops are pending at present due to the latest lockdown; it is planned to promote these with the schools once they have returned to normal attendance.

8. TACTIC BUILDING

8.1 In response to Council's Environmental Aims, work was completed in April 2021 to convert the centre lights to LED energy saving lights.

9. DONATIONS

9.1 TACTIC has been fortunate to receive pleasing feedback from schools, parents, and young people for its service provision which has been shared with Members through the weekly Councillor newsletter. Thanks for the service has translated into financial donations. A total of £470 has been donated from thankful parents and businesses. The break down is shown below:

- 1) £200 from a former Youth Forum Member and centre user in thanks for support over the years of her attendance.
- 2) £200 from local business, 'On the Level', for TACTIC's support for young people.
- 3) £70 from a thankful parent whose child received 1:1 support and has now successfully qualified for university.

The funds are being invested into activities for the young people, e.g., the garden project. This is a place for 1:1 conversation, therapeutic gardening activity, activity space, etc.

10 STAFFING

10.1 A member of staff will commence maternity leave in mid-June. It is not planned to recruit maternity cover. Overtime will be made available to staff and workload will be monitored. Should additional support be required, it is proposed to use agency staff.

11. CONCLUSION

11.1 TACTIC continues to experience Covid related ongoing disruption which is causing young people to lose a regular source of face-to-face support. However, staff have continued to offer support to the most vulnerable young people with socially distanced 1:1 session. Staff also continue to support vulnerable young people through school visits.

11.2. Future project work over the coming months is listed below.

- a) TANG (TACTIC Additional Needs Group).
- b) Volunteer training.
- c) Relaunch of Youth Drop in.
- d) Youth Volunteer recruitment and relaunch.
- e) Mentoring.
- f) School workshops.
- g) Garden Project.
- h) Summer programme.
- i) Carnival.

END.