



**Date:** 24<sup>th</sup> November 2021

**Title:** TACTIC work update

**Purpose of the Report:**

To provide a service update to Committee

**Contact Officer:**

Linda Farmer, TACTIC Centre Manager

<b>Corporate Objective/s</b>	Strategic objective, No. 19:
<b>Implications:</b>	
<b>Financial</b>	Allocation of earmarked reserves
<b>Human Resources</b>	
<b>Operational/Service delivery</b>	
<b>Procedural/Legal</b>	
<b>Risk/Health and Safety</b>	
<b>Environmental Aims</b>	

## 1 RECOMMENDATION/S

**Should members be minded, the proposal is:**

- 1.1 To reverse the decision (Ref: 73/CE) to allocate £4,719.60 (970/9020 & 970/9049), from earmarked reserves for contracted wellbeing services.

## 2 WORK DELIVERY UPDATES AUGUST 2021 – NOVEMBER 2021

### 2.1 **Tang Group (TACTIC Additional Needs Group)**

TANG has welcomed 2 new members to the group bringing total attendance per week to 10 young people. Summer trips saw them enjoy a trip to Rushmere Park and a further one to Tring Museum. Some members of the group also helped with the refurbish of the garden project, weeding and planting flowers.

### 2.2 **Young Persons Drop In**

Numbers for drop in are slowly increasing and it is envisaged these will continue to grow during the cold and dark winter months. As an incentive to sign up to

drop in, a free cheese toastie is offered to any new members. These can then be bought afterwards for 50p. Following feedback from the young people themed sessions are being planned for the next quarter to include arts, crafts, film nights and quiz nights.

### 2.3 **We Are Youth (Youth Forum)**

This group is going from strength to strength and its 7 members are key in developing the way forward with the group. The young people all attended a training session (para 2.14), to support and increase their volunteering skills. The young people ran a 3-day arts project during October half term and experimented with String Art, Bubble Art, CD upcycling and Canvas printing.

### 2.4 **Mentoring**

Referrals continue to come in from a variety of sources, the main ones being parents and schools. Between July and end of October 2021 a total of 25 referrals have been received. To date we have 22 open cases and 15 on a waiting list. Issues continue to highlight the need for support with anxiety and anti-social behaviour. A further theme that is becoming apparent is gender identity.

Requests for support have also come in from several middle schools with young people aged 10 requiring additional help, these are being signposted to Chums and CAMS due to this age falling outside of TACTIC's remit, however waiting lists for these services are 6 months plus.

### 2.5 **Schools Offer**

The commissioned Mentoring sessions in Leighton Middle school are going well with schools confirming they have seen some pleasing results to date.

TACTIC staff have been delivering workshops to the students of Linslade Middle School following a request from the school for support with year 6 and 7. As a pilot scheme to see how this can be supported, TACTIC delivered workshops on both digital safeguarding and generalised anxiety. The students were handpicked by the school and a total of 10 attended digital safeguarding and a further 11 attended the anxiety group. Each topic was delivered over 4 weeks allowing adequate time for learning to take place.

### 2.6 **School Assemblies**

TACTIC has been out and about in all the local Middle and Upper Schools delivering assemblies to promote the service. To date 8 assemblies have been completed with 2 more arranged for December.

### 2.7 **Garden Project**

The Garden Project took place over 5 weeks of the summer programme and is now fully refurbished offering a much more pleasing place for young people and potential building hirers to enjoy. Young people helped with weeding, planting and some painting over the sessions, and supported the launch of the project with a barbeque open day on 1<sup>st</sup> September, which was attended by Counsellors, Town Mayor, Town Clerk, representatives from the police and various other

supporting staff.

## 2.8 **Community Forum Youth Survey**

TACTIC has assisted the Leighton-Linslade Youth Partnership's Community Forum to undertake young people's survey. The survey focussed on current youth provision. The survey was distributed via the online SurveyMonkey and went live from September to end of October and an additional face-to-face session held at The Dine Yard in Leighton Buzzard offering young people a free milkshake if they completed the survey. 76 young people attended The Dine Yard. A total of 149 responses were received. The survey creation and delivery was supported by officers from Groundworks East, Central Bedfordshire Council, Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity and Uniform groups of the area.

Committee will be considering the results in a separate agenda item.

## 2.9 **Building Hire**

NOAH Enterprise has now booked sessions up until end of March 2022, using the building 2 days per week offering job clubs and IT training for members of the public

## 2.10 **AQA Accreditation**

TACTIC is now fully registered with this awarding body. TACTIC now has a registered coordinator who can support young people with getting an accreditation on a variety of activities.

## 2.11 **BOOST Project**

This initiative commenced in September following the realisation that several 1-1 mentoring referrals all have similar issues. BOOST is a small group session looking at developing skills around self-esteem and confidence and introducing like-minded young people to each other developing peer support networks.

## 2.12 **Central Bedfordshire College (Dunstable) Wellbeing Fayre**

Staff attended the Dunstable site in September as part of a networking event promoting services offered to young people in terms of their health and general wellbeing.

TACTIC was subsequently approached by the college to deliver workshops to students on a variety of issues. A large percentage of the students come from Leighton Buzzard or surrounding villages. At the time of writing this report, discussion is taking place on the themes for work and delivery costs with an aim to confirm a delivery start date.

## 2.13 **Volunteer Training**

Over the summer TACTIC delivered 2 training sessions to The WAY (We Are Youth) group and the local High Fives volunteers, highlighting the role of the volunteer and the practicalities around health and safety and data protection. 9 young people participated in the sessions.

## 2.14 Staffing

TACTIC has recently undertaken recruited for 2 part time vacant posts: Youth Support Workers. One staff member commenced work in September however the second has now withdrawn for health reasons. The recruitment for the vacant post will need to be repeated. TACTIC currently has one full time staff member on Maternity Leave until June 2022.

2.15 The updated annual workplan for 2021/22 can be reviewed at [Appendix A \(attached\)](#).

## 3 ATTENDANCE DATA

3.1 The following tables present attendance figures and data:

### a) Attendance statistics

Aug - Oct 19-21			
	2019	2020	2021
<b>Under 16</b>	880	139	<b>1129</b>
<b>16 &amp; Over</b>	228	39	<b>184</b>
<b>Male</b>	468	104	<b>650</b>
<b>Female</b>	656	74	<b>676</b>
<b>Total YP Aug to Oct</b>	1125	194	<b>1328</b>

### b) Referrals received

Total	M	F	Age				
			12	13	14	15	16
24	11	13	5	7	5	5	2

Referral taken by		Referring agency						Request for
phone	email	family	self	school	doctor	social care	agency	mentor
6	18	6	2	12	2	1	1	24

### c) One to one statistics

<b>No. of YP</b>	38
<b>Total Hours</b>	133.5

		Age										
M	F	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	21
11	17	1	1	7	8	3	4	1	3	0	0	0

Family	Relationships	Mental Health	General Health	Jobs	School	College	Other
10	5	35	1	0	17	1	8

#### 4 TALK-SPACE WELLBEING SERVICE

- 4.1 Committee endorsed the proposal to use earmarked reserves of £4,719.60 (970/9020 & 970/9049), to continue receiving a contracted counselling service for the year 2021/22 from CHUMS (Ref: 73/CE).
- 4.2 The interruption to services that Covid-19 restrictions had an impact on CHUMS' ability to provide services and this issue has continued into the current year with TACTIC not able to secure confirmation on service delivery. CHUMS now appear reluctant to continue the service due to other work pressures.
- 4.3 At present TACTIC is fortunate to have a fully qualified BACP Counsellor on site for 2 hours per week, as part of a placement opportunity which means it is being delivered on a voluntary basis. Safeguarding checks were carried out and prior to the Counsellor starting. The Counsellor sees 2 young people per week who have been identified by the Centre Manager needing more in-depth therapeutic interventions that TACTIC would normally be unable to deliver.
- 4.4 As per SO7 there is sufficient reason and passing of time for Committee to consider reversing its decision (Ref: 73/CE) to allocate the budget from earmarked reserves of £4,719.60 (970/9020 & 970/9049) to fund CHUMS.

#### 5 CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 A return to normality activity post-pandemic restrictions remains a slow journey. The impact of the pandemic continues to influence service users and activities. Lockdown saw the numbers for drop-in reduce with previous members moving onto College, University, or employment. The sessions are now picking up with a new cohort of young people to support. Building hire is also slowly picking up with some restrictions still in place.
- 5.2 TACTIC will continue to focus on increasing service uptake numbers and once a full complement of staff is in place will endeavour to introduce satellite projects in 2022.
- 5.3 The delivery of mentoring and workshops through the Schools Offer work theme remain a key priority of the future.

End