



Cultural and Economic Services Committee

Date: 14th March 2022

Title: TACTIC

Purpose of the Report:

To note the report

Contact Officer:

Linda Farmer – TACTIC Centre Manager

Corporate Objective/s	Strategic objective, No.19:
Implications:	
Financial	Within existing budgets. Recommendation to request for use of Dodford funding. Recommendation to carry forward unspent funds.
Human Resources	
Operational/Service delivery	Endorse draft annual work plan for 2022/23
Procedural/Legal	
Risk/Health and Safety	
Environmental Aims	

1 RECOMMENDATIONS

Should members be Minded, the recommendations are:

- 1.1 To note the report
- 1.2 To endorse the annual workplan for 2022/23.
- 1.3 To recommend to the Community Safety Sub-Committee to consider the allocation of £3,880 from Operation Dodford budget to facilitate the delivery of Schools Offer workshops to support prevention activity, and for this funded work to commence in September 2022.
- 1.4 To endorse that remaining unused funds from budget lines 104/4014 (projects) and 104/4300 (equipment) be carried forward into earmarked reserve 970/9020 – TACTIC.

2 ANNUAL WORK PLAN

- 2.1 The annual workplan for 2021/22 is attached at **Appendix A**. Progress has been fair considering the interruptions caused by the pandemic and staffing.
- 2.2 The draft delivery plan for April 2022 to March 2023 is attached at **Appendix B**. The plan outlines TACTIC's Core and Non-Core services that we aim to provide over the next 12 months. Committee is asked to consider the draft plan for endorsement.

3 WORK DELIVERY UPDATES, NOVEMBER 2021 TO JANUARY 2022 (Quarter 3)

- 3.1 **Tang Group (Tactic Additional Needs Group)**
Numbers remain steady with regular attendance from group members. The group has enjoyed cake baking, arts and crafts, Hockey, and biscuit decorating to name a few activities. A trip to Stockwood Park Museum is being planned for the Easter holidays.
- 3.2 **Young Persons Drop In**
Numbers are gradually increasing, though low in comparison with pre COVID. During lockdown, young people had to seek alternative ways of meeting friends, either online, Zoom or in small groups in the park. Consequently, this has become somewhat of a 'norm' to them.
- 3.3 However, attendance is slowly on the rise and those who attend take the opportunity of joining in small group work and general discussions allowing them quality time with Youth Workers.
- 3.4 **We Are Youth (Youth Forum)**
The 'We Are Youth' (WAY) youth led group had a sporadic start this year as the young people involved had many other commitments so we are left with a small but enthusiastic group who are keen to plan a TACTIC carnival procession on the musical theme of Grease this year.

The WAY group want to recruit more young people to join them and encourage involvement in the carnival procession which will be promoted in schools across the town. They hope to have a gazebo in Parson's Close Recreation Ground to promote their group and other activities and services provided by the TACTIC centre on the day of the carnival.

- 3.5 **Referral Mentoring**
As always, referrals are continuing to come in with a total of 20 open cases at present and a further 14 on the waiting list.

Presenting issues remain steady with the usual demand for support around anxiety, family issues, sexual health, exam stress and antisocial behaviour (ASB). It is apparent that requests for support are coming in from a younger age and whilst TACTIC offers support for the 12 – 19-year-olds, the 10 – 11 years are increasing.

As before, sign posting for this age group is ongoing, however, waiting lists for other services are more than 8 months.

3.6 **Schools Offer**

The commissioned Mentoring sessions in Leighton Middle school will continue till the summer break with 8 students having received 6 weeks of mentoring since September 2021. The service will be reviewed in June 2022.

The pilot delivery of targeted workshops to years 6 and 7 (11 to 12 yr olds), in Linslade Middle school concluded and the school confirmed they were positively received. The offer of continuation as part of the Schools Offer was declined because at present the school does not have sufficient funds to buy into this offer.

A recommendation for funding from the Community Safety Committee's Dodford budget to allow the delivery of Schools Offer workshops to continue, is presented above at para 1.3. A supporting project proposal paper is presented at **Appendix C**

TACTIC continue to promote the offer of Schools Offer workshops to all middle and upper schools.

3.7 **School Lunchtime Drop Ins**

TACTIC is providing informal support to students in Cedars, Linslade Middle, Brooklands and Leighton Middle schools by having a presence during student lunch breaks. Young people can come along for a chat, information or just to say hello. These sessions will take place every 3 weeks to ensure students know exactly when TACTIC will be available.

This is also a further promotional opportunity for TACTIC.

3.8 **Building Hire**

Building hire has increased and TACTIC is now booked out 3 days a week by the NOAH group and will bring in an expected income of £800 per month.

3.9 **AQA accreditation**

Staff are working towards young people receiving their first AQA accreditation, (Assessment and Qualification Alliance) with 7 members currently undertaking the qualification in volunteering.

3.10 **Volunteer Training**

TACTIC delivered a further training session to 4 young people over the half term. They took part in enhancing their skills and knowledge around Professional Boundaries, Safeguarding and Equal Opportunities. All will receive a certificate of attendance as well as their AQA award.

3.11 **Staffing**

Following an unsuccessful recruitment drive to fill the vacant 10-hour post, TACTIC have now amalgamated 2 posts together. The existing Youth Support worker has accepted the additional hours and will now support TACTIC with a

total of 22hours per week. This will give TACTIC more flexibility to support daytime initiatives.

3.12 Counselling Service:

TACTIC continues to identify a suitable replacement provider for this service. As per Committee endorsement,(Ref: 112/CE), existing earmarked reserved funds of £4,719.60 (970/9020 & 970/9049), remain in place to fund this work.

3.13 Budget:

Budget spend is reflective of the level of activity that staff have been able to deliver post pandemic. Committee is asked to carry forward unspent funds from budget lines 104/4014 (projects) and 104/4300 (equipment) into earmarked reserves 970/9020 to facilitate support for satellite and targeted projects in the future as per recommendation 1.4 above.

4 'TREE' PARTNERSHIP PROJECT

4.1 TACTIC was invited to engage in the TREE project, Tackling, Reducing and Ending Exploitation, which is being delivered across Bedford and Central Bedfordshire. It is led by the Bedfordshire Youth Offending Service which services both council areas. It is funded by the Bedfordshire Violence and Exploitation Reduction Unit (VERU).

4.2 During the February half term TACTIC staff worked with youth and charity workers as well as police officers, to conduct joint outreach work across the area. The aim being to engage with young people and the wider community to signpost them to support services when needed.

4.3 A second support session will take place in March.

5 YOUTH SURVEY OUTCOME

5.1 Further to feedback from young people's survey the request for Gaming stations to be available was highlighted by the young people. TACTIC is currently researching affordable equipment to have installed within the TACTIC centre.

6 CHATTY CAFÉ

6.1 This is a new initiative that TACTIC will be supporting from March 2022. Led by Bassett Road Surgery PPG, Chatty Café is a nationwide project aimed at kickstarting conversations and getting people together for a 'cuppa', some cake and a chat in an effort to reduce loneliness.

6.2 TACTIC will be supporting this project as an intergenerational initiative where young volunteers who are either doing work experience or their Duke of

Edinburgh awards can come along and meet the community and exchange their life stories.

7 MONITORING DATA

7.1 Stats for working with young people:

Attendance Stats

Nov - Jan 22			
	Yr 1	Yr 2	Yr 3
Under 16	2206	100	184
16 & over	271	15	62
Male	1139	34	120
Female	1338	76	113
Total Young People Nov - Jan 22	2477	114	247

Referrals Taken

Total	age							
	M	f	12	13	14	15	16	17
21	11	10	9	3	4	1	2	2

referral by		referring agency										requesting	
phone	email	Letter	drop in	other	family	self	school	doctor	social care	agency	other	mentor	sexual health
2	17	0	1	1	7	2	10	0	0	1	1	20	1

One to One Stats

No. of YP	31
Total Hours	151.33

Age													
M	F	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
17	14	1	1	8	6	4	8	2	0	0	1	0	0

Family	relationships	Mental Health	General Health	School	College	Other
10	8	17	1	17	1	16

8 CONCLUSIONS

- 8.1 With normal delivery back re-starting, attendance numbers are continuing to increase for both drop-in sessions and building hire. There will also be a return of holiday projects in the form of Easter and summer playschemes.
- 8.2 It is envisaged that once staff return from Maternity leave in June, the opportunity for delivering satellite work will be reviewed and in place by December 2022.
- 8.3 Mentoring and delivery of the Schools Offer sessions within schools remains a priority and would benefit from investment as a long-term prevention approach.

End