

TACTIC BUSINESS CASE - Schools Offer – Workshop Delivery, February 2022

Introduction

The purpose of this paper is to highlight the need for youth work delivery in schools.

Background:

Since 2017 and the introduction of the Schools Offer generated income as Committee had agreed that a fee would be charged. Until recently, schools have paid the fees without question. TACTIC has successfully been working within local middle and upper schools to provide tailored topical workshops to students as a preventive intervention project.

Students are much more receptive to information when delivered by a Youth Worker and see this as a much less disciplinarian approach with feedback from schools being very positive.

Uptake in the school's offer has declined over the past 2 years with schools struggling to access the funds for this service. A recent introductory session in Linslade school was provided free of charge to support students with Covid related Anxiety as a supportive response to the pandemic. Feedback from the school was positive and they approached us to deliver additional sessions stating they the school do not have sufficient funds. However, as this was an introductory free of charge session in response to unusual times, we have declined this service until we can better explore the implications of undermining the existing charging policy and manage the need for parity across all schools at this current time.

Need:

Schools have several pupils who, for many reasons, are unable to cope with the daily requirements of school life. Because of troubled home backgrounds, absence of appropriate role models outside school, substance abuse outside school, modern day pressures - particularly work and exam stress and a full range of other problems they can be destined for failure before they even arrive at school. Their anger, frustration and stress levels often lead to confrontations with teachers leading to exclusion. A youth worker is an independent person to whom the young people can turn to for non-judgmental advice and support equipping them with knowledge and skills to manage these.

The purpose of school workshop delivery is to provide preventative support and information to young people in a timely and effective delivery style, seeking to address issues early. The work seeks to develop young people's skills and attitudes rather than remedy 'problem' behaviours later in life which present as antisocial behaviour or self-harm. Issues such as anxiety, mental health, online safety and anti-social behaviour are the key issues being raised at present.

Youth Work in schools is dictated by issues emerging at a local level and TACTIC can deliver a flexible and responsive service that takes into account individual needs and choices of young people. This work is specifically impactful because the TACTIC provision provides a follow-up for other services and activities after Schools Offer

sessions have been delivered. Delivery in schools therefore raises the profile of TACTIC across the town and engages the community in the many projects and activities they may not be aware of.

In addition, this work is especially effective with middle schools in supporting the students transition to upper school.

Budget Proposal:

To ensure inclusion of all middle and upper schools, the funding is based on all 6 schools taking up the offer:

Each school will be offered a total of 4x 1-hour sessions per term (either in one block or as a weekly programme)

Cost for youth worker per hour @ £30.00, 4x 1hr session per term = £120.00

4x terms per year @ £120 = £480 per academic year

6x schools @ £480 per sch. for 1 academic year = £2,880.00

Additional funds for resources/travel for all sessions = £1,000.00

Total funds requested: £3,880.00

Recommendation:

Committee is asked to make a recommendation to the Community Safety Sub-Committee to allocate £3,880 from Dodford funds to facilitate the delivery of Schools Offer workshops to undertake prevention activity and that work commences in September 2022.