

Cultural and Economic Services Committee

Date: 13 June 2022

Title: TACTIC Update

Purpose of the Report: To provide Members with an update of the work that the TACTIC have been engaged in and with over the past quarter.

Contact Officer: Linda Farmer – TACTIC Centre Manager

Corporate Objective	Strategic objective, 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	Within existing budgets
Human Resources	
Operational/Service delivery	
Procedural/Legal	
Risk/Health and Safety	
Environmental Aims	

1 RECOMMENDATION

1.1 To note the report

2.0 WORK DELIVERY UPDATES, FEBRUARY – MAY 2022 (Quarter 4)

2.1 TANG Group (Tactic Additional Needs Group)

TANG has been gaining popularity recently and over the last month we have gone from seven to eleven regular attendees. We have a fantastic young volunteer, who has been helping with sessions for several months now. She is working towards her Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award and has proven to be a popular and valuable member of our team. This young lady joined us after doing her volunteer training at the TACTIC centre and we hope TANG can be a regular volunteer placement for young people working towards their Duke of Edinburgh award or to expand their skills and experience for the future.

2.2 Young Persons Drop In

Numbers have increased over the past few months and more young people are now attending regularly. It appears that the school lunch time drop-in sessions have contributed to this in terms of promoting TACTIC. General resources for the sessions have been updated and young people enjoy some challenging games on the Wii machine, bringing out their competitive side.

2.3 MANGA ART

TACTIC started a new project in May following feedback from young people and introduced weekly MANGA art sessions. MANGA is the Japanese art of storytelling through pictures, images, comics and cartooning. Young people use their imagination and creative skills to tell their own personal stories through Art. Each week the group add to their stories to create a timeline of feelings and emotions.

2.4 Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

To support the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations, young people have had discussions relating to the Royal Family and shared their thoughts and views about the monarchy.

To commemorate this event, young people have planted a Jubilee Purple flowering Hebe bush in the TACTIC garden, which was kindly donated from Morrisons Leighton Buzzard. Hopefully they can see this bloom in years to come.

TACTIC is also bringing the celebrations of the Queen's 70th Platinum Jubilee to the town with a window display commemorating many years of serving our country.

2.5 We Are Youth (Youth Forum)

The We Are Youth group have been meeting over the last few months to prepare for the coming carnival. They have been integral in planning for the procession and a stall which will provide art-based activities, a range of information to support young people and promote the activities and services that are provided through the TACTIC centre.

The group will also be recruiting for members of WAY at their stall and gaining ideas from young people of issues affecting them to focus on over the coming year.

We Are Youth is a youth led group who look at issues and activities for their peers in the local area and have completed volunteer training to support them to plan and deliver their activities.

2.6 Referral Mentoring

As always, referrals are continuing to come in with a total of 16 open cases at present and a further 26 on the waiting list.

Presenting issues remain the same with Mental health and schools being highest priority, however recently more cases are coming in relating to transgender and identity.

2.7 Schools Offer

The commissioned Mentoring sessions in Leighton Middle School hves now been renewed and will continue until April 2023 when this will be reviewed.

I am pleased to confirm the Community Safety Sub-Committee agreed to fund the schools offer workshops from the community safety budget, meaning TACTIC can offer the delivery of workshops in schools in an effort to reduce Anti-Social Behaviour and support young people and schools with any issues they may be facing. Following this support, sessions in Linslade Middle School saw 8 young people take part in friendship / relationship workshops over several weeks to teach them about healthy relationships, choices, and communication. It addressed young people's attitudes, opinions, and behaviours related to friendship groups. The outcome is that the once toxic group is now showing more harmonious behaviour with their peers.

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

2.8 School Lunchtime Drop Ins

These sessions continue weekly within schools on a rolling programme. Feedback from schools and young people is pleasing and young people are taking the opportunity to come and chat to the TACTIC team in a non-confrontational and relaxed manner. We are now in 5 of the 6 middle and upper schools. Gilberts are yet to take up this offer.

This is also a further promotional opportunity for TACTIC and has increased numbers for the Drop-in sessions.

2.9 Playschemes

Following on from the pandemic, the playscheme holiday project was re-introduced at Easter for the 8 – 11-year-olds. However, disappointingly numbers were very low (10) each day, as opposed to 32 in previous years. After a 2-year pandemic, most of the regular attendees have now exceeded the age limit and moved onto other activities.

Further to low interest it has been decided the scheme will not run during the summer period.

2.10 'TREE' PARTNERSHIP PROJECT

TACTIC will continue to support the TREE project, Tackling, Reducing and Ending Exploitation project which has been commissioned to continue with their project across 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).

Tactic will be supporting this over the summer period with various partnership activities to be delivered in the parks.

3 OTHER INFORMATION

3.1 Building Hire

TACTIC building is now booked up to full capacity and groups are in daily / weekly, with some securing their booking up until April 2023.

3.2 AQA accreditation

11 young people are now working towards their AQA accreditation to acknowledge their personal development in areas such as team building, decision making and self-confidence. These certificates will support their record of achievements.

3.3 Staffing

It was expected that one team member currently on maternity leave, would be back in June 2022. However, following a change in their circumstances this staff member will now not return until June 2023. Therefore, to support the team for the time being, Maze 8 recruitment service have supported us in getting someone to cover this period. It is expected the new staff member will start in June 2022 once clearances are all in place. This new staff member has vast experience in working with young people and has previously worked within Tower Hamlets and Camden areas.

Congratulations to Mia Ham (Youth Support Worker) who has been successful in receiving a Bursary from the National Youth Association to do her Level 3 Diploma in Youth Work Practice. This is fantastic news for Mia and for TACTIC – another Qualified Youth Worker in the making.

3.4 Counselling Service:

This project remains on hold as unfortunately we have not been successful in recruiting a replacement counsellor. TACTIC is continuing to try and replace this service.

3.5 YOUTH SURVEY OUTCOME

Further to the outcome from the young people's survey, the request for Gaming stations is to be met. TACTIC has been successful in securing funding from both LLTC and Central Beds Council to get this project under way. Still in the planning process, quotes for specially built PC stations and further security measures have been obtained and it is hoped to have this project in place by September 2022.

3.6 CHATTY CAFÉ

Supported by Bassett Road PPG, this project now in its second month is going from strength to strength with a regular attendance each week of between 15 – 20 residents coming along for a cuppa a cake and a chat. Feedback from the community is pleasing with comments such as:

- 'I've met some new people who I didn't know before'
- 'I look forward to my Tuesday chats with everyone'
- 'I would just be sat at home otherwise'

As part of this intergenerational initiative to include young people in the project 2 young people volunteers have been attending whilst waiting for college placements to commence, demonstrating some interesting chats of time gone by. Some attendees have also enjoyed a quick game of Chess, draughts and cards whilst chatting to others.

4 MONITORING DATA

4.1 Stats for working with young people:

TACTIC STATS

Feb-Apr 20-22	20/21	21/22	22/23
Under 16	784	46	462
16 & Over	219	36	216
Male	515	48	309
Female	488	34	460
Total YP Feb to Apr	1003	82	789

CHATTY CAFE

Date	Total	Male	Female
01/03/2022	17	7	10
08/03/2022	17	8	9

15/03/2022	18	11	7
22/03/2022	10	5	5
29/03/2022	16	3	12
05/04/2022	12	4	8
12/04/2022	19	9	10
19/04/2022	9	4	5
26/04/2022	19	9	10
Totals	137	60	76

SERVICE REQUESTS

Total		37
	M	13
	f	21
age	12	7
	13	10
	14	6
	15	3
	16	4
	17	3
	18	1

Service Request	Talk space	0
	Mentor	34
	Brook	0
	Doctor	0
	Chums	0
	Sexual	3
	EWS	0
	4YP	0
	Relate	0

ONE TO ONE STATS

Presenting Issues	
Sexual Health	0
Parenthood	0
Family relationships	10
Mental Health	6
General Health	23
Homelessness	2
Housing	0
Drugs & Alcohol	0
Smoking	0
Transport job	1
School	0
Apprenticeships	16
Uni	0
College	1
Other	10

No. of YP	37
Total Hours	138.5

Age	M	12
	F	15
	10	1
	11	1
	12	5
	13	9
	14	4
	15	5
	16	3
	17	1
	18	1
	19	1
	20	0
21	0	

5 CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 TACTIC is now back up and running a normal service with numbers increasing for mentoring, general hire, and project work. The addition of a temporary new staff member to cover maternity leave will ease the load and allow us to support more young people, especially with the waiting list for mentoring.
- 5.2 Mentoring and work within schools will continue to remain a priority of the future. as an investment in long term preventive work and gaining trust in the TACTIC service should a young person require additional services later during their teens and young adult life.

End