

***WEST OLDHAM DISTRICT EXECUTIVE
Agenda***

Date Wednesday 11 October 2017

Time 6.00 pm

Venue Crompton Suite, Civic Centre, Oldham, West Street, Oldham, OL1 1NL

- Notes
1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - If a Member requires advice on any item involving a possible declaration of interest which could affect his/her ability to speak and/or vote he/she is advised to contact Paul Entwistle or Fabiola Fuschi at least 24 hours before the meeting.
 2. CONTACT OFFICER for this Agenda is Fabiola Fuschi Tel. 0161 770 5151 or email Fabiola.fuschi@oldham.gov.uk
 3. DISTRICT CO-ORDINATOR is Zaiem Khan, tel. 0161 770 5162 or email Zaiem.khan@oldham.gov.uk
 4. PUBLIC QUESTIONS - Any member of the public wishing to ask a question at the above meeting can do so only if a written copy of the question is submitted to the contact officer no later than 15 minutes prior to the commencement of the meeting.
 5. FILMING - The Council, members of the public and the press may record / film / photograph or broadcast this meeting when the public and the press are not lawfully excluded. Any member of the public who attends a meeting and objects to being filmed should advise the Constitutional Services Officer who will instruct that they are not included in the filming.

Please note that anyone using recording equipment both audio and visual will not be permitted to leave the equipment in the room where a private meeting is held.

Recording and reporting the Council's meetings is subject to the law including the law of defamation, the Human Rights Act, the Data Protection Act and the law on public order offences.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE WEST OLDHAM DISTRICT EXECUTIVE IS AS FOLLOWS:

Councillors Akhtar, Azad, F Hussain, Iqbal, Jabbar, Malik, Rehman, Toor (Chair) and Ur-Rehman

Item No

1 Apologies For Absence

2 Urgent Business

Urgent business, if any, introduced by the Chair

3 Declarations of Interest

To Receive Declarations of Interest in any Contract or matter to be discussed at the meeting.

4 Public Question Time

To receive Questions from the Public, in accordance with the Council's Constitution.

5 Minutes of Previous Meeting (Pages 1 - 2)

The Minutes of the West Oldham District Executive meeting held on 26th July 2017 are attached for approval.

6 District Dementia Champion (Pages 3 - 8)

7 West Oldham District Key Developments Update (Pages 9 - 12)

8 District Plan and Budget (Pages 13 - 20)

9 Petitions

This is a standing item concerning the petitions submitted to the District Executive of West Oldham. The petitions will be considered according to the Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council's Petition Scheme.

10 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the West Oldham District Executive will take place on 29th November 2017 at 6pm.



WEST OLDHAM DISTRICT EXECUTIVE
26/07/2017 at 6.00 pm

Present: Councillor Toor (Chair)
Councillors Akhtar, Iqbal, Jabbar and Ur-Rehman

Also in Attendance:

Fabiola Fuschi

Constitutional Services Officer

Zaiem Khan

West Oldham District Co-ordinator

1 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Azad and Malik.

2 **URGENT BUSINESS**

There were no items of urgent business received.

3 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest received.

4 **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

There were no public questions received.

5 **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the West Oldham District Executive meeting held on 14th June 2017 be approved as a correct record.

6 **WEST OLDHAM DISTRICT PLAN AND BUDGET REPORT**

Consideration was given to a report of the West Oldham District Coordinator on the District Plan Priorities that had been agreed last year and the funding allocations for 2017/18.

Members sought and received clarification / commented on the following points:

- Damaged grit bins near the Mosque in Medlock Vale and insurance cover – It was explained that there was no insurance cover for damaged grit bins. Therefore, it was necessary to replace them.
- Suitability of the allocated resources to counter the risk of crime during darker nights – Members were reassured that sufficient resources had been allocated to crime prevention. Furthermore, Greater Manchester Police would attend the District Executive meeting in October to discuss with Members the information that would be provided to residents with regards to crime prevention.

RESOLVED that:

1. The content of the report be noted.
2. The district priorities agreed last year continue to be pursued during this Municipal Year.

3. Allocation of funding of £2,945.60 Revenue be agreed to maintain additional grit bins.
4. Allocation of funding of £1,000 Revenue be agreed for play/engagement activity and opening event at Cottam.
5. Allocation of funding of £1,000 Revenue be agreed for the provision of additional youth activities and engagement in the Westwood area.
6. Allocation of funding of £3,000 Revenue be agreed to provide additional resources, material and target hardening equipment to counter the risk of crime during darker nights.

7 **WEST OLDHAM DISTRICT KEY DEVELOPMENTS UPDATE**

The Committee considered a report of the West Oldham District Coordinator which provided an update on some key developments in the District.

Members sought and received clarification / commented on the following points:

- Good progress on the Audi Dealership and four way junction at Burnley Lane. Works were on target.
- Oak Close and play area – Issue was not yet resolved and the Council was in discussion with Countryside in order to take on the play area.
- To keep the outstanding developments on the list and add Suthers Street/Olivers Court (Keep Moat) development, Primrose Bank Private Financial Initiative (PFI) development, former St. Augustine's site the Hollies Site and Werneth Music Room.

RESOLVED that:

1. The report be noted.
2. The outstanding developments be kept on the list to provide an update at each District Executive meeting.

The following developments be added to the list:

- a. Suthers Street/Olivers Court (Keep Moat) development
- b. Primrose Bank PFI development
- c. St. Augustine's site
- d. The Hollies site
- e. Werneth Music Room

8 **PETITIONS**

There were no petitions received.

9 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

RESOLVED that the next meeting of the West Oldham District Executive take place on Wednesday 11th October 2017 at 6pm.

The meeting started at 6.00 pm and ended at 6.25 pm

BRIEFING TO THE DISTRICT EXECUTIVE

Report Title: District Dementia Champion

Report Author: Oliver Collins

Date: 11th October 2017

Background:

In September 2016, the Council discussed and deferred a motion regarding improving the support given to those suffering from, and those caring for those suffering from Dementia in Oldham. The full motion wording is below

This Council notes that

- Dementia is one of the biggest health issues facing the UK
- In Oldham, over 2,500 people are estimated to be living with dementia
- This condition will affect one in three people over the age of 65, with that figure is predicted to rise by two thirds by 2030
- Dementia is an umbrella term for a set of symptoms that might be exhibited by people living with one of any number of diseases of the brain; it is not a natural part of aging
- Dementia is not just about losing your memory; it can also affect thinking, communication, inhibitions, and everyday tasks
- With the right care, support and understanding from those around them that it is possible for someone to live well with dementia and to continue to contribute to community life

Council commends the work that has been done so far in our borough specially:

- The training of well over 5,000 Dementia Friends across the borough
- Gaining recognition from the Alzheimer's Society as one of just fifty communities in England as 'Working towards a dementia friendly community'
- Establishing the Oldham Dementia Partnership and the Oldham Dementia Action Alliance
- Creating an Enhanced Memory Service to support people living with dementia and their carers

But Council also believes that as a major public-service organisation we can do so much more, particularly in:

- Delivering more dementia-friendly services with specially trained staff and from dementia-friendly buildings
- Promoting a more dementia-friendly transport network in order that people living with dementia and their carers can better access them

Council therefore calls upon the relevant Cabinet Member(s) to:

- Appoint a senior officer in each directorate as a Dementia Champion to lead on this issue within their directorate, with specific responsibility for ensuring that:
 - All new Council staff appointed to customer-facing roles, particularly those in the Call Centre, the First Contact centre and our public libraries and parks, participate in mandatory Dementia Friends training as part of their induction.
 - Existing staff in customer-facing roles participate in Dementia Friends training within twelve months.
 - Environmental checks are carried out in all of the public buildings and open spaces within their directorate's control to ensure that they are Dementia Friendly.
 - The Dementia Friendly logo is displayed prominently at these locations once they are determined to be dementia friendly.
 - Their directorate, and the Dementia Friendly public buildings and open spaces, are registered separately as individual entities with the Oldham Dementia Action Alliance, in addition to the Council being itself registered corporately.
 - A report of progress for that directorate is prepared for circulation to elected members and for publication on the Council's website during Dementia Awareness Week in May 2017.
- Ask these officers to work with the national charity Making Space and the local groups Let's Be Heard and the Springboard Oldham Dementia Carers Group to support the delivery of staff training, the carrying out of environmental checks, and the completion of the registration process.
- Carry out a review of Council employment practices to ensure that best practice is being followed in offering staff living with dementia, or caring for a family member living with dementia, appropriate ongoing support and flexible working arrangements.
- Ask our partner organisations, Oldham Community Leisure, Oldham Mio-Care, and Unity Partnership, to make similar commitments.
- Create a new Dementia Hub in an accessible, dementia-friendly Council building by providing accommodation to co-locate relevant staff from the following organisations – the Alzheimer's Society, Age UK Oldham, Making Space and the Memory Assessment Service – and meeting rooms and activity areas for people living with dementia and their carers.
- Investigate the merits and practicalities of introducing, and promoting, a Dementia Buddy wristband scheme with representatives from the emergency services and Transport for Greater Manchester. This scheme is operational and actively promoted within the Metropolitan Borough of Wigan.
- Create a transport sub-group of the Oldham Dementia Action Alliance to look specifically at how bus, tram and taxi transport can be made more dementia-friendly.
- Urge schools to include information about living with dementia into the local Personal Social and Health Education curriculum delivered to pupils to help develop their understanding of dementia.
- Council is also asked to appoint an elected member as a Dementia Champion to lead on this issue for Council.

The motion was referred to the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee, and in turn referred to that committee's Health Scrutiny sub-committee. A task group was established to look at the motion, consisting of elected members and service officers from the Council, CCG and lead providers. The group met and provided its recommendations back to Council in September 2017.

One of the recommendations from the group was that, as well as an elected member being nominated as a Dementia Champion for the Council (Cllr Vita Price has taken on this role as her role as Deputy Cabinet Member for Health & Wellbeing), it would be worthwhile if each of the six District Executives in the borough would appoint their own District Dementia Champion.

What would a District Dementia Champion do?

The idea behind each of the Districts appointing a Dementia champion, is that it would ensure that within each of the six districts, it is guaranteed that at least one of the elected members is aware of the challenges those suffering from Dementia face, and understand what support is required and available to both them and their carers in the borough.

The nominated elected member will be supported to develop their understanding of Dementia, to become a Dementia Friend or Dementia Friends Champion, be involved in the development of a new Dementia Strategy for Oldham and to act as a key point of contact for fellow councillors who may have questions regarding Dementia.

Should there be the demand, Districts are fine to nominate more than one elected member to be a District Dementia Champion.

Recommendations:

The District Executive is asked to nominate an elected member to become the Dementia Champion for their district.

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District Dementia Champion

Being a Dementia Friend -

<https://www.dementiafriends.org.uk/WEBArticle?page=what-is-a-friend#.WWSNkYTyvcs>

“A Dementia Friend learns a little bit more about what it's like to live with dementia and then turns that understanding into action - anyone of any age can be a Dementia Friend. Being a Dementia Friend is about learning more about dementia and the small ways you can help. From telling friends about Dementia Friends to visiting someone you know living with dementia, every action counts.”

Dementia Friends Champion role -

<https://www.dementiafriends.org.uk/WEBArticle?page=what-is-a-champion#.WWSNnYTyvcs>

“A Dementia Friends Champion is a volunteer who encourages others to make a positive difference to people living with dementia in their community. They do this by giving them information about the personal impact of dementia, and what they can do to help.

It's easy to get involved. Dementia Friends Champions will attend an induction, receive support when they need it, and be part of over 10,500 volunteer Dementia Friends Champions creating dementia friendly communities (external link) together.”

Role of Dementia Champion

- Attend / help organise Dementia Friends training and associated events
 - o Encourage other councillors to attend and become Dementia Friends / Champions
 - o Act as advocate for the Dementia Friends scheme
 - o Act as key contact for fellow district Councillors should they require advice on all anything related to Dementia.

- Represent the borough at any District / Borough / GM events regarding Dementia is necessary and appropriate
 - o Including being aware of the GM wide Dementia United work streams and the impact for Oldham.

- Be the dedicated district elected member to work with residents, service officers and the Dementia Champion for the borough in the design of and implementation of Dementia related services and activities within the district.

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Report to West Oldham District Executive

West Oldham District Key Developments Update

Portfolio Holder:

Cllr B Brownridge, Cabinet Member for Cooperatives & Neighbourhoods

Officer Contact: Maggie Kufeldt, Executive Director, Health and Well-Being

Report Author: Zaiem Khan; District Coordinator, Ext. 5162

11th October 2017

Reason for report

This report provides the District Executive with an update on some key developments in the District.

Recommendations

That the District Executive notes the report.

West Oldham District Key Developments Update

1.0 Background

The report provides the members with an update on some of the key developments in the District.

Coldhurst

2.0 Developments in the Westhulme neighbourhood

There are a number of new developments planned or currently taking place in the area off Chadderton Way and to the rear of the Royal Oldham Hospital.

2.1 Audi Dealership

The new Audi dealership located off Chadderton Way is open with only minor works remaining.

The road works and new 4 way junction at Burnley Lane are complete, with snagging issues to be checked and resolved

The Get Oldham Working team have facilitated and supported recruitment to the job opportunities that are being created at this new development.

2.2 Cottam Street Play space

The Council is developing a new play area on Cottam Street as part of the replacement provision from the disposal of Westwood Park.

The area will include some natural play elements as well a basket swing, climbing walls, and embankment slide.

Work commenced on site over the summer holidays with some minor delays due to poor weather. The footings for the climbing wall have required a deeper and wider footing.

There may be some scope to look at lighting, benches and additional equipment – subject to additional funding.

2.3 Westhulme kickpitch

A kickpitch is also being developed off Westhulme Avenue, to the rear of the new Audi car dealership, as part of the replacement provision for Westwood Park. The topographical surveys of the site have been completed and some more detailed surveys will take place to inform the design of the new facility. It is planned that the specification and design is complete. A planning application has been registered.

2.4 Ellen Street development

The private development of the site owned by Copley Square between Chadderton Way and Ellen Street is progressing and the new retail unit is now occupied by B&M Stores. The old unit has been demolished and the area will form a new car park for the new store.

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- Medlock Vale**
- 3.0 Copster Hill Depot**
The current FCHO depot at Copster Hill Road is due to be vacated in the coming months, subject to the new depot being ready for occupation. The site will be demolished once vacated and the Council will consider future options.
- 3.1 Former CPD Playing fields**
The Council has granted the Fitton Hill and Hathershaw Bulldogs an early access license with a view to granting them a lease for the site.
The Bulldogs have been working with contractors to try and bring a training pitch into use for the juniors team.
- 3.2 Fitton Hill vacant sites**
There are a number of vacant sites in the Fitton Hill neighbourhood which the Council is working with a partner to bring to market for new residential developments.
- 3.3 Wildbrook Community Allotments**
The site previously managed and operated by Adult Social Care has been vacated as MioCare are unable to dedicate the necessary resources to manage the site.
The Council is currently considering options for the future of the site.
- 3.4 Borough Mill Triangle Development – Play Area**
The legal agreement between the Council and Countryside is being drawn up to formally transfer the open space on Neild Street back to the Council so it can be brought to the required standard and maintained by the Council.
- Werneth**
- 4.0 Oak Mill Chase**
The housing development has been fully occupied for nearly two years and the Council have been working with Countryside to bring the rest of the estate into an adoptive state.
Of particular issue is the open space and play area on Oak Close. Planning Officers will be liaising with Countryside to resolve the outstanding s106 condition for the Council to formally take on the play area for maintenance and redesign (if necessary).
- 4.1 Meridian site development**
The new FCHO depot is nearing completion with minor snagging issues being resolved. The depot should be occupied and operational by November 2017.
- 4.2 Hartford Mill**
Hartford Mill is in private ownership and the issues of anti-social behaviour and security of the site are the responsibility of the owner. The relevant Council officers are in contact with the owner to ensure that they discharge their responsibilities.
The Council is working on a master plan for the cleared area around Hartford Mill and the mill itself. Once discussions with English Heritage have been had, the draft plan will be shared with members

4.3 Suthers Street and Olivers Court

This site still has a number of outstanding section 38 requirements to be met, which the Council is working with Keep Moat to resolve. However, the site forms part of the overall masterplan for the Edward Street area, which includes Hartford Mill.

4.4 Former St Augustine's School development site

This development is being undertaken by Linden Homes and nearly half the 54 properties have been developed, a number of which have already been sold and are occupied. At this stage one 4 bedroom home and six 3 bedroom homes are on sale.

4.5 Werneth Park Music Rooms

The music rooms and conservatory are Grade II listed and have been disused since 2001. Previous attempts to redevelop the building using SRB6 funding or Heritage Lottery Funding have been unsuccessful. The building is secured and fenced off. The Council has no current plans or identified funds to bring the building back in use.

4.6 Custom Build Werneth

The scheme to build 37 custom new homes on the land between Cambridge Street and Lynn Street in Freehold is new and innovative, and as such has been a learning curve for those involved. However things have moved forward recently. Fencing has gone up around the site and legal paperwork is being processed and finalised.

4.7 Former Hollies Site

This site has been marketed and the Council is in the process of selecting the preferred bidder.



Report to West Oldham District Executive

West Oldham District Plan and Budget Report

Portfolio Holder:

Cllr B Brownridge, Cabinet Member for Cooperatives & Neighbourhoods

Officer Contact: Maggie Kufeldt, Executive Director, Health and Well-Being

Report Author: Zaiem Khan; District Coordinator, Ext. 5162

11th October 2017

Reason for report

This report sets out the West Oldham agreed District Plan priorities, funding allocations, and feedback from funded projects.

Recommendations

That the District Executive agrees the following funding allocations:

- a) Tudor Street Sensory Garden - £5,000 – Capital
- b) Chelmsford Street open space improvements - £2,000 – Capital
- c) Cottam Street play area additional equipment - £4,000 – Capital
- d) Over 50s activities at OBA Millennium Centre - £2,500 – Revenue

And notes the funding feedback from the Eden Project.

West Oldham District Plan and Budget Report**1 Background**

- 1.1 West Oldham District Executive agreed its District Plans priorities in June 2016 for 2016-2018, which provide a framework to align actions and budgets against priorities

2. District Executive Budgets 2017/18

Budgets	
Revenue:	£30,000
Councillors (Revenue):	£45,000 (£5,000 per Councillor)
Total Revenue:	£75,000
Total Capital:	£30,000

3 West Oldham District Plan Priorities

- 3.1 The following priorities have been identified for West Oldham District:

3.2 Improving the Environment

Support communities to improve, enhance, and maintain the local environment

Funding proposals:

- 1 Tudor Street Sensory Garden

To create a Sensory garden in the open space next to Tudor Street kickpitch.

£5,000 to be agreed from the capital budget apportioned to Werneth ward

- 2 Chelmsford Street Open Space Improvements

To improve the open space on the corner of Chelmsford Street and Werneth Hall Road, Great Places have indicated that they will also find some match funding and funding in-kind to undertake the works.

£2,000 to be agreed from the capital budget apportioned to Werneth ward

3.3 Improving Community Facilities

Support local hubs and services that people can easily access

Funding proposal

To install additional play equipment at the new scheme on Cottam Street

£4,000 to be agreed from the Capital budget apportioned to Coldhurst ward.

3.4 Improving health and well-being

Support local people to adopt healthy lifestyles

Funding Proposal:

Over 50s activities at OBA Millennium Centre

£2,500 to be agreed from the revenue budget apportioned to Coldhurst ward

3.5 Supporting local community groups

Encourage co-operative activity and build community capacity

3.6 Educational Achievement and employment

Support the aspirations of families and young people to achieve a good educational foundation.

3.7 People feeling safe in their local area

Work with partners and communities to foster safer neighbourhoods

4. Budget position

The table below shows the latest budget position and lists the previously committed budget and the recommended allocations

Project	Revenue			Capital		
	Coldhurst	M Vale	Werneth	Coldhurst	M Vale	Werneth
Opening Budgets	£10,000 x 3 = £30,000			£10,000 x 3 = £30,000		
Additional grit bins	£2,348.48	£298.56	£298.56			
Cottam Street – play and opening	£1,000					
Westwood – youth engagement/activities	£1,000					
Darker nights	£1,000	£1,000	£1,000			
Tudor St Sensory Garden						£5,000
Chelmsford St Open Space						£2,000
Over 50s project	£2,500					
Cottan Street equipment				£4,000		
Total allocations	£2,848.48	£1,298.56	£1,298.56	£4,000	£0	£5,000
Remaining	£2,151.52	£8,701.44	£8,701.44	£6,000	£10,000	£5,000

5 Budget Recommendations

That the District Executive agrees the following funding allocations:

- Tudor Street Sensory Garden - £5,000 – Capital
- Chelmsford Street open space improvements - £2,000 – Capital
- Cottam Street play area additional equipment - £4,000 – Capital
- Over 50s activities at OBA Millennium Centre - £2,500 – Revenue

6 Feedback from previous projects

The appendix attached provides a report from the Fitton Hill Eden project, which was allocated £2,000 in 2016/17 for targeted work with young people.

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Eden Project Funding Feedback

Firstly I'd like to say thank you very much for supporting, encouraging and trusting us, it means a lot.

Secondly I'm going to tell you a few things we did with the money.

Placement

The first thing we did was to take on a young girl who had been volunteering with us for a few months. She was the girlfriend of one of the young people we had talked about for years at the ward meetings. I don't think you have since we took her on ;) She had been to one of the residentials you had helped us with 2 years before in Wales and was nearly sent home on several occasions. We had seen something in her and just felt with a little more investment we could take her far enough away from her negative surroundings. So we took her on with £1000 of your money and got local donors to personally support her with the other £1000 we needed for the 8 months. She has now been with us for 7 months and we have seen her grow from strength to strength. She is an important part of our team and we look forward what her next chapter will hold. She finishes with us at the end of August 2017 and we are hoping she will go to college and take on an apprenticeship.

*As an aside her boyfriend saw how well she was doing with us and that she was moving forward and he took our advice and support to take on an apprenticeship at Villages Housing. We have heard nothing but good reports from his employees over the last 6 months and this is all from the positive movement of his girlfriend. Thanks for being a part of that.

Junior Youth Club

The next thing we did was set up a junior youth club and ran it Tuesday night. Tuesday was the main time when the younger ones were causing trouble. So we did some detached and told them about the new youth club we are setting up for them. We bought a load of crafts and board games and spend a lot of time together playing fun games and building relationships ...The group we initially aimed at unfortunately didn't engage. We have just lowered the age of this club to 8 years as we felt that the younger group could be kept away from ASB and possibly feed them into the older youth club at the right time.

*Another aside there was a particular volunteer that helps at Junior youth club that had a really hard past but she has really come on and only just today, a staff member at Villages housing commented on her saying “She had come such a long way since being introduced to The Brew.” We have trained and developed 2 other new local volunteers through Junior youth club.

Extra equipment for Older Youth Club

We also bought an Xbox 1 and a few extra pads, games etc. This has been really useful to have on our 100 inch projector and both older and younger youth club have enjoyed using it.

Summer youth trip

A lot of the older ones have begun to move away due to age, college, partners, jobs, cars etc and we wanted to take the young people on a trip to the cinema and Nando’s in preparation for their exit from the groups. We recieved a donation from a volunteer who sadly passed away and left us £300 for the older youth club as she volunteered there. This is now planned in over the Summer holidays. The remainder of the money will go towards this.

Men’s Group

Another thing is one of the male volunteers opened the café at 4:30-8pm on a Wednesday as a Men’s group and this has done amazingly. I offered him £200 of the money you gave us and he has already taken a lot of hard to reach men bowling, had a film night, got them involved as volunteers at Fitton Hill community day and had lots of laughs and support along the way. There are currently around 12 men attending this group and we are getting a lot of positive feedback.

Conclusion;

Our first call was to tackle the ASB issues on the estate regarding the youth. We felt that taking someone on an 8 month placement would help in the work that we do and from that we began to set up the junior youth club to tackle the younger ones that were involved in ASB.

We felt that this would tackle two things.

1. It would give young people an alternative to spending time on the streets.
2. We could offer those already involved in ASB some diversionary provision.

The 2 groups that we aimed to work with to reduce ASB have not engaged as well as we would have liked but they know that we have provided them with additional provision. We have however engaged with a new group and hope to steer them clear of future involvement with ASB and build positive relationships with them over the coming years.

Finally I have added a testimony from the placement we had.

Placements testimony

I have been working with the The Brew since October and have enjoyed every bit of it, my confidence has increased so much and working here has helped with my self esteem. It has helped me to realise what I want to do in the future and made me understand about communities and what community work is. I have particularly enjoyed running the baby boogies and mucky monkeys sessions, at first I didn't really understand the reason behind the groups and just thought they were groups for kids, but the way we try to engage parents who may be isolated and lonely is amazing and really makes them feel good and also helps me feel good as I am helping them. I have met so many amazing people while I have worked here and some lovely friends. When I was at school I didn't really know what I wanted to do but now I know I defiantly want to help people. I really feel like someone has given me a chance to succeed and I want to give that to someone else, I don't 100% know what I will do when I finish but I hope it will be with people as good as I have been with, I still want to Volunteer when I leave and would love a job in this kind of work. I have not found it all easy some of the work has been challenging, when I first started I struggled a bit with some of the issues that people come to you with but as time has gone on I have learned how to deal with things better.

Thanks

Tim and the team

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