

# **SAFFRON WALDEN**

## **YOUTH OUTREACH PROJECT**

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### **Introduction**

This document outlines Saffron Walden Youth Outreach's proposal to Saffron Walden Town Council to provide Youth Services for one year from the 1<sup>st</sup> of April, with the opportunity for annual renewal.

### **Brief**

The task: to provide a Youth Service in Saffron Walden, including outreach work and a premises-based youth club, in partnership with Essex Youth Services and Saffron Walden Town Council.

### **Resources**

The Youth Outreach Project is a well-established registered charity, with a track record of providing youth services. The charity employs a number of trained youth workers, has a PAYE scheme and carries insurance. It is run by a group of Trustees drawn from the local community, with representatives from the statutory authorities and voluntary bodies. The charity benefits from a number of volunteers who offer their services for free.

The Youth Outreach Project has a partnership agreement with Essex Youth Services, which provides the premises from which the youth club is run, along with other assistance (see appendix).

Running costs are met from annual grants provided by the local authorities, principally SWTC. Funds are adequate to maintain current levels of service until the end of the financial year 2021 - 22.

### **The proposal**

This proposal provides for the maintenance of youth club and outreach services which have been provided in the current year, and further proposes that the Charity is in a strong position to assist in the enhanced services which the Town Council has indicated it would like to see.

1. Youth club on a Friday night. At present the Charity runs a youth club in the Resource Centre at Fairycroft. The Friday youth club is popular and well attended. The premises include a coffee bar (currently the subject of an appeal to upgrade the

facilities) and games and chill out spaces are available. The number of young people present requires a high level of supervision. This is an important facility for young people but the numbers present limit the extent to which youth work is possible.

2. Youth club on a Wednesday night. A second youth club is held on Wednesday evenings. The attendance is lower, and positive youth work is possible.
3. Outreach work on a Tuesday night. The Charity has a long track record of offering outreach work. The charity can respond to community issues such as young people gathering in groups in public spaces, or follow up specific concerns such as substance misuse.
4. Generic youth work. It is apparent from discussions with the Town Council and the charity's own staff that there is a demand for more youth work in the Town. This could take the form of another youth club elsewhere, or targeted outreach work on an ad-hoc basis. The Town Council are consulting with young people and the charity would hope to be able to respond to the outcome. The Charity's local track-record and its established team of youth workers and volunteers put it in a strong position to assist in the provision of enhanced services determined in the light of consultation with young people.

## **Appendix**

### **Essex Youth Services Partnership agreement**

- free volunteer training
- DBS (criminal record) checks
- free curriculum support and resources
- help with policies and procedures
- premises
- health and safety guidance
- a range of other support

### **Detached youth work**

Essex County Council currently has detached youth workers supporting young people in a range of locations across Essex.

Detached youth work is one way of offering a service to young people which takes place in their communities, away from buildings. This can happen in areas that young people might identify as their 'own ground', for instance, parks & recreational areas, local high streets and other areas young people choose to meet.

Detached youth work is delivered on the streets, in areas where there is an identified need. Delivery is flexible and can be daytime, evenings and weekends dependent on the young people.

The aim of the detached youth workers involves making contact with young people and positively influencing their lives by providing support and guidance and engaging them in a program of informal social education, which is engaging, exciting and challenging. Young

people are an integral and important part of the life of any community or neighborhood and detached youth workers will also help local groups and residents understand the needs of young people.

In Summary - Detached youth work is a method of youth work delivery, which enables workers to make contact with young people and positively influence their lives by engaging them in a program of informal social education, in places where young people choose to meet, away from traditional youth work venues