

Agenda item 6

For information - Children and Young People's Project Work

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Summary

This report provides an update on the work of the Children and Young Peoples team against the objectives of the 2021/22 work programme with an overview of FIND a new information and network directory for residents and practitioners in Frome.

From the work programme, "Commission detached youth work, play work and holiday activity projects"

We are now finalising the PB Youth Activities contract with Young Somerset, which will deliver a series of projects over the summer for young people in Frome.

In addition, we continue to map holidays and other universal provision for children and young people working with county, district, and local providers to ensure that there is a broad offer in Frome funded through the Holiday Activities and Food fund.

From the work programme, "Delivery of a topic based training programme for community members, parents, carers and practitioners to address current issues (drugs, mental health, play, anti social behaviour)"

The Link and Learn training delivered by FTC in the last six months includes Play training for practitioners and interested residents. More recently, and in response to the growing need post lockdown, we delivered the Starting Conversations: children and young people's mental health community training which equipped attendees with hints, tips, and techniques for starting conversations with young people but also gave an overview of local services and support networks available to support children and young people.

From the work programme, "Support partner orgs / neighbourhoods to establish new projects e.g.) Playing Out, Homestart"

Working with the Community Development team, Mendip District Council and Somerset County Council we are looking to pilot Playing Out streets in Frome from September with a view to informing a streamlined process available across the county.

From the work programme, "Develop & launch FIND"



FIND is a web-based Family Information Network Directory that sits within our Frome Town Council website. It aims to provide information and advice about services and opportunities for children, young people, their families, and the wider community so that residents are able to help themselves and each other. This service aims to fill a gap in information sharing and provision identified in previous FTC Children and Young People reports.

FIND hosts links to services and organisations and provides resources for families, with 65 pages and over 500 entries and growing. It can be accessed here www.FindFrome.co.uk and includes the following sections amongst many more:

Family Support and Advice <https://www.frometowncouncil.gov.uk/find/family-support-and-advice/>

This section holds a host of information from pregnancy to parenting, health and wellbeing to employment and training, money matters, housing and legal advice. Each tab opens up a section of the directory in a user friendly and easy to search and intuitive way which means you will see many directory entries replicated across various tab headings.

Young People's Mental Health <https://www.frometowncouncil.gov.uk/find/family-support-and-advice/health-and-wellbeing/mental-health-support/>

There is a very comprehensive offer for young people looking for and /or needing mental health support in Frome. To find out more about what is available and how to access these services in Frome please visit.

In almost all cases, young people and their families can self-refer rather than wait to be referred through GP's or schools and Mindline is a single point of access to information advice and support, for individuals, families, and their wider networks.

Things to do and places to go <https://www.frometowncouncil.gov.uk/find/things-to-do-places-to-go/>

This section is broken down into age-appropriate categories with an additional area with a focus on days out where you will notice that the what's on section takes you through the Discover Frome calendar of events.

We are confident that this resource will provide an accessible platform for residents and practitioners in supporting the growth and development of children and young people and support many families in navigating the tricky times when they need a little bit of extra support. There will be a broad and varied communications campaign to promote FIND over the coming weeks and months; through local press, schools, newsletters, social media and physically at events and other opportunities to talk directly to residents about how to share, use and signpost friends, neighbours, and families to the wealth of information and advice available.

From the work programme, “Work with partner organisations and services to identify and fill gaps in a coordinated way”

Play Strategy

We have commissioned Children’s Scrapstore to draft our Play Strategy. They will be at a number of events with FTC over the summer to better understand how residents use their time for freely, personally directive and intrinsically motivated activity. They have conducted an audit of our parks and open spaces and will be ensuring that they gather the views of a very broad demographic of residents including children, young people, and adults to inform a strategy in order to positively influence planning decisions and design, management plans for our parks and open spaces and to make the best use of other town centre and community spaces for intergenerational activity.

Make It Happen Youth Conference

We were unable to deliver the 2020 youth conference for year 8 pupils so we are now starting to work with Frome College to develop an offer for the current year 9 students to ensure continuity and will also be delivering a youth conference for the current year 8’s in the new year. This will enable us to continue to build a culture of participation and democratic engagement in young people, whilst providing an ongoing platform for discussion and listening to the views and aspirations of young people.

Young People’s Mental Health Forum: in response to an increase in demand for local services and a gaps in provision we have worked with a range of partners to coordinate the implementation of a comprehensive offer for young people over the age of 11 years. We will continue to work with partners in the coming months to ensure under 11’s are also well served in Frome, with access to appropriate support through a range of entry points including schools and self / family referral.

We are continuing to work strategically with schools, local and regional organisations, Mendip District Council and a number of Somerset County Council leads in Health, Education and Early Help to ensure children and young people have access to a broad range of universal, early help and responsive services with a view to stemming the flow of families and individual reaching crisis and requiring more intensive support through increasing local services and community support networks.