

## PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

6 JULY 2021

### QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

(1) **Question from David Webb to the Cabinet Member for Children and Learning**

(a) **What youth services are on offer by the council and what age are they for and how much do they cost?**

Thank you for your question Mr Webb. All youth services provided by the council are free to young people and are provided for a range of ages from 5 to 18 (up to 25 for those young people with disabilities).

Throughout lockdowns our youth service delivered a total of 1,530 Activity Packs to families/young people/children known to them containing all manner of activities, competitions relevant information and signposting to services.

Where permissible, youth work sessions were delivered to young people in local parks including a Holiday programme during August 2020 for four weeks that engaged 103 young people across the borough.

Online activities that started at the beginning of the first lockdown continue with 2 activity posts on Facebook page daily until all restrictions are lifted - these include activities such as cooking, magic tricks, nature walks, scavenger hunts, self-esteem and wellbeing tips, as well as arts and crafts. Information is added to the page as necessary including, Southend Aspirations food vouchers scheme, useful information on support groups, health and wellbeing sites, education programmes.

Due to COVID regulations the current provision is as follows:

#### **Shoebury Youth Centre**

Sessions Tuesday – Saturday inclusive afternoon and/or evenings

#### **Detached Youth Work**

Friday evening

#### **St. Lukes**

Sessions Tuesday-Saturday inclusive afternoon or evening

#### **Outreach Programmes**

St Cedds 2 sessions on Thursday  
Woodgrange 1 session Wednesday

From the end of June 2021, two further senior sessions on Wednesdays and Fridays will be reinstated and all groups will be back to unlimited numbers being permitted to attend.

Holiday programmes run Easter/Summer holidays with the above programmes continuing as normal during half term.

Thye Council is also running bespoke pop-up detached youth work sessions from May 2021, in Milton Victoria and Kursaal wards, targeting young people experiencing or at risk of experiencing disadvantage, anti- social behaviour, criminality and being NEET (Not in Employment, Education or Training). These will be weekly dependant on choice from the following:

- Sports & Physical Exercise: development and delivery of inclusive sporting activities such as football, basketball, cricket, athletics, and any sport that young people would enjoy.
- Arts: workshops, programmes and projects addressing various art forms including drawing / painting, storytelling, heritage, music and theatre-craft – we are an accredited 'Arts Awards Centre'.
- Training & Education: supporting young people with their education from home-work study support to progressing towards gaining employment skills such as football coaching e.g., gaining FA coaching awards which can lead to employment as sports coaches.
- Health Programme: this is a key aspect as step 1 in the development pathway after having attracted young people to the programme to access the fun elements, they need to be healthy in mind and body, prepared to adopt healthier and more positive lifestyles.
- Heritage programmes to create a sense of belonging and togetherness by studying the environment, areas in which young people live and the stories which give Essex and Britain such a rich culture and heritage.
- Active Citizenship opportunities for young people to support their peers as volunteers, befrienders and mentors whilst assisting their own development as they gain new skills and experience.

**(2) Question from David Webb to the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health Integration**

- (a) During the period of the Covid-19 pandemic (March 2020 to date), how many residents with mental health needs has the Council provided support for and what types of services and support have been provided or facilitated?**

Thank you for your question Mr Webb. People presenting with mental health needs can be supported through a range of partners and services, at any age. Southend Borough Council and our partners have actively supported children, adults and families of people with mental health needs as a key priority during the pandemic.

In partnership with our adult mental health partner (Essex Partnership University Trust (EPUT)) we have provided a range of interventions and services to people already known to the teams and to people with new presentations of complex mental health needs. These included more regular contact either by telephone or digital consultations and offering people with more complex needs face to face appointments.

Southend Borough Council has supported 239 people of working age during the pandemic who were in receipt of a publicly funded package of care who met the criteria for support under the Care Act 2014. These packages predominantly supported them with daily living tasks which enabled them to remain at home. This number does not include the extensive support provided by the Emotional

Wellbeing and Mental Health Service and EPUT via their outpatient services, depot clinics and nursing support. This number also does not reflect people living with dementia or other organic mental health needs in older age.