

Agenda Item: 6.3.5



## Healthwatch Telford and Wrekin Board Meeting

Date:	05 October 2015
Title:	<b>YOUTH report</b>
Author:	David Bell, Barry Parnaby
For Information X	For information
Executive Summary:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Engagement</li><li>• Volunteers</li><li>• Healthwatch England</li><li>• Actions from feedback</li><li>• Care Quality Commission</li><li>• Meetings/Projects</li><li>• Performance to KPI's</li></ul>
Financial Implications:	None specifically
Equality and Diversity:	None specifically
Public Engagement:	None specifically
Legal Impact:	None specifically
Recommendations:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Healthwatch Telford and Wrekin board is recommended to note the contents of this report</li></ul>
Is there a need to consider inclusion in the Corporate Risk Register?	No

## **Introduction**

The Youth Network was formed in 2014 after visits to years 9 and 10 at Academy Schools, New College and TCAT. A number of successful network meetings had been held including a world café evening attended by the leader of T&WC and Board members. Other highlights had been involvement in the Sexual Health Survey and in contributing ideas to a Future Fit design of what young people would want in a hospital. Inevitably, with the pressure of exams and holiday times, attendance at Network meetings had been variable. It was recognised that there was much competition for young people's interest and time.

To start the new academic year there had been a visit to New College and 24 people had attended a discussion on the Network led by Barry and been signed up. But at the first Network meeting on the 15th. Only 3 previous members and 3 new members had arrived but they had been enthusiastic. HWT&W had about 55 young people registered on its data system. Attempts had been made to contact volunteers and youth members by phoning round with only limited success. It was recognised that young people used and responded to social media.

## **The Way Forward**

The next Network meeting was planned for the 29<sup>th</sup> September and ideas for the evening were:

- Presentation of the Sexual Health Report & Recommendations to the Commissioner & discussion of way forward
- Other ideas being worked up including food & fun as well as business
- What is going to be this year's project e.g. young people & mental health or self-abuse?

## **Ideas for development**

- We should blow our trumpet about the Network & Sexual Health Survey to the CGG & Round Table
- We need to plan an urgent programme of new visits to Academies & Colleges including Board members & existing members of the Network.
- We need to talk to Sharon Smith about links with the Young Carers project
- We need to link to the Youth Parliament & their chosen priorities and to other Youth Health Champions - including Public Health
- We need to link to the Social Care courses at the Colleges and talk to the tutors
- We need a contact leaflet in youth language with social media signposting
- We need to link with courses involving physical exercise, sport, dance, performance, music etc. and link with bodies like the Energize Sports Partnership and Telford FC and bodies like McDonalds, Kentucky, Burger King with young clientèle and staff
- Hold a network in the entrance of the Library building, Ice Rink etc.
- We need to make more use of the Youth page on the Website and Twitter

- We should get Bart Janack to write up how the Youth Network helped his application to university
- Over time we need a young person to work on running the network as a volunteer, a student placement or (with resources) on an apprenticeship.
- Another charity has used a young person for a few weeks just to revise their web offer and set up social media route ways.
- Due to the reduction in Council funding we need urgently to find a new resource base for the Youth Network through bids for grants, sponsorship or other fund raising that could involve young people e.g. sponsored marathons, swims and climbs or cycling.

### **A role for a team of volunteers**

With our small staff team focused on our statutory contract and Board members focusing on generally generating opportunities and resources for HWT&W we need a dedicated group of volunteers to take on development of the Youth Network and the ideas above - including an enthusiastic team leader.

### **The Youth Committee**

The current Youth Committee comprises Barry Parnaby and Dave O'loughlin so it obviously needs strengthening - including by bright young people with ideas and commitment. We are also trying to involve a Telford community worker who has been very successful in working in a disadvantaged area with young people.