

SOCIAL AFFAIRS SELECT COMMITTEE
26 March 2013 at 7.00 pm

Further to the recent despatch of agenda and papers for the above meeting, please find the following item(s) which were marked as 'to follow':

9. **Feedback from Members' Visits** (Pages 1 - 2)
 - House in the Basement Visit 14 March 2013

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VISIT REPORT

SOCIAL AFFAIRS SELECT COMMITTEE - 26 MARCH 2013

<p>Name of Organisation: House in the Basement.</p>
<p>Name of contact at the Organisation: Adam Wedd. Manager</p>
<p>Address of the Organisation: Underneath The Stag. Sevenoaks.</p>
<p>Please summarise the work of the organisation: Youth café for young people aged 11 - 18 years. Open after school wednesdays to Saturdays until 9.30pm. The Café aims to provide a safe, alcohol free friendly meeting place for young people, Drinks, snacks and hot meals are sold by volunteers on a non profit basis. The Café provides access to computers which can be used for homework, writing C.V.s, or playing games, film shows, chess and pool, plus a comfortable flopping out area. Two paid staff are on duty when the Café is open who will provide information and support. Older teenagers are encouraged to volunteer. Links with other providers: Connexions run sessions for Careers Advice NHS Sexual health advice sessions KCC Young Peoples Project Sevenoaks Library plan to provide books on a rotating basis Fair Trade recently ran a Fair Trade fortnight. SAYT (Sevenoaks Area Youth Trust) and St Nicks Church provide volunteers</p>
<p>What are the main challenges faced by the organisation? We did not discuss this, but I would guess, funding.</p>
<p>Do their clients come from the Sevenoaks District or a wider area? 200 registered members, usually 20 – 30 young people come to each session. The membership record shows that young people throughout the district join, although mainly from Sevenoaks and surrounding villages because of transport problems. Edenbridge and Swanley have their own youth facilities.</p>
<p>Who mainly refers clients to them? How to people know about their services? The Manager has visited the secondary schools in the area (state and private) to talk about the facilities the café offers. Any young person is welcome. The Café is</p>

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advertised on Face Book, Twitter and various web sites, plus word of mouth.

Who are their primary funders?

The set up funding was provided by Cory Environmental Trust. The NHS HOUSE (preventive youth outreach) and KCC Young People Project contribute towards running costs. SAYT, & St Nicks Church help by providing volunteers.

The Café and the staff are managed by Sevenoaks Town Council.

Do they benefit from any contact with the District Council?

There is a good relationship between the Café Manager and the Community Development Department.

If so, can this be improved (within existing resources)?

District Councillors could promote the Café in their Newsletters etc.

I found the Youth Cafe inspiring. The Manager was enthusiastic, welcoming and approachable. Sited in a central position, it provides a relaxing place for young people to meet, socialise and get advice in a safe, alcohol free environment.