

## SOCIAL AFFAIRS SELECT COMMITTEE

### Minutes of the meeting of the Social Affairs Select Committee held on 27 March 2012 commencing at 7.00 pm

Present: Cllr Mrs. Cook (Chairman)  
Cllr Ms. Lowe (Vice-Chairman)

Cllrs Ayres, Ball, Bosley, Brookbank, Ms. Chetram, Eyre,  
Mrs. George, Horwood, Maskell, Mrs. Purves, Miss. Thornton and  
Towell

Apologies for absence: Cllrs Mrs. Morris, Pett, Raikes and Searles

#### 40. Minutes

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting of the Social Affairs Select Committee held on 24 January 2012, be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

#### 41. Declarations of Interest.

In respect of Item 7 – Improving the Lives of Young People – Councillor Michael Horwood declared that he had been a volunteer for VSU in Dartford.

#### 42. Formal Response from the Cabinet Following Matters Referred by the Committee And/Or Requests From The Performance and Governance Committee (please refer to the minutes as indicated):

No issues had been referred to the Cabinet.

#### 43. Actions From Previous Meeting.

The Actions from the previous meeting were noted.

#### 44. Future Business, Work Plan 2011/12 (attached) and the Forward Plan.

The Committee discussed the Work Plan and noted that the theme for the June 2012 meeting of the Committee was 'Active Communities' and the Chairman reported that the possibility of holding the meeting at Lullingstone Golf Course was being investigated. The visit to the Stag Theatre would move to the June meeting and the Chairman hoped that the Committee would either receive a presentation or undertake a visit surrounding Community Safety Week.

The theme for the September meeting would be 'Health' and the Committee would receive an update from Mumsnet as well as a presentation on Young Carers. The Chairman also suggested that it would be helpful to receive a presentation surrounding changes resulting from the Health and Social Care Bill.

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The theme for the November meeting would be 'Community Safety' and the Committee would receive presentations from the Police and the Fire Service. A visit to a local fire station would also be arranged.

A Member queried whether it would be possible to review the Big Community Fund, specifically value for money. The Head of Community Development reported that the Finance Advisory Group was the agreed scrutiny committee for the scheme. However, a report outlining the outcomes that had been achieved from the funding could be presented to a future meeting of the Social Affairs Select Committee.

The Chairman reported that as the Committee reviewed specific themes, Officers would also provide information surrounding grant funding from the Council. For example, when the Committee reviewed Active Communities, the Council's representatives on the Sevenoaks District Sports Council would be invited to attend the meeting and outline how grants were utilised.

### 45. West Kent Equality Partnership

The Chief Executive presented a report and document setting out the aims and commitments for the West Kent Equality Partnership, which would replace the Council's current Comprehensive Equality Policy and Scheme. The Partnership had been formed in 2010 between Sevenoaks District Council, Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council and Tunbridge Wells Borough Council and had developed a joint response to the requirement to publish equality objectives intended to support improved partnership working and to allow authorities to report shared outcomes against common objectives. The Chief Executive also reported that the Aims and Commitments for 2012-2016 had been approved by the partnership Councils and had been adopted by Cabinet with authority delegated to the Portfolio Holder for Safe and Caring Communities to respond to any comments made by this Committee, in order to comply with the statutory timescale.

The Chief Executive reported that the Secretary of State had not approved the statutory guidance that had been expected. As a result of this, non-statutory guidance was in place and the West Kent Equalities Partnership Aims and Commitments for 2012-2016 complied with the non-statutory guidance. The purpose of the Aims and Commitments was to guide the activities of the Local Authority and ensure compliance with national standards.

Resolved: That the West Kent Equality Partnership Aims and Commitments for 2012-16, be received.

### 46. Improving The Lives of Young People

The Head of Community Development provided an overview of the issue and updated the Committee on a number of young people's projects supported by the Council. This included the Power Project, aimed at young people on the edge of criminal or anti-social activity. The 8-12 Project, set up originally as

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part of the Council's Single Regeneration Budget work in Swanley had since expanded to other parts of the District and, going forward, would be funded from a successful funding bid worth £180,000 and would be managed in the voluntary sector. The Committee also heard that the Council worked with the Kenward Trust to provide a Drugs Worker who worked with vulnerable young people. In partnership with Voluntary Action Within Kent the Council also supported a Summer Programme for children and families across the District.

In addition to supporting a number of projects, the Council also undertook consultation with young people.

The Head of Community Development also provided the Committee with details of the grants that were provided to organisations working with young people (attached at Appendix A).

### Connexions (now CXK)

Representatives from Connexions (now CXK), Jan Fenning (Area Manager for Dartford, Gravesham and Sevenoaks) and Julia Ward (Team Leader for Dartford and Sevenoaks) attended the meeting and provided the Committee with an overview of the work undertaken by CXK.

CXK used a number of strategies to engage young people with the job market and the service was currently universally provided. From September 2012 schools would be under a duty to secure access to independent, impartial career guidance for their pupils in years 9-11 and it was likely that the duty would be extended to 16-18 year olds in schools and further education. In order to be independent, careers guidance should be presented in an impartial manner, include information on the options available in respect of 16-18 education and training, including apprenticeships and be provided by a person not employed by the school.

One of the main aims of CXK was to move people from NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training) to EET (in Employment, Education and Training). The biggest barriers to encouraging young people to take up education, employment or training was a lack of provision and issues with transportation. Within the Sevenoaks District, Swanley had the highest figures for young people classified as NEET. CXK had been working with providers to develop bespoke provision that would be attractive to young people.

In response to a question, the Committee were told that the Government's plans to cap benefit levels would have very little impact on levels of employment however, it was likely that crime figures would rise as a result.

A Member expressed concern that schools would not be able to provide some young people with the support and guidance that they required. In response Ms Ward clarified that out-reach programmes provided by CXK would continue but additional funding for these programme would have to be secured in the future. If schools wished to buy in a service from CXK work

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could be undertaken with schools to develop good careers information and advice programmes.

Another Member queried whether CXK had undertaken any partnership work with organisations who supported vulnerable young people within the criminal justice system. Ms Fenning reported that as part of her role she worked with the Youth Offending Service and work was on-going to secure funding for prevention work. Information on this work could be provided to the Committee following the meeting.

*ACTION 1: That the CXK Area Manager for Dartford, Gravesham and Sevenoaks provide information on prevention work that was being undertaken with vulnerable young people within the criminal justice system.*

### Voluntary Action Within Kent (VAWK)

Mandy Wynne and Jon Weller from Voluntary Action Within Kent (VAWK) attended the meeting and provided the Committee with an overview of the work of the organisation in relation to the services provided to young people.

Services provided to young people included:

- Apprenticeship schemes,
- Internship placements,
- Mentoring for young people,
- Work experience placements
- residential trips,
- support to young carers and befriending service
- work with children with disabilities

One of the main aims of VAWK was to ensure that there were opportunities available for every young person.

A Member queried how young volunteers were recruited and how links were maintained. Ms Wynne reported that most young people started volunteering through their schools and due to the diverse range of projects that were available a significant number of young people continued to volunteer once they had left school. Social media also had a big impact on the ability of VAWK to maintain links with volunteers.

The Chairman noted that some young people were not aware of the diversity of business across the District and questioned whether there was an opportunity to hold business fairs in order to assist young people and local businesses to identify the opportunities and skills that were available.

The Committee stressed the importance of ensuring that businesses taking on apprenticeship placements or work experience placements worked to provide development opportunities for the young people involved.

A Member questioned how VAWK worked with schools based in more deprived areas. Ms Wynne acknowledged that there were more challenges

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but stressed that it was possible to engage with a variety of young people through the diverse range of programmes run by VAWK.

The Chairman thanked the speakers for attending the meeting and outlining the various programmes that were being run across the District. The Committee suggested that it may be helpful to receive a further update in a year.

### 47. Community Safety Strategic Assessment and Annual Action Plan

The Head of Community Development provided a presentation on the Community Safety Strategic Assessment and Annual Action Plan and reported that it was likely that the Action Plan would be considered by Cabinet before the next meeting of the Social Affairs Select Committee.

The eight Community Safety priorities for 2012/2013 were:

- Anti Social Behaviour
- Burglary and vehicle crime
- Theft offences and handling stolen goods
- Shop lifting and theft
- Substance misuse
- Young Peoples Issues
- Domestic Abuse
- Speeding Vehicles

The Chairman noted that funding for the Drug Related Worker may cease in the future and questioned whether there would be an opportunity for GPs to fund the work. The Head of Community Development reported that funding for the worker came from two sources – Community Safety Funding and Choosing Health Funding. It was the Community Safety Funding that was currently at risk, not the Health Service funding.

The Chairman also suggested that it would be helpful to work with partner agencies in order to reduce levels of domestic abuse against elderly people. The Committee agreed that Cabinet should be asked to consider this request.

*ACTION 2: That Cabinet be asked to ensure that, through working with other agencies, the Community Safety Partnership should aim to reduce levels of domestic abuse against elderly people.*

In response to a question regarding whether some of the fluctuations in levels of crime among young people could be a result of changing demographics, the Head of Community Development agreed to circulate statistics relating to the demographic of the District but reported that some of the success in reducing levels of crime could be attributed to restorative justice and the success of the Power Project which worked with people identified as being at risk of offending.

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*ACTION 3: That the Head of Community Development circulate statistics relating to the demographic of the District.*

Noting the continual rise in instances of metal theft, a Member questioned whether any plans were in place to work with Parish Council's in order to identify any potential sites where thefts were likely to take place. The Head of Community Development reported that Sevenoaks District Council currently supplied Smart Water to Parish Councils who requested it and work with Parish Councils could be undertaken to proactively identify community buildings where thefts were likely to take place.

48. Feedback From Members' Visits

Councillor Eyres provided an update of his visit to the Youth and Community Centre in Swanley. The report is attached at Appendix B.

49. Programme of Visitors to Future Meetings of the Committee 2011/12

The programme of visitors for future meetings was discussed and noted.

THE MEETING WAS CONCLUDED AT 9.21 pm

Chairman

## Community Grant Scheme - Schedule of Applications 2011/12

## Appendix C

Ref No	Name of Organisation	Purpose			Grant app. 2011/12	Suggested allocations	Reason for refusal	Notes
			2009/10	2010/11				
8	Sevenoaks District Arts Council (District-wide)	To provide grants and underwriting to arts organisations across Sevenoaks District	£9,700	£8,500	£9,700	£5,000		
14	Eden Christian Trust (Edenbridge & surrounding parishes)	Hire of coach to take 40 young people to Summer Camp	No application	No application	£500	£200		
23	Relate West & Mid Kent (Mid & South Sevenoaks)	Training and development costs for Counsellors	£0	£1,000	£800	£800		
30	Sevenoaks District Sports Council (District-wide)	Running costs	£9,000	£8,500	£5,000	£5,000		
51	Family Matters (District-wide)	Contribution towards cost of 1:1 therapeutic counselling	£600	£600	£3,000	£1,000		
85	VAWK (District-wide) - includes the former Sevenoaks Volunteer Development Agency - previously number 118, who merged with VAWK to become one agency in 2008, VSU Youth in Action (District-wide), formerly number 39, who merged with VAWK in 2009 and 121 Youth Befriending, who merged with VAWK in 2009	Running costs - infrastructure	£21,300	£19,450	£25,400	£14,250		Breakdown of grant: Volunteer Centres £5,000, 121 Youth Befriending £1,500, VSU £4,250, CVS £3,500
328	Ash-Cum-Ridley Parish Council	HAWK Youth Project - match funding towards partnership youth project in Hartley, New Ash Green & West Kingsdown	£8,000	£7,000	£5,000	£4,500		
368	Family Action Building Bridges (Edenbridge and surrounding parishes)	Outreach service in Sevenoaks & Westerham	£1,800	£1,100	£3,600	£1,800		

Ref No	Name of Organisation	Purpose			Grant app. 2011/12	Suggested allocations	Reason for refusal	Notes
			2009/10	2010/11				
409	Invicta Education Business Partnership (District-wide).	2 week Safety in Action event	£1,000	£1,000	£2,000	£800		
413	West Kent YMCA (District-wide)	Running costs and providing services to young people across the Sevenoaks District area	£3,000	£3,000	£9,000	£1,000		



Ref No	Name of Organisation	Purpose			Grant app. 2011/12	Suggested allocations	Reason for refusal	Notes
			2009/10	2010/11				
433	Kent Youth (Districtwide)	Running costs	No application	£2,000	£4,760	£1,000		

Refusal Reasons

- 1 The organisation's reserves are considered to be too high to enable a grant to be recommended
- 2 The application has not demonstrated that the project for which funding is sought sufficiently meets the priorities of the grant scheme
- 3 The available level of funding is not sufficient for the Council to be able to support this priority
- 4 This service is primarily the responsibility of another agency
- 5 This is an advice service that does not have CLS accreditation
- 6 This application is for work taking place in a different financial year
- 7 Application is ineligible under the Community Grant Guidelines
- 8 This application cannot be supported as priority has been given to applications supporting a wide area of the District

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## **Sevenoaks District Council**

Social Affairs Committee

Visit to: Swanley Youth Centre

Mark Worf, KCC Senior Youth Work Practitioner

22<sup>nd</sup> March 2012

Swanley Youth Centre is a slightly converted 1960's junior school taken out of commission by KCC some years ago. It continues to be maintained by KCC and apart from the Swanley Youth Centre it also contains an area used by Adult Day Services and a secure area used by KCC Social Services. In the typical design of the type of building, a series of classrooms are built around a central main hall. The classroom areas have been modernised and are used for different purposes such as an art room, a television/games room, a training/classroom and a separate social area which includes a small kitchen and a coffee bar area. There is in addition a small sports hall and adjacent to it a small playground containing a basketball court. An area of grass / rough ground has been converted to be used as a race track for remote control cars.

The building's original kitchen area has been converted and is used as a social area by KCC Adult Day Services and is used every day.

One corner of the building has been made secure and is used by KCC Social Services and from where KCC's 16+ programme is run. This is completely separate from the Youth Centre and in particular it handles the transition of vulnerable young people from fostering and adoption to independent living where that is required.

General maintenance, utilities and staff costs are handled directly from KCC. Mark Worf runs the rest of the operation of the building with around 80% of that income coming from external commercial hiring. Mark also line-manages the other Youth Workers (including Clare Buchanan operating in Sevenoaks and currently based at the Stag).

### **TV Room**

This contains a large wall mounted TV which also acts as the computer monitor for Wii and computer games. It is also used as an area for general discussions and group work (such as sexual health meetings) as it contains settees, soft chairs and is more relaxed.

### **Art Room**

This is primarily used for art work and one wall is covered in shelves containing representative pieces, not all successful but these then become conversation pieces to entice less confident young people to try and do better.

### **Training Room**

This is set out as a formal classroom and runs 'proper' training for young people as well as for Youth Practitioners (run by Mark himself) and is also hired by external training organisations.

# Minute Annex

## **Garden**

An initial gardening project involved a small planter outside the main entrance. This was so successful that a larger project is now underway and the garden area has been fenced off to protect it from vandalism as well as protecting the young people. It is intended to develop a small vegetable garden alongside a flower garden and will include Adult Services as well as young people from the Revolution group.

## **Sports Hall / Hard Court area**

This is really too small to handle rumbustious 14-16 year old boys but Mark and his team use it as much as possible. However they feel they have to have a supervisory presence whenever it is being used and therefore its use depends on the availability of staff. The size of the hall means for example that 3-a-side football is run (rather than 5-a-side) but regular substitutions keeps everyone involved. It is high enough for badminton, basketball and trampolining to be done. Mark comments that trampolining is not at present possible as he cannot find a trampolining instructor. The external hard court area has built in basketball stands but can also be used for other sports activities.

## **Model Car circuit**

An overgrown area next to the hard court area was cut back and it was discovered that there was a model car track. This was repaired and is used for electric model car racing.

## **Youth Club Use**

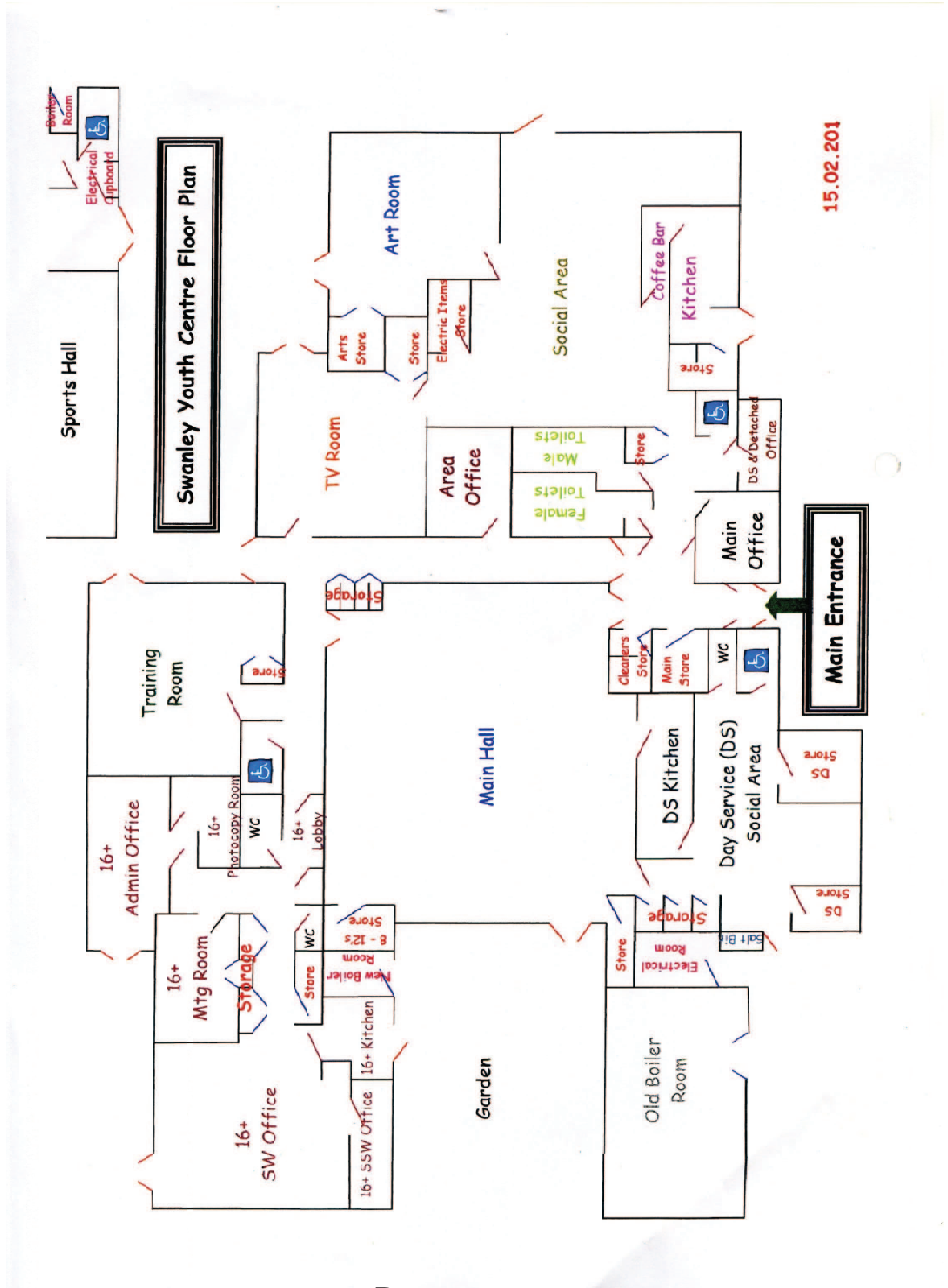
The Youth Club has typically 80-90 visitors a week with generally 10-15 each night (i.e. for each particular topic or group). If commercial hirers are included then around 200 people per week use the centre. Commercial hirers include yoga, zumba, baby fitness and academic testing (for example that for apprenticeship entrance).

## **Youth Workers and Content**

Youth workers are targeted as sports, arts or information/advice centred. Mark's training and recruitment aim is to ensure his Youth Workers have specialist knowledge but also a good mix of skills and ability to mentor young people.

The work done by the Swanley Centre (and youth workers generally) has a required 'dictated' element. For example disability awareness, anti-sexism, anti-racism and LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender questioning) awareness. In addition other items relate to the annual calendar, matching in with for example Black Awareness month or International Woman's Day.

A second element is 'requested' – where the visitors to the centre actively request a session be set up. A third element is 'perceived' where the youth workers set up a session based around current issues happening locally or nationally (for example a storyline on one of the TV soaps) or between members of the centre. Youth workers complete an OfSted derived form planning each session which includes a post-session analysis looking at outcomes. Where a particular conversation or topic keeps recurring it will then be used as the basis for a specialist future session which will hopefully then relate directly to the young people involved.

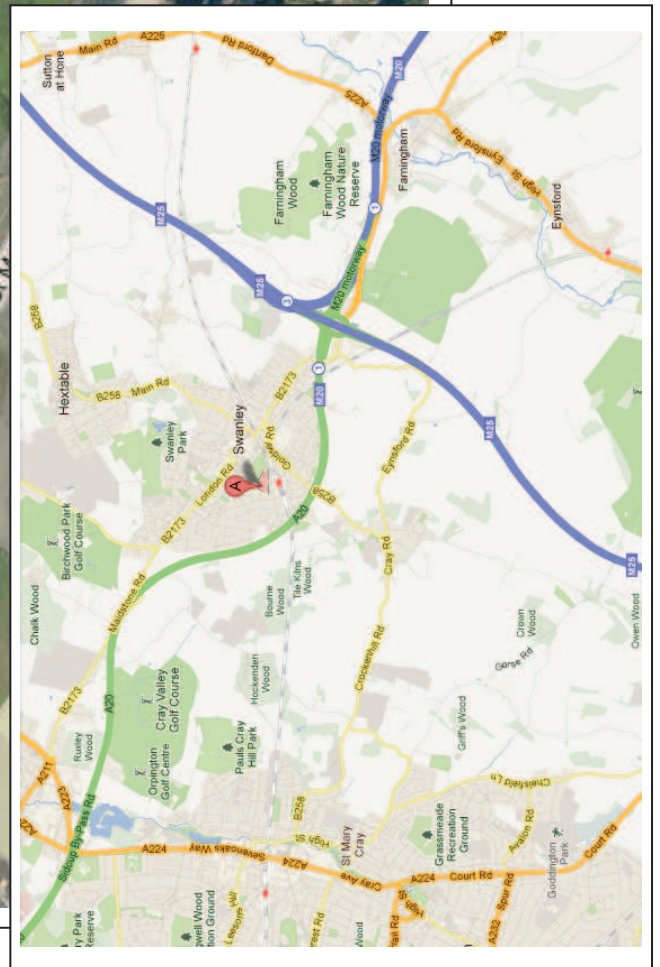




# Minute Annex



Swanley Youth Centre





# Staff Sessional Planning

Youth Provision: \_\_\_\_\_ Day/Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Staff: \_\_\_\_\_

Resources						
<b>Activity</b>	<b>Who</b> (What staff and how many young people?)	<b>Aim of Activity</b> (e.g. To assist young people to consider issues around disabilities)	<b>Desired Outcomes</b> (e.g. Young people are able to identify barriers faced by someone with a disability)	<b>Method</b> (How will you do it?)	<b>Measures</b> (How will you know your outcomes were met?)	<b>Were Your Outcomes Met</b> (Outcomes V Measures)



## Session Preparation & Evaluation

**Facilitation:**

Is the centre clean and welcoming to users and staff?	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
Is the correct paperwork available to you?	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
Is the coffee bar set up?	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
Are generic activities set up and in working order (pool, computers etc)?	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>

Comments:

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**From Previous Session:**

Has the evaluation from the previous session been read?	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
What follow up work is required?	<b>See Below</b>	<b>None</b>

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**Any information passed on to team from FT Worker or Bursar by LIC:**

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**Any information to be passed on to young people by staff (Trips, Closures etc):**

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Number of young people attending session: 11 - 12  13 - 19  20+  Total



Please indicate the activities that took place or issues discussed with the young people during this session

<b>Sports</b>	Uni Hoc	Instruments	
Badminton	Volleyball	Jewellery Making	
Basketball	Other:	Karaoke	ICT/Team Building
Cricket		Model Magic	Computer Work
Football		Murals	Dance Mat
Netball	Arts & Crafts	Painting	Giant Connect Four
Pool	Card Making	Photography	MTA
Snooker	Circus Skills	Plaster of Paris	Parachute Games
Table Tennis	Cooking	Poster Making	Team Juggle
Tennis	Decks/Mixing	Role Plays	Wii Games
Touch Amer Football	Drama	Singing	Other :
Touch Rugby	Drawing	Videoing	
Trampoline	Hamma Beads	Other:	
<b>Issues</b>	Discrimination	Living Skills	Sexual Health
Abuse	Drug/Alcohol Use	Mental Health	Sexuality
Anger Management	Education / School	Nature	Skills/Qualifications
Animal Rights	Environment:	Parenting Skills	Stereotyping
Appreciating Others	World	Personal Beliefs	Teamwork
Aspirations	Local	Personal Safety	The Law
Benefits & Bills	What you Can Do	Personal Support	The Media
Bereavement	Feelings	Politics	Training Opp's
Budgeting	First Aid	Pollution	Wildlife
Building Confidence	Healthy Living	Racism	Work
Bullying	Homelessness	Recycling	YP Achievements
Citizenship	Housing	Relationships	Other: (Below)
Communication Skills	Human Rights	Respect	
Community Safety	Hygiene	Risk Assessment	
Councils/Councillors	ICT & Internet	Self Confidence	
Decision Making	Learning Opp's	Self Image	
Disabilities	Lifestyle You'd Like	Sexism	

Young peoples involvement / comments:

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Young peoples achievements (inc recorded or accredited outcomes):

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# Minute Annex

**Behaviour (positive as well as issues):**

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**Staff Issues:**

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**Session Summary:**

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**Planning for next session (activities, equipt, info required, issues to be raised etc):**

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<b>Did this session promote Equality &amp; Diversity?</b>				<b>Were the Every Child Matters strands met?</b>			
Race	<input type="radio"/>	Religion	<input type="radio"/>	Be Healthy	<input type="radio"/>	Positive Contribution	<input type="radio"/>
Gender	<input type="radio"/>	Age	<input type="radio"/>	Stay safe	<input type="radio"/>	Economic Well Being	<input type="radio"/>
Sexuality	<input type="radio"/>	Ability	<input type="radio"/>	Enjoy & Achieve	<input type="radio"/>		

Quality of young people's development/learning

Quality of youth work practice

1 = Excellent, 2 = Good, 3 = Satisfactory, 4 = Could be improved, 5 = Not acceptable