



Carlton Colville, Southwold, Kessingland & Surrounding Villages, Community Partnership

Summary of Youth Workshop 21st June 2021 (via Zoom)

The purpose of the Workshop was to revisit the Youth Priority which was agreed at the first Community Partnership meeting held on 19th February 2020. The priority at that meeting was divided into three sections.

- Facilities
- Activities
- Employment *

* It was suggested and agreed at the workshop that the employment priority should be dealt with as a separate heading. This would ensure that the appropriate partners and stakeholders would be part of the discussion. Bringing in their knowledge and experience. However, it was acknowledged that it was expected that as part of the discussions at the workshop there would be overlap into employment issues, ie volunteering.

Those in attendance were asked prior to the meeting to consider one priority in reference to youth; a summary of comments and suggestions are below:

- Transport for young people and improved facilities
- Skate park for Southwold
- Mental health within schools x 3
- We should co produce with the young people and gain understanding /Getting a survey together and asking them what they want and making young people taking the responsibility x 5

Defining 'Youth'

A group discussion was held around the age range to be considered with 11 to 25 being proposed.

The group were keen to ensure that the needs of the more vulnerable within the older age range was considered. It was agreed that the age range for the purposes of this workshop and relating workstreams should be:

11 to 25, but allow flexibility on the lower age range

11 to 15 – pre GCSE

15 to 19 – GCSE to A-Level

19 to 25 – A-Level to work

Attendees were then divided into breakout rooms to consider in more depth how to address the priority. The key points are set out below

- Move away from 'providing' for young people, make them part of the solution.
- The way we normally engage with surveys gets the same voices that are already heard and not who we are missing, so find where the real need is and go to them by utilising current activity providers to get feedback
- To identify key priorities and if they span multi-age groups.

- That someone should be linked to a specific age group so they are the expert for that group.
- That young people need ownership over activities provided, rather than find adults deciding on their behalf.
- How do we engage with those who are not part of the Youth Council or similar bodies?
- Thought needs to be given on how to clearly communicate

The breakout sessions provided an opportunity to discuss in more detail the needs and potential solutions. There is not a one size fits all solution. For example, it was noted in the Southwold and Reydon area there are no High Schools to engage with. It was suggested there is a need for more localised provision in rural areas, with improved transport links between areas.

There was agreement that not all young people want to join groups. A potential solution from one group was to make more use and promote what we already have. The natural environment should, it was felt be given more focus, ie local parks, the beach, and places such as Carlton Marshes.

A key theme is to include young people in the process, ensure that as part of any consultation they receive feedback, managing expectations was also felt to be key. Would it be possible for the older age group to help with the engagement, and potentially provide a mentoring role?

Recommendation:

The overall theme from the workshop was that we do not feel confident as a partnership that we know what young people want, and that to move forward and work towards supporting a potential solution there needs to be engagement with young people.

This it was felt should be carried out through various methods, including, utilising the opportunities of those already working with young people, ie Impact Detached Youth, in Carlton Colville, Kessingland and Southwold Youth Clubs. Engaging with Schools was seen as key, including using those in the Community Partnership who have existing links with Schools, ie Youth Council, Youth Voice, School Governors and local connectors.

It is important to note as already mentioned that there will be differing needs within the CP area. Although the overarching need is to start the conversation with our young residents. To ensure that this can happen we should set up a working group to take this forward. Reflecting on the comments around co-production it is crucial there would be young people as part of any working group. It would be preferable if this could be led by those who already have a role or link with young people.

Providing a framework through a working group alongside meaningful consultation will ensure that any resulting projects and initiatives are put forward with identified need and robust consultation at the core.

To deal with the employment element of the priority it is suggested a separate workshop is planned for the Autumn.