

POLICY AND PROJECT ADVISORY BOARD

Meeting held on Tuesday, 23rd July, 2024 at the Council Offices, Farnborough at 7.30 pm.

Voting Members

Cllr M.J. Roberts (Chairman)
Cllr Julie Hall (Vice-Chairman)

Cllr A.H. Gani
Cllr Lisa Greenway
Cllr Steve Harden
Cllr Rhian Jones
Cllr Halleh Koohestani

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Cllr Peace Essien Igodifo, Cllr T.W. Mitchell and Cllr Ivan Whitmee.

Cllr Thomas day attended the meeting as Standing Deputy and Cllr Sue Carter attended the meeting online and was therefore unable to vote.

6. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 12th June 2024 were agreed as a correct record.

7. WORK PLAN

The Board noted the current Work Plan.

It was agreed that the Marmot Health Strategy would be discussed at the next Progress Group meeting.

8. PROCUREMENT STRATEGY

The Board welcomed Mr Roger Sanders, Risk, Performance and Procurement Service Manager, who presented Report No. ACE2409 that provided information on the process for the review of the Council's Procurement Strategy. Also present was Cllr Abe Allen, Enabling Services Portfolio Holder, who had been invited to attend for this item.

The Board was advised that the introduction of the Procurement Act 2023, due to come into force in October 2024, placed a requirement on the Council to review and update both its Contract Standing Orders and its Procurement Strategy. The current Procurement Strategy covered the period 2020 to 2024, with the new Strategy setting out the Council's strategic vision and priorities for this area of work for the following three years to 2027. As a duty of the new Act, the Strategy would incorporate elements of the National Procurement Strategy.

In discussing the proposed Procurement Strategy, Members stressed the importance of incorporating social values as part of the procurement process. The Board discussed the report and made the following comments:

- Can we set up a local directory to encourage the local of businesses? Needs to be kept up to date.
- When looking at strategic outcomes, engagement with the education sector is essential
- In relation to Contract Standing Orders, a heavy weighting should be place on green issues rather than simply encouraging

Subject to the above comments, the Board ENDORSED the development of the new Procurement Strategy, as set out in Report No. ACE2409.

The Chairman thanked Mr Sanders for his report.

9. **YOUTH ENGAGEMENT**

The Board welcomed Ms Abby Roper from Vision4Youth (V4Y), who provided a presentation on work undertaken in relation to youth engagement in Yateley and Ms Emma Lamb, the Council's Community and Partnerships Service Manager, who outlined the current provision in Rushmoor. Also present was Cllr Sophie Porter, Community & Residents Portfolio Holder, who had been invited to attend for this item and for the workshop that followed.

The Board was advised that V4Y had been a youth club provider for over twenty years, providing facilities to young people aged 11 – 25 years. The Yateley Friday Night Club had been established in 2015 with support from Yateley Town Council. In 2018, the Town Council had allowed the club to start meeting, rent-free, in The Tythings and this had provided the opportunity for the club to expand. The expansion of the club had required V4Y to seek more volunteers and this proved to be a challenging process. It was reported that V4Y currently operated six different youth clubs during term time across two venues in Yateley and Darby Green, with around 160 young people accessing these groups. In addition to the club nights, V4Y also supported qualified youth workers who walked the local streets once or twice a week, visiting hot spots and building relationships with young people. This work involved close liaison with the police. Members were informed that, over the summer holidays, V4Y would run a Summer Holiday Youth Club as part of the Department for Education's 'Holiday Activities & Food' programme. This was aimed at young people aged 11 – 16 years and was free to those who qualified for Free School Meals. Finally, V4Y offered 1:1 support for young people with Youth Social Prescribing, which was aimed at providing early intervention in cases of social isolation, irrespective of the originating cause.

Ms Lamb went on to describe the current provision for young people in Rushmoor. This included:

- Rushmoor Youth Influence – a forum for young people to hear from experts and to share opinions on key issues, supported by Rushmoor schools and Army Welfare Service
- Prospect Youth Club – currently providing some mental health support services
- Youth Café – set up in response to feedback from residents, businesses and partners, currently led by a local ward councillor, partnership between Council, Step by Step and Hampshire Cultural Trust
- Detached Youth Work – Safer Street 5 Fund for detached youth work provision in ASB hotspots, currently ongoing
- Yellow Brick Road project - £34,000 for one year project to support 25 11-17 year-olds at risk of exploitation, twelve sessions with a mentor with follow-up support

Members were informed that a number of gaps and barriers had been identified and these had been used to shape the objectives and approach being adopted in terms of youth provision in Rushmoor. The focused approach would involve both outreach and also work with local schools. It was identified that an important part of the approach was in relation to communications, where, amongst other approaches, the Council would use its own social media channels. The workshop that was to follow the meeting would consider how to support and encourage local young people. During August, the feedback from this session and from Rushmoor Youth Influence would be collated and, in September, the Board would receive further report outlining proposals for a future Youth Engagement Strategy. Ms Lamb ran through a list of draft proposals being considered, including:

- Programme of support to secondary schools by holding three open days a year. Activities include council chambers, mayor and office, budgeting tool, design your own park
- Work with Junior Leadership Teams in schools
- Young People Led Forums – supported by RBC
- Young apprentice to work across departments focusing on work relating to their peer groups
- HCC NEETS Boost program (ran at Basingstoke Council)
- Engage young people in our surveys and social media using platforms they use
- Work with Springpod to provide a virtual work experience programme
- Offer good quality work experience places

- Support partners to deliver services that are appropriate to young people in each area
- Work with young people and partners to find effective solutions to address ASB and crime prevention
- Ensure we are inclusive and accessible to everyone
- Continue Youth Café & Youth Club

The Board discussed the presentations and made the following comments:

- Important to consider how to target those not in education
- Contacts in schools help to improve attendance at events
- In relation to a question about the demographic of volunteers – explained normally ladies whose children had grown up but a broad spectrum
- V4Y offer ‘young leader’ positions for maturing young people
- V4Y changed into a registered charity as it expanded as this removed financial liability from the previous trustees and provided better opportunities for applying for grant-funding
- Important to have clearly defined aims for the Council’s activities
- Whilst V4Y did not consult directly with young people when it was starting up, the views of the community were definitely considered

The Board ENDORSED the process set out in the presentation and looked forward to further involvement in this area.

The Chairman thanked Ms Roper and Ms Lamb for their presentations.

The meeting closed at 8.45 pm.

CLLR M.J. ROBERTS (CHAIRMAN)
