

06th January 2023

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the **YOUTH SERVICES COMMITTEE** to be held in the Council Chamber, Town Council Offices, Bradbourne Vale Road, Sevenoaks, TN13 3QG on **Wednesday 18th January 2023 at 7.00pm**. Town Councillors are reminded that they have a duty to state a Declaration of Interest prior to the appropriate agenda item and to consider the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 s.17 when reaching a decision.

Please note that the proceedings of this meeting will be streamed live to YouTube for the public to watch via the following link: <https://youtu.be/xtfKBnWaeNM> and may be recorded in line with regulations set out in the Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014. A copy of Sevenoaks Town Council's procedure for the recording of meetings is available online at sevenoakstown.gov.uk or by request.

Members of the public wishing to address the Committee should notify the Town Council by 12 noon on the day of the meeting. Members of the public not wishing to be recorded should put this request to the Clerk at the earliest possible opportunity.



Town Clerk

To assist in the speedy and efficient despatch of business, members wishing to obtain factual information on items included on the agenda are asked to enquire of the Town Clerk prior to the day of the meeting.

Committee Members:

Cllr Dr Marilyn Canet (Chairman)	Cllr Andrew Eyre
Cllr Richard Parry (Vice-Chairman)	Cllr R M C Hogarth
Cllr Libby Ancrum	Cllr Tom Morris Brown
Cllr Nick Busvine	Cllr Claire Shea
Sevenoaks Youth Council: Vacant KCC: Victoria Walters SDC: Kelly Webb, Maxine Quinton	SAYT: Caroline Berry West Kent Communities: Richard Dowling

AGENDA

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

To enable any questions previously submitted by members of the public on any matter to be drawn to the attention of the Town Council.

1	<u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u> To receive and note apologies for absence.	Town Council Offices Bradbourne Vale Road Sevenoaks Kent TN13 3QG
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2	<u>REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS</u> To consider written requests from Members which have previously been submitted to the Town Clerk to enable participation in discussion and voting on items for which the Member has a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest. (s.31 & s.33 of the Localism Act 2011).	-
3	<u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</u> To receive any declarations of interest from members in respect of any items of business included in this agenda.	-
4	<u>MINUTES OF THE YOUTH SERVICES COMMITTEE HELD ON 02nd November 2022</u> To receive and sign the Minutes of the Youth Services Committee held on 02 nd November 2022.	-
5 5.1 5.2	<u>HOUSE IN THE BASEMENT [HiTB] YOUTH CAFE</u> To receive and discuss the following reports: HiTB Manager's Update Report Finance Cost Centre Reports: November 2022 December 2022	Attached Attached To be circulated at a later date
6	<u>YOUTH COUNCIL</u> To receive and note the Minutes of the Youth Council meeting held on 02 nd November 2022.	Attached
7	<u>REPORTS FROM CO-OPTED PARTNERS</u> i. Kent County Council ii. SAYT iii. SDC - Community Safety Team iv. West Kent Communities	-
8	<u>REVIEW OF THE YOUNG PERSON MENTORING SCHEME</u> To receive and discuss the following report of the Young Person Mentoring Scheme from October 2022.	Attached
9	<u>CLIMATE CHANGE YOUTH FORUM REPORT</u> To receive and discuss the following report.	Attached
10	<u>CHRISTMAS LIGHT COMPETITION REPORT</u> To receive and discuss the following report.	Attached
11	<u>HOUSE IN THE BASEMENT 10 YEAR CELEBRATION</u>	
12	<u>PRESS RELEASE</u>	

	To consider any agenda item considered appropriate for a press release	—
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Sevenoaks Town Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Youth Services Committee Held on 2nd November 2022 in the Council Chamber, Town Council Offices, TN13 3QG

Livestreamed and available on You Tube until Minutes are accepted by Town Council Meeting:
<https://youtu.be/WcVdTAMQH0g>

Meeting Started: 19.00

Meeting Concluded: 19.40

Present:

Cllr Dr Merilyn Canet, Chairman	Present	Cllr Libby Ancrum	Apologies
Cllr Richard Parry, Vice-Chairman	Present	Cllr Roderick Hogarth	Present
Cllr Nick Busvine	Apologies	Cllr Tom Morris Brown	Absent
Cllr Andrew Eyre	Present	Cllr Claire Shea	Present
Cllr Rachel Parry, Mayor (ex- officio)	Present		
Co-opted Members:			
Richard Dowling, West Kent Communities	Present	Victoria Walters, Kent County Council	Absent
Maxine Quinton, Sevenoaks District Council Kelly Webb, Sevenoaks District Council	Apologies Apologies	Caroline Berry, SAYT	Present

Substitute		For
Cllr Simon Raikes	Present	Cllr Nick Busvine

In attendance: Alison Futtit, Senior Committee Clerk, Daren Mountain, HiTB Manager, Ieuan Chandler-Wilson, Youth Committee Clerk.

Representations received from Members of the Public: none.

401. Apologies for Absence

Received as noted above.

402. Requests for Dispensations

There were no requests for dispensations.

403. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

404. Minutes of Youth Services Committee held on 7th September 2022

RESOLVED: To receive and accept minutes as a true record.

405. House in the Basement Youth Café

405.1 Update Report

The Committee received the update report from Daren Mountain, House in the Basement Manager. It was noted that the kitchen floor had now been repaired and the kitchen reopened. Daren advised that the Silent Disco held at the Bat & Ball Centre on 21st of October 2022, in partnership with Sevenoaks Area Youth Trust and

Sevenoaks Town Council

West Kent Housing Association, was a positive first event with over 30 people in attendance.

RESOLVED: That the report be received and noted.

405.2 Finance Reports to 31st August and 30th September 2022

The Committee noted that, year to date, House in the Basement expenditure was £10,000 over budget. The Responsible Finance officer to be asked for further information.

RESOLVED: That the Finance Cost Centre reports for the House in the Basement Youth Café for August and September 2022 be received and noted.

406. Minutes of Sevenoaks Youth Council Meeting

RESOLVED: To receive and note the Minutes of the Sevenoaks Youth Council meeting held on 7th September 2022.

407. Reports from Co-opted Partners

Noted following reports from Co-opted Partners:

(i) Kent County Council (KCC)

No report received.

Councillors requested that KCC be asked for information on the Kent Children's University programme and what its future will be.

It was noted that details of the Kent Youth County Council elections had been circulated to Sevenoaks Youth Council but that a reminder would be sent.

(ii) Sevenoaks Area Youth Trust (SAYT)

Caroline Berry reported that both SAYT youth workers, Levi and Debbie, had attended the Silent Disco and enjoyed the event. She advised that Levi had now received his licence to drive the bus. The Committee noted that SAYT were calling for volunteers to help with the bus at Greatness Recreation Ground on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, and that there had been interest in more people becoming a trustee.

(iii) Sevenoaks District Council, Community Safety

Although Maxine Quinton was unable to attend this meeting, she had forwarded a report from the District Council about events in Sevenoaks Town.

"A report was received by a resident that had been hit by an egg waiting for their child outside the leisure centre. It was established that the egg had been thrown from the Sevenoaks Town Car Park and CCTV were tasked to review footage. Young people were identified at the time of the incident wearing what was thought to be School uniforms. The CSU Sgt contacted School with the images of the young people, who confirmed that they were their pupils. The teacher was going to speak with the young people and try to identify who the individual was that threw the egg in order that the CSU could take actions forward.

Sevenoaks Town Council

Last weekend 5 individuals were stopped as a result of CCTV witnessing one of the individuals smash a bottle on a lamppost in Sevenoaks Town and walk towards the Vine. The young people were located by Police patrols and their names and addresses were captured and words of advice were given. The individual that was responsible for smashing the bottle has been visited by the attending officer and an ASB Warning Letter has been served in the presence of their mother.

Sevenoaks Town was relatively quiet over last weekend, however, there were numerous issues in Swanley and New Ash Green with young people setting off fireworks and throwing eggs at shops, members of the public and Police officers. We are currently in the process of trying to identify young people with the help of CCTV images before and after the incidents, as the young people were wearing face coverings. We are hoping that before and after the incidents the young people removed their face coverings in order to identify them. My CSU Police colleagues have to review 1 hour and 30 mins of CCTV images for 6 cameras."

(iv) West Kent Youth Services (WKYS)

The Committee received Ben Reynold's quarterly report which covered the 1st of July to the 30th of September. Richard Dowling reported that the number of young people mentioned in the report is low for the summer with 71 contacts being made over the three months. He also mentioned that in December West Kent Youth Services would be taking members of the Young Adventurers Clubs (including 25 from Sevenoaks) to the panto at the Stag Theatre in Sevenoaks.

408. Climate Change Youth Forum Report.

The Committee received a detailed report on the Climate Change Youth Forum held on 30th September 2022. It was noted that the next meeting would take place on Thursday 1st of December 2022.

RESOLVED: That the report be received and noted.

409. Press Release: None

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting.

Signed
Chairman

Dated

Sevenoaks Town Council
Youth Services Committee – 18th January 2022



Manager's Report,

November's figures:

133 young people, 9 were new.
29 SEN, 5 of those were new.

At HiTB, two evenings were detached work at the Fireworks & Christmas Lights Switch on events which affected our numbers but obviously we saw 100's of young people during both of these detached evenings.

December's Figures:

We had 10 regular sessions & we needed to close on 2 occasions because of staff sickness,
We had 2 SEN sessions & we needed to close on 1 occasion due to staff illness.

132 young people & 14 were new
13 SEN young people & 1 was new

We had 2 Christmas parties; one was very well attended but the SEN party wasn't.

We have also received a grant from the Round Table for a new pool/air hockey and table tennis table (Figure 1), as well as a football table that was funded with support from the Youth Council and the Round Table (Figure 2).

Sevenoaks Town Council
Youth Services Committee – 18th January 2022



Figure 1: Table Tennis, Air Hockey and Pool Table



Figure 2: Football Table

Detailed Income & Expenditure by Phased Budget Heading 30/11/2022

Month No: 8

Cost Centre Report

		Current Month Actual	Current Month Budget	Current Month Variance	Year To Date Actual	Year To Date Budget	Year To Date Variance	Total Annual Budget	Committed Expenditure	Funds Available	Transfer to/from EMR
50	<u>Youth Cafe</u>										
1022	Letting & Hire of Facilities	176	183	7	1,548	1,464	(84)	2,200		0	
1211	Sale of Goods	443	30	(413)	1,522	240	(1,282)	358		0	
1350	Revenue Grant income	975	0	(975)	2,375	0	(2,375)	0		0	
	Youth Cafe :- Income	1,594	213	(1,381)	5,445	1,704	(3,741)	2,558			0
4010	Gross Pay	3,785	2,631	(1,154)	26,028	21,048	(4,980)	31,572		5,544	
4011	Mileage	0	0	0	55	0	(55)	0		(55)	
4270	Employers Pension Contribution	106	105	(1)	534	840	306	1,263		729	
5410	Repairs & General Maintenance	0	72	72	3,010	576	(2,434)	863		(2,147)	
5500	Equipment Hired and New	1,062	0	(1,062)	2,446	0	(2,446)	0		(2,446)	75
6010	Light Heat & Cleaning	0	0	0	78	31	(47)	31		(47)	
6101	Telephone	50	39	(11)	399	312	(87)	470		71	
6200	Printing & Stationery	0	26	26	209	208	(1)	309		100	
6210	Postage & Courier	0	0	0	28	0	(28)	0		(28)	
6240	Computer/ Data Base/WP's	17	34	17	214	272	58	404		190	
6281	Furnishings,Furniture/Eqpt	0	0	0	214	246	32	493		279	
6320	Staff Training	0	0	0	0	206	206	206		206	
6330	Welfare/Hospitality	0	0	0	1	31	30	31		30	
6340	Staff Uniforms	0	0	0	75	52	(23)	103		28	
6460	Publicity & Democratic notices	0	10	10	7	80	73	124		117	
6500	Goods for Resale	246	30	(216)	1,777	240	(1,537)	358		(1,419)	
6505	Cafe consumables	0	0	0	32	0	(32)	0		(32)	
6635	Professional Fees Licensing	0	0	0	423	216	(207)	286		(137)	

Detailed Income & Expenditure by Phased Budget Heading 30/11/2022

Month No: 8

Cost Centre Report

	Current Month Actual	Current Month Budget	Current Month Variance	Year To Date Actual	Year To Date Budget	Year To Date Variance	Total Annual Budget	Committed Expenditure	Funds Available	Transfer to/from EMR
6869 Special Events	0	0	0	2,380	0	(2,380)	0		(2,380)	2,200
6900 Sundry Expenses	17	21	4	211	168	(43)	252		41	
6922 Health&Safety/Risk Assessments	14	0	(14)	931	872	(59)	870		(61)	
Youth Cafe :- Indirect Expenditure	<u>5,296</u>	<u>2,968</u>	<u>(2,328)</u>	<u>39,052</u>	<u>25,398</u>	<u>(13,654)</u>	<u>37,635</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>(1,417)</u>	<u>2,275</u>
Net Income over Expenditure	<u>(3,703)</u>	<u>(2,755)</u>	<u>948</u>	<u>(33,607)</u>	<u>(23,694)</u>	<u>9,913</u>	<u>(35,077)</u>			
8001 plus Transfer from EMR	75			2,275						
Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	<u>(3,628)</u>			<u>(31,332)</u>						
Grand Totals:- Income	1,594	213	(1,381)	5,445	1,704	(3,741)	2,558			
Expenditure	5,296	2,968	(2,328)	39,052	25,398	(13,654)	37,635	0	(1,417)	
Net Income over Expenditure	<u>(3,703)</u>	<u>(2,755)</u>	<u>948</u>	<u>(33,607)</u>	<u>(23,694)</u>	<u>9,913</u>	<u>(35,077)</u>			
plus Transfer from EMR	75			2,275						
Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	<u>(3,628)</u>			<u>(31,332)</u>						

Minutes of the meeting of the Sevenoaks Youth Council
Held on 2nd November 2022

In the Council Chamber, Town Council Offices, Bradbourne Vale Road, Sevenoaks, TN13 3QG

Meeting Commenced: 18.00

Meeting Concluded: 18.51

Present:

Youth Council Members:

Henry Barden de Leon	Present	Darcy Hogg	Absent
Mahedy Basher	Apologies	Isabella McGlynn	Absent
Emilia Britain	Present	Max Pound	Absent
Dexter Buhmann	Present	Vince Rands-Webb	Absent
Leah Campbell-Sergeant	Absent	Elena Rozo-Navarro	Apologies
Von Ming Fung Chu	Present	Aanya Sidhu	Apologies
Phoebe Critchlow, Treasurer	Present	Mia Stack	Absent
Neil Gandhi	Present	Katie Willis, Chairman	Present
Jasmine Geer	Present	Torsa Younus	Absent
Maya Goodrich	Present	Billy Thajudeen	Apologies
Valentina Groves	Apologies		

In attendance: Cllr Dr Merilyn Canet; Alison Futtit, Senior Committee Clerk; Daren Mountain, Manager of House in the Basement Youth Café; Ieuan Chandler-Wilson, Youth Committee Clerk

1. Apologies for Absence

Received as shown above.

2. Resignation of the Vice-Chairman

The Youth Council received and noted the resignation of Anna Tarasheva from the Youth Council. This had resulted in a vacancy for Vice-Chairman.

Emilia Britain was nominated and it was **RESOLVED** unanimously that she be appointed Vice-Chairman.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting of the Youth Council held on 7th September 2022

RESOLVED: To receive and adopt the minutes of the meeting of the Youth Council held on 7th September 2022.

4. Finance Report

RESOLVED: It was noted that the current balance of the Youth Council budget was £2,334.60, but that £500 of this had been allocated to the purchase of a football table for the House in the Basement Youth Café.

5. House in the Basement Youth Café (HitB)

The Youth Council noted the report submitted by Daren Mountain, Manager of HitB Café. Youth Councillors were informed that the Silent Disco held on the 21st of October 2022, in partnership with Sevenoaks Area Youth Trust and West Kent Housing Association, had been a successful first event with 30 people in attendance on the night.

It was reported that, when searched on google maps House in the Basement did not come up; Daren agreed to look into this.

6. Talk from Kent Fire and Rescue Service

The Youth Council heard from David Hopkins, an Education Officer for the Kent Fire and Rescue Service. David talked about fire safety in the home and the importance of testing smoke alarms at least once a week. He then spoke about the different career roles and opportunities within the Fire and Rescue Service ranging from roadside collision rescue units, education teams, animal rescue, engineers/mechanics to firefighters. It was mentioned that the Kent Fire and Rescue Service offer apprenticeships for young people who are 18+.

David also advised of the many volunteer opportunities available. ([Our volunteers | Kent Fire and Rescue Service \(fire-uk.org\)](https://www.kentfireandrescue.org.uk/volunteers))

The Youth Council asked about what Charities the Kent Fire and Rescue Services work with and were advised that they work with a wide range of charities including Mind.

7. Talk from Kent Wildlife Trust

Unfortunately, the speaker from Kent Wildlife Trust was unable to attend. It was noted that this talk would be arranged for a future meeting.

8. Notes of Climate Change Youth Forum

The Youth Council received the detailed notes from Climate Change Youth Forum. It was noted that the next meeting of the Forum would take place on Thursday the 1st of December 2022 at 9:30am at the Bat & Ball Centre.

The Chairman Katie Willis and Councillor Dr Canet had attended the Forum and stated that many of the people who were in attendance were very passionate about the issues.

It was noted that Kent County Council was consulting about proposals to implement a 20 mile per hour speed limit in Sevenoaks Town and that a questionnaire was available for people to give their views about the proposed plan ([Sevenoaks Town-wide 20mph speed limit and traffic calming scheme | Let's talk Kent](#))

9. Notes of Visit to House of Commons

The Youth Council received a report on the visit to the House of Commons and the meeting with Laura Trott, Member of Parliament for Sevenoaks. It was noted that those who had gone had enjoyed the experience and would recommend to members of the Youth Council who had not attended, to do so if the opportunity arose in future. Youth Councilors commented that it had been a useful occasion to get their opinions across.

10. Mental Health Workshop Report

Mental Health in Young people was a priority of the Youth Council and Youth Councillors were pleased to receive two offers of professional support to hold a mental health workshop.

It was decided that, in the new year, teachers from West Heath School should be invited to talk to the Youth Council about how to manage their own mental health as well as to support others and know where to get help.

It was noted that the District Council had offered to co-ordinate specific workshops on this topic to generate ideas which could be worked up for the benefit of all local young people. It was requested that some Youth Councillors commit to attending at least one initial workshop. This to be arranged via email.

11. Further business

It was noted that the Youth Council had been invited to write a piece for the Town Crier magazine to showcase the role of the Youth Council and its current priorities.

12. Dates of Next Meeting:

- Wednesday 18th January 2023
- Wednesday 22nd March 2023

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting.

To find out more, please contact us:

t 01732 227000

e communities@sevenoaks.gov.uk

w www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/mentoringscheme

Sevenoaks District Council, Council Offices,
Argyle Road, Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 1HG

Visit our Sevenoaks offices:

Monday to Thursday, 8.45am to 5pm
Friday 8.45am to 4.45pm

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22/0005 November 2022



Mentoring Scheme for Young People

Support for young people aged 11 to 18

FREE

Mentoring Scheme for Young People

They can engage with an adult mentor, get involved in activities and, where needed, access mental health support, including counselling.

To put a young person forward for the scheme, please complete the application form at www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/mentoringscheme

The scheme is delivered by our valued partners – read on to see what they do.

RightMind counselling

Any young person on our mentoring scheme can request six-weeks of one-to-one counselling provided by RightMind.

The request can be made at the time of application or after the mentoring has started.



The House in the Basement

Located in the basement of the Stag Theatre in Sevenoaks, 'The House in the Basement' offers a friendly place for anyone aged 11 to 19 to go, hang out and relax with plenty of things going on.

Those who join our mentoring scheme can take part in The House in the Basement's regular sessions, activities and day trips



Millwall Community Trust

The Millwall Community Trust uses the power of sport to provide sporting, education, social and healthy lifestyle opportunities.

Through our scheme, they will provide comprehensive mentoring support programmes for individuals and small groups via their team of experienced professional tutors, mentors and coaches.

There is also sport and employability vocational qualification and matchday experience opportunities including stadium tours and access to the Millwall Community Trust Lion Centre.



The Layberry Foundation

The Layberry Foundation is a charity set up to improve the life chances and wellbeing of disadvantaged young people, including care leavers. They welcome anyone who has had challenging times and those who may be struggling with isolation, loneliness and who need support.

Using volunteer mentors, they work with young people in their communities, helping them to link into local groups and activities and improving their confidence and self-esteem. Young people who join the mentoring scheme can enjoy lots of activities, including visits to the Foundation's tranquil farm, which is home to peacocks, geese, chickens, horses and sometimes wild deer.



Young Person Mentoring Scheme

Review October 2022

Author: Jenny Godfrey, Sevenoaks District Council Community Projects & Funding Officer

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Introduction & Background

The project started in Autumn 2021 due to a concern for mental health in young people following the pandemic. Funding was secured from Kent County Council COMF. The initial partners were:

- Millwall Community Trust
- The Layberry Foundation
- House in the Basement
- KCC Swanley Youth Hub
- Swanley Town Council
- Local counselling service, Right Mind

Since April 2022, our partners have grown to include BRIDGES Community Café in Edenbridge together with the Youth Workers from Eden Christian Trust & West Kent Housing Youth Services.

There are adult volunteer mentors assigned to the youth hubs. When a referral comes into Sevenoaks District Council, an officer triages and then sends on to a youth hub. The Youth Hub then matches a volunteer mentor with the young person and manages that relationship. All young people are offered 1:2:1 counselling as part of the scheme.

This project has linked up Youth Hub providers across the district and enabled different activities/events to take place.

Attached as Annex 1 is the flowchart which sets out the project's offering.

Summary of Findings

Next Steps

- Overall the project is running well with significant benefits to the young people it is supporting.
- Extend Young People Mentoring project to end of March 2023.
- Liaise with Sevenoaks District Council Communication Team to produce advertising for scheme and production of 'prospectus' in the form of an A4 double side foldable 3-way leaflet.
- Invite Salus to a Steering Group meeting to explore how we can potentially connect beyond March 2023 including being involved in a funding bid.
- Review where Edenbridge partners are in January as to whether or not a further Youth Café can run.
- Seek additional funding for the project beyond March 2023.
- Link in with Anti-social behaviour work of Community Safety Unit to offer some activity 'interventions' in Swanley, Edenbridge, Hartley and New Ash Green.
- Establish counselling service for young people in Hartley/New Ash Green, and, Swanley areas.

- BRIDGES Youth Café was hugely successful benefiting both those young people attending and those undertaking voluntary roles helping with service. Due to other commitments it is not possible to run another Youth Café prior to Christmas. It may be possible to run one in the spring 2023. Another project idea has been suggested, that of an After School Lego Club for Year 6 children (ages 10 and 11). This is to be explored further with BRIDGES.
- House in the Basement together with the Sevenoaks Town Youth Council are working on some mental health awareness sessions for young people. Youth Mentoring project to get involved if possible.
- All partners to look and apply for funding to assist with the continuation of this project. A link has been made with charity, Salus, who have implemented a Kent wide intensive mentoring project. The SDC young person mentoring project can refer into it and

Volunteer Adult Mentors

Following a recruitment campaign, led by Tanya Wright of Right Mind, 43 volunteer adult mentors registered their interest in the Scheme. After application forms, references and training were completed 21 volunteer mentors signed up.

Each volunteer mentor was assigned to a partner Youth Hub and a DBS check completed with their assigned youth hub named as managing them. The Youth Hubs then contacted and managed the volunteer mentors, matching them to young people as they joined the scheme.

All volunteer mentors were required to complete in person or online safeguarding training. They were also all offered counselling skills and mental health awareness training. Both of these sessions were delivered by Right Mind. Feedback from mentors attending Mental Health Youth Awareness Training in March 2022 with Lucy Adams (on behalf of Right Mind):

“Lucy,

Thank you very much for the Mental Health Awareness Training that you delivered today - you covered so much new ground (for me) - it was VERY useful, teeming with important information and well delivered”

For varying reasons, a number of volunteer mentors have stepped away from the project. However, one key reason identified is that the number of young people requiring a mentor at the beginning of the project was lower than anticipated. The scheme took some time to implement and for parents and agencies to learn of it.

Note that BRIDGES Community Café in Edenbridge has 1 volunteer mentor assigned to the Youth Café. There were 2 assigned but 1 dropped out after week 3, “feeling it was different from what she had imagined, and “too hands on” for what she would wish for” (taken from report by Mary Perrett - see Annex 4).

At the September Steering Group meeting it was agreed that the recruitment of further volunteer mentors is not required at this stage.

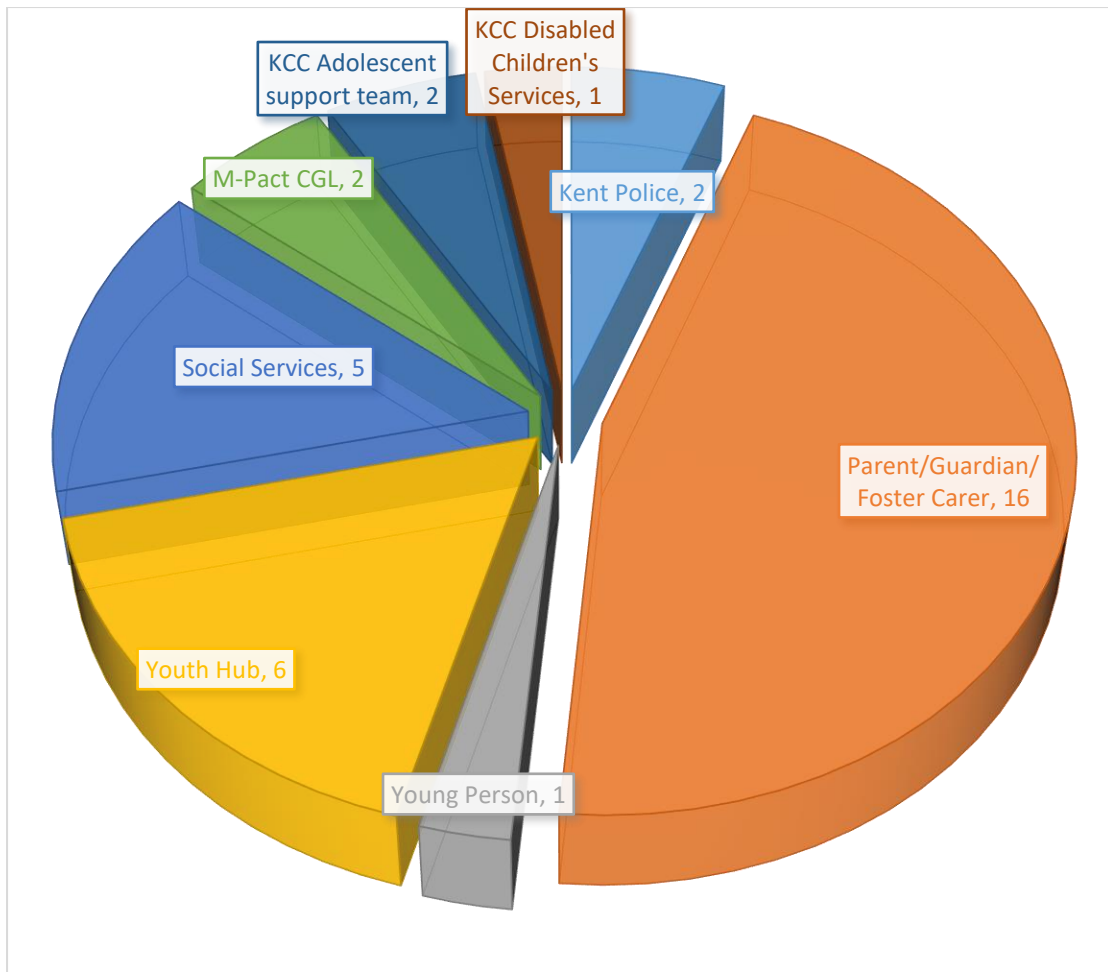
Young People joining the Scheme

36 young people are on or have been on the Mentoring Scheme. 2 of these are receiving 1:2:1 counselling only and have not at this stage requested the further support of a

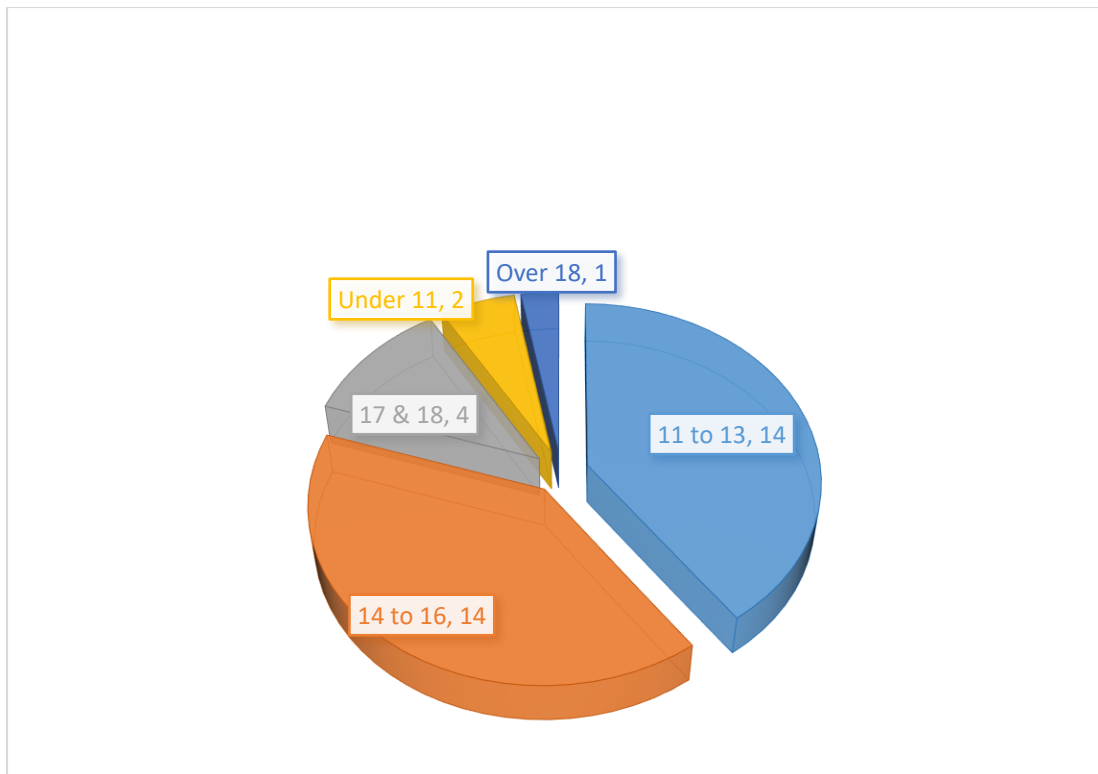
mentor. 1 of these is 16 years old and made contact themselves. 1 young person is receiving 1:2:1 counselling in addition to the support of a mentor. Below is a breakdown of the progress of the young people (YP) that have joined the scheme:

Youth Hub	Number of YP requesting to join	Number of YP progressing to be matched with mentor	Number of YP having regular sessions with mentor	Number of YP who have finished sessions/no longer on scheme	Notes incl. any news of next steps taken/ challenges
The Layberry Foundation	17	14	14	4	3 did not proceed on scheme
House in the Basement	6	3	2	1	1 has moved into supported accommodation out of area. Mentoring on hold. 3 currently being matched.
Millwall Community Trust	3	2	2	0	1 currently being matched.
BRIDGES Community Café	6	N/A	6	6	See Reports in Annexes 3 and 4.
Right Mind Counselling Only	4	N/A as only requested 1:2:1 counselling at this stage	N/A as only requested 1:2:1 counselling at this stage	3	1 is aged 10 so awaiting confirmation can be seen
Other - KCC Swanley Youth Hub	1	N/A	N/A	N/A	Young Person did not join scheme. Parent referred her to CBT
TOTALS	36				

Young People have joined the scheme in different ways. Below shows the breakdown of those individuals and organisations forwarding their application form to Sevenoaks District Council:



As shown below, the age range of young people joining the scheme is spread across the 11 - 18 range. There are 3 young people who fall outside the range. They have been accepted onto the programme for various reasons including that Social Services are requesting a family of children to benefit from the scheme and one child is 9 years & 11 months as at date of referral; one young person at age 10 years and 11 months is almost 11 and another 19 year old could really benefit from the scheme and again has siblings joining.



Case Studies and Feedback from those on the Scheme

The House in the Basement

One of the partner Youth Hubs, The House in the Basement, offers a friendly environment in Sevenoaks town for anyone around 11 to 19 to go, hang out and relax with plenty of things going on. They also have regular special events and guests. When assigning a young person wishing to join the Mentoring Scheme to the House in the Basement there is an additional benefit of them being able to attend these regular sessions.

As a drop in youth café the role of House in the Basement is slightly different to the other partner hubs. House in the Basement provides an atmosphere that does not always lend itself to one to one mentoring. However, they are happy to provide a matching service and venue for young people to regularly attend.

In early 2022, the House in the Basement captured some of the feelings of young people attending their sessions. These are attached as Annex 2 and are useful as they provide an insight into how young people felt about the pandemic and its impact on their own mental health as well as that of their friends.

Over 60% of those answering the survey said that the pandemic had an impact on them and their friends. Comments added here included: “we drifted. I wasn’t able to talk to them as much”; “feelings of isolation” and “more stress”.

When asked if the events of the previous 18 months (prior to February 2022) made them feel different in anyway 57% said 'yes' and comments included: "it was hard at some points to be really happy"; "bored (very)"; but also included some young people saying that everyone was fine with their family and that it is important to adapt to the situation you are given.

This survey also saw two key issues being identified as problems facing young people in Sevenoaks, namely mental health and peer pressure. Mental health awareness sessions/support for young people has been taken up by the Sevenoaks Town Youth Council and as noted below is a further strand to this Mentoring Project being explored. Peer Pressure and conversely peer support is an aspect also being given consideration for a potential future aspect of this mentoring project.

Millwall Community Trust

This case study is about the very first young person who joined the Mentoring Scheme. "Steve" engaged with Millwall Community Trust in April 2022 and worked with him for 12 sessions. The Millwall Community Trust exist to provide The Millwall Community Trust exists to use the power of sport to improve the lives of people in local and wider community to provide sporting, education, social and healthy lifestyle opportunities. In relation to Education, Employability and inclusion programmes Millwall provide an onsite part time alternative provision Academy programme for young people aged 13-16 Providing Sport and Employability qualifications at L1-2 as well as enrichment and independent living experiences, and also a Post 16 Education (Btec L2-3) and football college programme, and also a Second Chance Academy Traineeship programme for those 16-24.

Coupled with this Millwall provide a comprehensive mentoring support programmes for targeted individual young people and small groups via a vast team of experienced professional tutors, mentors and coaches.

Millwall Community Trust liaised with Steve's parents and subsequently Steve. Millwall Community Trust staff had received reports of Steve failing to engage with other agencies. He was not in education, employment or training. Using the power of Steve's affinity to Millwall they began working with him.

"Our mentoring sessions entailed getting Steve to Millwall and allow him to be part of the Millwall community meetings and introduced him to our community trust to see, experience and be part of our work in the community from holiday camps, over 59s walking football, hospitality works and mentoring our 13-15 year olds on our onsite alternative provision Academy." Says John from Millwall Community Trust.

Steve says, *"Millwall is more than a football club it is about helping by the community and being part of something. I have learned so much and am now enrolling on a CSCS course so I can work in the career I want to do which is Construction. Without Millwall's help this wouldn't have been possible"*

Steve is now being enrolled on Employability and Money Management Level 2 courses with Millwall Community Trust and transitioning to Kite College for a full-time construction college course.

The Layberry Foundation

The Layberry Foundation is a registered Charity, created to improve the life chances and wellbeing of disadvantaged young people, including care leavers, but not exclusively so. We welcome anyone who has had challenging times and those who may be struggling with isolation, loneliness, and lack of support. The Charity has close links with ALL4U Fostering Ltd., an independent fostering provider based on social enterprise-type principles.

Wood Farm, where the Charity is based, occupies arguably a unique position geographically for the development of such a Project. It is a 52 acre site on the North Downs, almost at its highest point; it is within the M25, but outside (by a few hundred yards) the Greater London Boundary. Access to the motorway network is within 5 miles and therefore the site is easily accessible from all parts of the country. However, it is completely isolated from other properties, though the pressures of development are all around, and it is crucial that this valuable 'oasis of calm' is preserved for future generations.

There are two 'arms' to what we seek to provide - on the one hand we are currently working in partnership with Sevenoaks District Council to deliver a high-quality mentoring programme for young people, working with them where they are in the community and supporting them as they make the transition to adulthood, or deal with the mental health issues they face as a result of COVID. Experienced qualified staff also provide workshops for the benefit of fostering families, to enable them to advocate effectively for the young people they care for, as they reach the point of leaving care.

Perhaps the core element of what we seek to provide is based at Wood Farm, near Sevenoaks. The area consists of 26 acres of ancient woodland (reputed in some old records to be one of the last remaining areas close to London that comprised the Great Wealden Forest), whilst the remaining 26 acres was in the past farmed in a very traditional manner. It has been a haven for all kinds of people with all kinds of problems over many years - especially for those who have been in care and have left the system with totally inadequate support. Our aim is to equip young people with the skills and confidence to transition successfully to adulthood and achieve their goals. When possible, we will provide opportunities for work experience, training in social and life skills, help with practical issues such as budgeting (using our volunteer mentors in some cases) and building self-esteem. Our vision is to help young people make sense of their world and to set high aspirations for themselves, helping them to be confident and thrive in all areas of their lives.

Fly Day

The Layberry Foundation would like to share with you some photos from the Fly Day held at Redhill Aerodrome on Saturday 17th September 2022.

The Fly Day was organised by Sam an Aircraft Commander with over 3000 hours and 10 years of flying experience. Sam is a Layberry Foundation Volunteer and works with a young person as part of the Sevenoaks District Council Young People's Project. Sam, along with The Layberry Foundation and Aviation Without Borders made this day possible.

2 young people, William and Archie, along with their parents arrived at Redhill in good time for the boys to have separate and roughly 25 minutes each flying experience with Sam in a light aircraft. The boys are part of the Sevenoaks District Council Project that The Layberry Foundation is working with in partnership.

William and Archie thoroughly enjoyed their experience and were presented certificates for their achievement. Well done boys!

We hope to make this an annual event and with particular thanks to Sam for his hard work and commitment to make this happen.

Right Mind

Right Mind are a counselling service operating in Sevenoaks. They have provided mental health awareness sessions to young people. They have also provided mental health awareness and counselling skills training to volunteer mentors.

Right Mind are now providing 1:2:1 counselling to young people on the mentoring scheme.

KCC Swanley Youth Hub

KCC Swanley Youth Hub began as a partner organisation but withdrew in early 2022. Whilst they no longer receive direct referrals of young people for this scheme, young people joining the scheme are signposted to the Hub's youth activities.

Spin-off Initiatives

This scheme's steering group have collaborated to deliver a number of spin-off initiatives. These include:

- BRIDGES Community Youth Café - Youth Café run by young people for young people
- Skateboarding event at Greatness Park, Sevenoaks.
- Skate Jam event at Swanley Park
- Free Summer Activities for young people aged 11 to 18 years old.

BRIDGES Community Youth Café – Youth Café run by young people for young people

The BRIDGES Community Youth Café was run weekly on a Monday night between May and July. It was held at the Community Café in Edenbridge and run in partnership by BRIDGES, Eden Christian Trust Youth Club and West Kent Extra Youth Hub. Young people who had joined the Mentoring Scheme volunteered to help with service, providing drinks and cakes.

to other young people attending the Café. A report by one of these young volunteers, “Chloe”, is attached as Annex 3 but does include the following:

“I have been volunteering at the youth cafe since July 2022, my name is “Chloe” I am aged 17 and have recently moved to Edenbridge. I have enjoyed volunteering here, the staff members are kind and very welcoming. I have loved working with the young people! My role at the youth cafe is to talk to young people and ask them for feedback, I also play games with them and befriend them”,

and:

“At the Cafe games are advertised as well as art and different range of activities, I have witnessed all young people engaging with these activities.

Comments young people have said to me: “Everybody come it’s the best”

“I rate this 11/10”

Everybody here that comes socialises a lot and enjoys the environment they’re in and feels safe and comfortable in their surroundings and feels like they can be themselves without being judged.”

The full report on this project written by BRIDGES Community Café Manager, Mary Perrett, is attached as Annex 4. However, soundbites that summarise views of the young people attending are:

- Great space
- friendly
- great service
- freedom
- able to meet up with friends
- safe space
- fun

Having secured some further funding from the Police Commissioner, it is hoped that another Youth Café will run in Spring 2023.

The skateboarding events in Sevenoaks and Swanley

The skateboarding events in Sevenoaks and Swanley proved very successful.

Free Summer Activities

A full and detailed report is attached as Annex 5. The key outcomes were:

- Of the 21 different types of activities on offer, 15 were delivered (6 were cancelled owing to lack of bookings).
- Nearly 200 places on a large range (15) of activities were successfully delivered to 110 young people aged 11 - 18 years.
- New and existing delivery partners identified and worked with. All would like to work in partnership with Sevenoaks District Council on any future similar projects.

- Key positives feedback were that the activities: were fun; enabled the young people to meet others/new people and to receive support and instruction from an inspirational activity leader. Identified as a key positive by some young people was that the activity was near to where they lived. Others felt they helped improve their confidence and allow them to learn something new.
- Improvements suggested were that the groups were larger; the sessions longer or a course/project based approach offered. One delivery partner said that project based activities might be more appealing to the age range 11 to 18 years. One young person suggested that: 'Maybe of a course of 6 would be good to build up my skill level' in relation to kayaking.
- Some young people want to continue with activities and are now in touch with clubs, groups and organisations that can assist with this. For some young people this will not be an option.
- Six of the young people reached also responded seeking further assistance via the Sevenoaks District Council Young Person Mentoring Project. This offers young people aged 11 to 18 the opportunity to be matched with an adult mentor and to access further support such as 1:2:1 counselling. This project was initially funded by KCC COMF and funded until end of December by the Police Commissioner. Further funding is currently being sought to continue the scheme into 2023.

Below are some of the comments received about the activities.

When asked what else the young people liked & if they had any other comments, they said:

'Having freedom with my creativity.'

'I enjoyed putting feeling into emotion.'

'Really fun, really kind leader.'

'I liked being free with my art.'

'Different art supplies.'

'It being relaxing.'

'Being able to express yourself.'

'Learnt new skills and tricks'

'Really enjoyed it' 'Fun'

'We used visual aid'

'How calm everything is'

'It helped me relax and think about myself to control my body and mind.'

'the activities we did'

'the equipment we used, being ourselves with no limits.'

'very fun and helped me a lot'

'I really enjoyed this.'

'Thank You'

'It will help me to relax weekly so I can work on myself more'

'I really enjoyed the alpaca walk. I want to work with animals.'

'Liked that it was at 6 so park wasn't as busy. Liked the small group. Liked the games the leader got us to play.'

'I loved it!'

'It was fun.'

'All the activities were great, I made new friends and learnt new skills and had a fun time. I hope I get the opportunity to do some other activities next summer.'

Parents wrote to express their opinions on the provision of these activities:

'As a parent I was extremely grateful for my daughter to have the opportunity to take part in the free sessions. They were extremely well run, it gave her new skills and I was able to work knowing she wasn't bored or sat at home with nothing to do. Thank you Sevenoaks Council.'

'Just wanted to say what a fantastic time my daughter had at the Cascade dance workshop, I really hope you can put more of these on as she would love to attend again and has friends who were unable to make this date but are really keen to give it a go after her talking so positively about the day.'

M's summer is lovely because attending YP activities. She enjoys the activities itself, but she also meet & makes new friend at the activity site. Lovely. It also gives her an opportunity return to sports activity. She sadly stopped going swimming in 2020 because of pandemic, and she was reluctant to return since then until this summer, but I can see she enjoys a lot of swim activities in this YP programme. As a parent it is so nice to chat with her what the session was like at the end of day. Thank you for all your hard work, it really makes difference to her life.'

Other Schemes/Projects that Mentoring Scheme could link in with

The following schemes have been identified:

- KCC Funded research programme being delivered by Porchlight. This is based on the idea of improving mental health support for young people by using their voices and experiences to do it. Anyone aged 18 to 25 (with 17 year olds also be considered) can participate. This information has been circulated to appropriate aged young people on the Mentoring Scheme. Further details are available at [Porchlight](#)
- Princes Trust are working to support young people who are NEET. Details of their opportunities are circulated to the partner hubs working with the young people. Further links with the Princes Trust may be possible going forward.

- Reconnect funded Intensive Mentoring delivered by Salus for children and young people aged 8-18yrs across the whole of Kent. The service is fully funded until March 2023. Salus to be invited to attend a Steering Group meeting to discuss future links.

The aim of the programme is to improve the emotional health, well-being and resilience of children and young people; supporting them to engage with education, work, family and friends and achieve their potential.

It will be particularly helpful to those not accessing specialist services but experiencing increased anxiety, poor mental health or social isolation as a result of the pandemic. Salus adopts a strengths-based approach to supporting children, young people, and their families. Using a range of evidence-based approaches and tools (such as the FRIENDS resilience programme) and through the development of a trusted relationship with a talented mentor, they work to understand individual needs and implement an action plan to address these with the young person and their family.

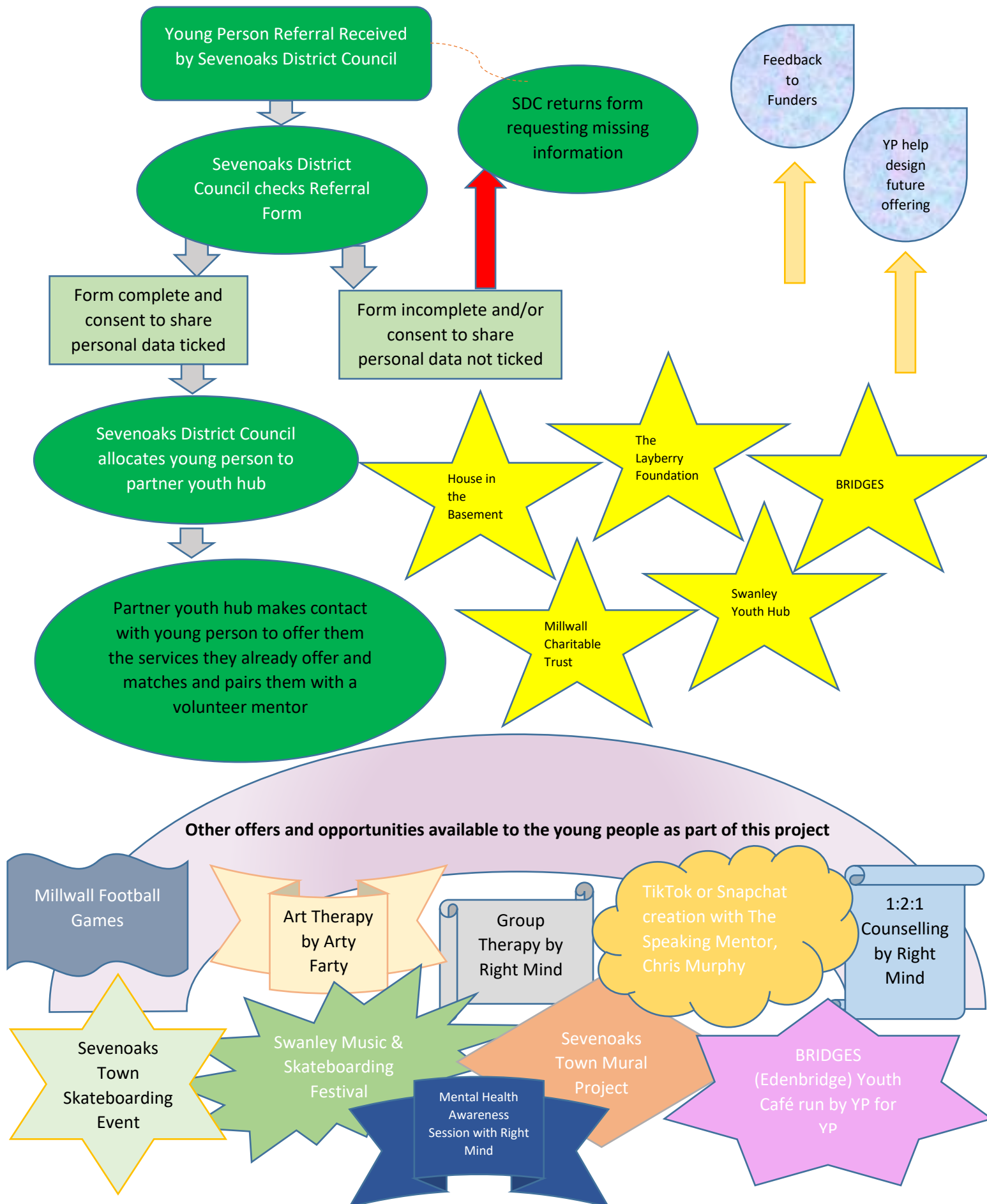
Following assessment of need, the mentor will offer approximately 6-10 weeks of direct support. It is intended that each young person will have been given the opportunity to have a resilience conversation and complete a resilience self-reflection assessment prior to referral but, if it is not possible, Salus can do this for them. A copy of the referral form can be found here:

<https://salusgroup.org.uk/service/headstart-kent/headstart-kent-intensive-mentoring/>

Sharing Outcomes from the Mentoring Scheme

Sevenoaks District Council is sharing information about this Scheme with the People & Places Advisory Committee and Council. It is also nominating the Scheme and all partners involved for the iESE Awards 2023. The Local Government Association (LGA) has also requested a Case Study about this Mentoring Scheme and this will be added to their website.

Annex 1 – Flowchart of Project's Offering



Annex 2 – Results of questionnaires from young people collected by the House in the Basement

See attached separate PDF File.

Annex 3 – Report by Young Volunteer “Chloe” (on Mentoring Scheme) about their time with the BRIDGES Community Youth Café

I have been volunteering at the youth cafe since July 2022, my name is “Chloe” I am aged 17 and have recently moved to Edenbridge. I have enjoyed volunteering here, the staff members are kind and very welcoming. I have loved working with the young people! My role at the youth cafe is to talk to young people and ask them for feedback, I also play games with them and befriend them.

When I was asking for feedback I asked questions about how they travelled here and what do they enjoy about attending, and if they have made any new friends whilst being here, I asked if there was anything they’d like to change.

I have spoken to the young people individually or when they was with their friends, there response was that they felt safe here, as in this generation there is a lot of antisocial behaviour in communities so the youth cafe would protect them from events like that. Every young person I spoken to enjoys the food and the drinks that the cafe provide for free, this is a very positive thing the cafe provides as some young people will not have a income meaning when they’re out they might not be able to buy a burger/fries and drinks. Also mentioned in the young people’s statement is that “it’s a good place to hang out and see my mates”.

Most young people that attend have said that when they left primary school, there primary school friends split to different schools and at the youth cafe it gives them a chance to maintain that friendship therefore this is very positive as it allows the young people to continue to carry on having that relationship and bonds with people. However new friendships have been built whilst at the cafe as it gives them a chance to meet new people.

At the Cafe games are advertised as well as art and different range of activities, I have witnessed all young people engaging with these activities.

Comments young people have said to me: “Everybody come it’s the best”

“I rate this 11/10”

Everybody here that comes socialises a lot and enjoys the environment they’re in and feels safe and comfortable in their surroundings and feels like they can be themselves without being judged.

I was curious whilst talking to the young people how they travelled here, and some have their parents to drive them here and some walk here. I also questioned what there hobbies was and some like: rugby, playing instruments, and doing sports.

At the youth cafe I have noticed the youth workers realise if anybody is being hyperactive or acting inappropriate and they guide the young people not to repeat those behaviours and talk to them. However most people are calm, sensible and respectful.

I talked to the young people about what would they change or like to be different and they haven’t told me anything so therefore everybody that comes is happy with the service that is provided.

Lastly I asked the main question “if the youth cafe was to re open in October would you come again” every youth I spoken to said yes. These are the comments they said

“Yessss definitely!”

“I can’t wait!”

Overall everything is positive about this place, it’s a good place to hang out and a suitable environment for young people. There is lots of things to do here and great activities to join! This is a great opportunity for young people to develop social skills and confidence and to also build new relationships. This place is good to protect young people from antisocial behaviours in the community and keeps them safe from negative things that could be happening in Edenbridge. It is a great place to try new things out and enjoy the free food provided by the cafe, so young people will not have to worry about money.

In my honest opinion I think the youth cafe should carry on in October as there is a lot of positives to outline.

Annex 4 – Report by Mary Perrett of BRIDGES about the Youth Café

YOUNG PEOPLE MENTORING PROJECT

BRIDGES was offered funding to take part in the above scheme giving those of secondary school age, (aged 11+ to 18), a place to meet and connect with others. BRIDGES teamed up with ECT Youth club and HOUSE, the detached youth work, both of which were already providing youth services in Edenbridge. However, both ECT and HOUSE agreed to join with BRIDGES since we had a centrally located venue to host the project and plans were made.

The Youth Café logo was designed by one of the young people themselves, and 8 young people were approached to “sign up” to helping at each evening at the café. In the end, only 7 remained, as one of the young people felt a little overwhelmed to help as he was a little younger than most and it would have taken him out of his comfort zone.

The café ran over 10 weeks, between May-July 2022 for 2 hours each week, between 4-6pm. We offered a drink and either a chocolate bar or burger in a bun, the latter proving much more popular. Coupons, matching the design of the banners were issued and taken upon a food order being made and if any extra food or drink was wanted, the young person paid out of their own pocket.

Each week saw a different activity - and sometimes more than one - being offered to the youth but nothing was compulsory, rather activity was taken up on choice! Activities included - Arty Farty, craft and design, Speaking Mentor, Board Games, Mental Health workshop, Kent Wildlife “hands on”, and a professional Drumming workshop.

The atmosphere was informal with the young people sitting around tables chatting amongst themselves, although this in itself was a bonus of the event as many of those coming along never normally had the opportunity to meet with one another, being from different schools and attending different youth groups! As well as chatting together the Youth leaders were present to pick up on anyone “out on a limb” or just to engage with the youth, and also present were 2 Mentors, specifically trained for this project and each mingled with the young people.

In terms of numbers, we had Zero take up on week one! This was soul destroying and totally unexpected as each of us felt sure someone (or around a handful of young people might join us) but we persevered, and thereafter we saw on average 16-20 young people attending each week. Those who came, tended to come again, and numbers increased by word of mouth and encouragement/reminders from the Youth group leaders.

The support helpers were sent a reminder each week of their turn for being on duty and everyone proved reliable and willing and even enjoyed the tasks they were set. Someone was supervising them in the kitchen and one the servery to ensure H&S was being upheld at all times.

At the end of the project, a Certificate was issued to those who had helped at the event, with a round of applause and a group photo shoot (permission granted by all beforehand!) and this was in recognition of the tasks carried out so ably by the group.

On the final evening it was noted that there may be a follow on event subject to HOUSE/ECT being in agreement and having the required number of helpers available and this news was received with joy!

A report written by one of the 7 helpers is attached to this report for your perusal and gives a flavour of how much the young people valued this event being held in Edenbridge. Perhaps a few soundbites from this report would be as follows

- Great space
- friendly
- great service
- freedom
- able to meet up with friends'
- safe space
- fun!

Any follow up from those attending will be done by the Youth leaders themselves and we aim to meet in the next few weeks to finalise plans for any follow on sessions.

If there was any “downside” to the project it was that one of the 2 Mentors, was not comfortable with the role she had taken on, feeling it was different from what she had imagined, and “too hands on” for what she would wish for and therefore she decided not to continue coming along after Week 3. There was no falling out of any sort, but rather a concerted effort from those of us remaining to make the project as much of a success as we possibly could!

Annex 5 – Free Summer Activities for Young People Aged 11 to 18

Sevenoaks District Council

Reconnect Funding for Free Summer 2022 Activities

Author: Jenny Godfrey, Community Projects & Funding Officer

Date: 16 September 2022

Background

Sevenoaks District Council received funding to offer free summer activities to young people. These activities were open to young people aged 11 to 18 living or attending school in the Sevenoaks District.

A large selection of activities were offered (further details below) between 23rd July and 31 August 2022.

What offered

Working with partner organisations, a diverse range of activities were set up across the district. On offer were the following 21 activities:

- Archery
- Artistic Swimming
- Cake Decorating Masterclasses
- Creative Therapy
- Culture Camps*
- Dance Workshops
- Disc Golf
- Drawing Workshop
- Family Woodland ID Walk
- Football Camp
- Insect & Wildflower Collage
- Kayaking
- Reptile & Amphibian Printmaking
- Rugby Camp
- Summer Journaling Workshop
- Teen Meditation sessions
- Walking with Alpacas
- Wildlife Painting
- Waterpolo
- White Oak Leisure Membership
- Young Athlete Programme

*The Culture Camps were being delivered by Pillar Community Services, another Reconnect funding recipient and we included this in our schedule of activities, advertising it, and taking bookings on behalf of Pillar Community Services.

Our delivery partners were:

- Kenward Trust
- Aquaoaks Artistic Swimming Club
- Lilian's Kitchen
- Arty Farty
- Pillar Community Services
- Cascade Dance
- Kent Wildlife Trust
- Sevenoaks Town Football Club
- Sevenoaks Town Council - Swanley Park Rangers
- Sevenoaks Town Rugby Club
- Root & Flourish
- Sevenoaks Water Polo Club
- Everyone Active
- Better Body Group

Bookings

We took bookings via our communities@sevenoaks.gov.uk inbox.

We targeted KCC Early Help, Kent Police, KCC Social Services, schools in the district, partners on our young people mentoring programme and also opened it up to all.

Each delivery partner was provided with a regular update on bookings and then made contact with the parent/guardian to give further details of the activity and any consent forms/equipment needed.

Outcomes

Summary

The key outcomes were:

- Of the 21 different types of activities on offer, 15 were delivered (6 were cancelled owing to lack of bookings).
- Nearly 200 places on a large range (15) of activities were successfully delivered to 110 young people aged 11 - 18 years.
- New and existing delivery partners identified and worked with. All would like to work in partnership with Sevenoaks District Council on any future similar projects.
- Key positives feedback were that the activities: were fun; enabled the young people to meet others/new people and to receive support and instruction from an inspirational activity leader. Identified as a key positive by some young people was that the activity was near to where they lived. Others felt they helped improve their confidence and allow them to learn something new.
- Improvements suggested were that the groups were larger; the sessions longer or a course/project based approach offered. One delivery partner said that project based activities might be more appealing to the age range 11 to 18 years. One young person suggested that: 'Maybe of a course of 6 would be good to build up my skill level' in relation to kayaking.

- Some young people want to continue with activities and are now in touch with clubs, groups and organisations that can assist with this. For some young people this will not be an option.
- Six of the young people reached also responded seeking further assistance via the Sevenoaks District Council Young Person Mentoring Project. This offers young people aged 11 to 18 the opportunity to be matched with an adult mentor and to access further support such as 1:2:1 counselling. This project was initially funded by KCC COMF and funded until end of December by the Police Commissioner. Further funding is currently being sought to continue the scheme into 2023.

The Next Steps are:

- Secure funding to run further activities for young people aged 11 to 18 in the Easter and/or Summer Holidays 2023. Use existing and new delivery partners.
- Increase the length of the sessions and/or give a course of sessions to appeal to more young people in this age range and enable familiarity to develop and skills and confidence to improve. This will also benefit those young people wishing to continue with an activity but unable to do so due to financial and other constraints.
- To empower communities to offer activities locally (local activities fed back as important to the young people), seek to identify, develop and work with other new delivery partners (like Lillian's Kitchen in Ide Hill).

Results in detail

Feedback from Delivery Partners

Better Body Group offered a young athlete development programme across 6 weeks and fed back:

'We have absolutely loved hosting the sessions and it's always a pleasure to see youngsters improve, recognise their achievements and be proud of themselves. The only feedback is how do we get funding to do more of this as it's so important for the younger generation?'

Root and Flourish provided teen meditation sessions and said:

'The children really appreciated the session and engaged despite some of them being nervous/unsure at first. They especially enjoyed the guided meditation and could have easily done that for much longer!!'

Sevenoaks Rugby Club were running a summer rugby camp and spaces were allocated to young people signing up to this Reconnect programme. They said:

'Sessions themselves ran very well. Impact - Outside, exercising, building relationships, learning a sport. We thoroughly enjoyed having the young participants as part of our camp, they were a delight to work with.'

Sevenoaks Water Polo Club offered 1 off taster sessions and a 6-week course:

'Feedback received has been very positive with 4 young people showing an interest in coming again. 2 of them are extremely keen to join the club going forward.'

Aquaoaks Artistic Swimming Club said:

'It was really great, thank you. Lots of good feedback and we have one child who is very keen to join the club from September onwards.'

Kenward Trust provided archery sessions and said:

'The archery went really well they all really enjoyed their time doing archery and some possibly future archers I guided their families to an archery school that they can get involved in a club level'



Swanley Town Council Park Rangers ran kayaking sessions at Swanley Park

"We found both the children and instructor really enjoyed the sessions, we had some great feedback on how they were run. From the instructor's perspective he felt they would have gone better if on certain sessions there were more children. We found that the children wanted to participate in more activities like this."



Arty Farty provided a selection of art based activities and fed back:

'If I were to do it again I'd love to do more project based work like the journaling, I feel this might appeal to more people. I had great feedback from the journaling workshop, the participants were so enthused by their projects that they brought their parents in and showed them everything they'd done. The creative therapy sessions were wonderful and one participant said 'This has been soooo good, I want all those art materials now!' One parent said to me 'She's totally in the zone, this is great!' whilst waiting for her child to finish.'

Below are some of the amazing pieces created by the young people on the Arty Farty workshops.



Lilian's Kitchen, providing cake decorating masterclasses with themes 'Beach Days' and 'Under the Sea' commented:

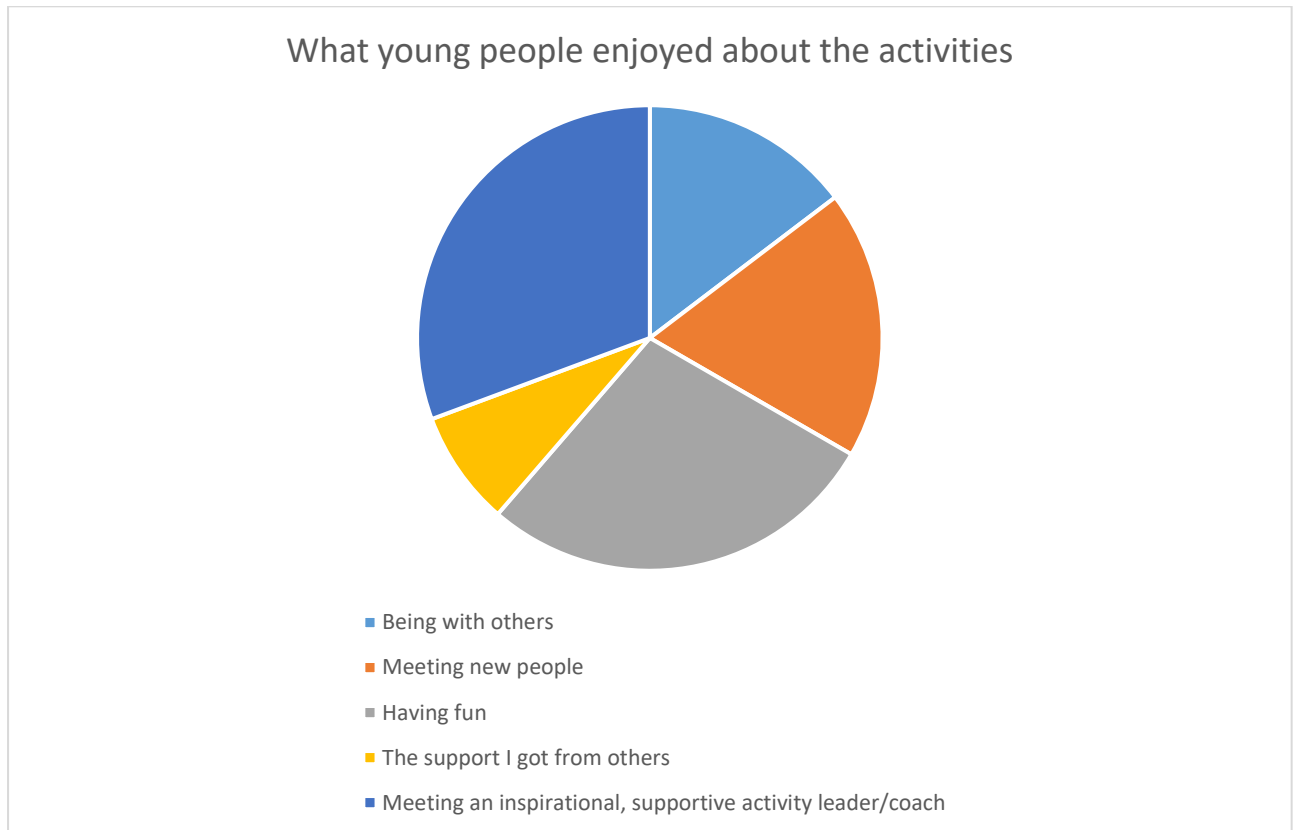
'The classes went really well. Everyone seemed really happy.'

The photographs below show some of the fantastic designs the young people created. This was the first time that Sevenoaks District Council had worked with Lilian's Kitchen before. The Council were able to support Lilian's Kitchen in obtaining first aid certification in time for running these sessions. As a small organisation running these sessions in the village location of Ide Hill, this enabled Lilian's Kitchen to get involved sharing their expertise and skill with young people. Lilian's Kitchen are now going to working in partnership with the Council on some other initiatives for families.



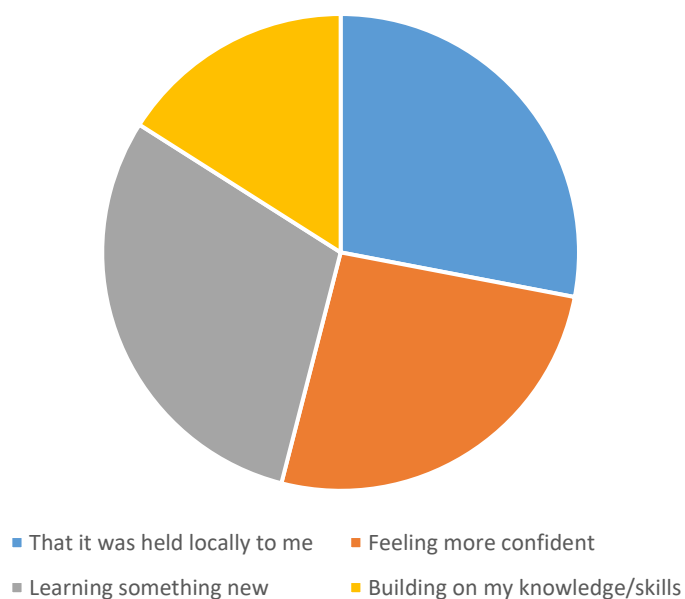
Feedback from participants and parents/guardians

Feedback forms were completed by some of the young people that participated in the summer activities. Below is a summary of the results.



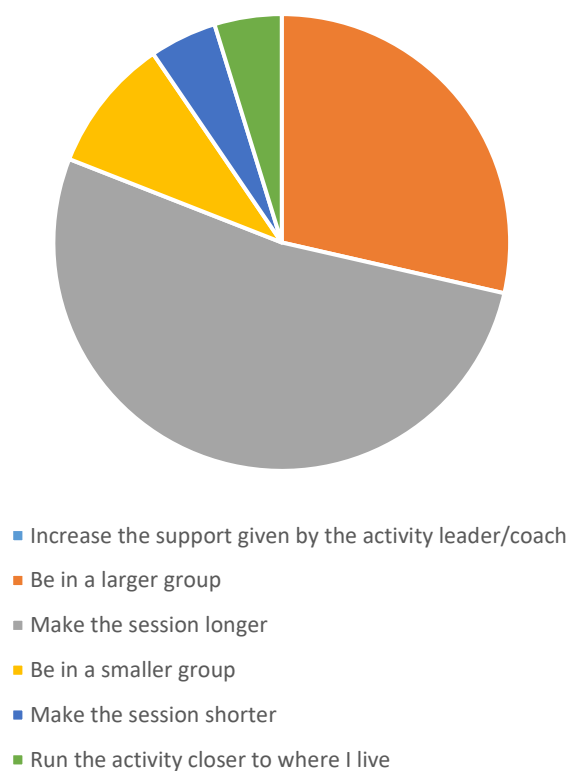
‘Having Fun’ and ‘Meeting an inspirational, supportive activity leader/coach’ and ‘meeting new people’ were the key positives reported by young people participating in the activities.

Other positive outcomes



It seems that it was important to the young person that the activity was held locally to them. As a result of the activities the young people felt more confident, learnt something new and in some cases, built on their knowledge/skills.

What would the young people change about the session



The largest changes highlighted were making the sessions longer and being in a larger group.

Other young people and their parents/guardians provided feedback via comments and photographs. These are included below.

When asked what else the young people liked & if they had any other comments, they said:

'Having freedom with my creativity.'

'I enjoyed putting feeling into emotion.'

'Really fun, really kind leader.'

'I liked being free with my art.'

'Different art supplies.'

'It being relaxing.'

'Being able to express yourself.'

'Learnt new skills and tricks'

'Really enjoyed it' 'Fun'

'We used visual aid'

'How calm everything is'

'It helped me relax and think about myself to control my body and mind.'

'the activities we did'

'the equipment we used, being ourselves with no limits.'

'very fun and helped me a lot'

'I really enjoyed this.'

'Thank You'

'It will help me to relax weekly so I can work on myself more'

'I really enjoyed the alpaca walk. I want to work with animals.'

'Liked that it was at 6 so park wasn't as busy. Liked the small group. Liked the games the leader got us to play.'

'I loved it!'

'It was fun.'

'All the activities were great, I made new friends and learnt new skills and had a fun time. I hope I get the opportunity to do some other activities next summer.'

Parents also wrote in separately to express their opinions on the provision of these activities:

'As a parent I was extremely grateful for my daughter to have the opportunity to take part in the free sessions. They were extremely well run, it gave her new skills and I was able to work knowing she wasn't bored or sat at home with nothing to do. Thank you Sevenoaks Council.'

'Just wanted to say what a fantastic time my daughter had at the Cascade dance workshop, I really hope you can put more of these on as she would love to attend again and has friends who were unable to make this date but are really keen to give it a go after her talking so positively about the day.'

'I really felt the need to write to say a big THANK YOU for the 2 sessions my Two boys attended this summer! I will be honest it is not an activity I have considered in the past but as it was a free activity I thought why not give it a go! They loved it so much and booked another session. I really liked the fact it was at 6:00pm as it meant the park wasn't as busy and I could park easily. The instructor Callum was so good with the children and did little games and races with them and the one last night everyone on the session had been before and my youngest fell in the lake! Then fell in the lake again and Callum helped him drain the boat! It was so funny and once this happened it wasn't long before the eldest fell in - it was so funny! They really needed this after all the Covid restrictions - it has been so nice to see them smile again! I really hope this happens again next summer. My youngest son also had the 6 week membership at white oaks gym and has enjoyed using the gym! So thank you!'

'We thought the summer activities were excellent. G&R tried water polo, archery and kayaking. All were great fun, well run and inclusive. One slight disappointment was that there were no other children to interact with at the first kayaking session. I understand the session was fully booked which must be really annoying for you but the instructors managed really well and G&R got lots of attention so it worked out well for us! Hopefully there will be other children there tonight. Thank you for putting on such a lovely programme over the summer.'

'On hearing that son booked onto courses (White Oak membership and art therapy) on this birthday: Brilliant thank you so much he will be over the moon.'

M's summer is lovely because attending YP activities. She enjoys the activities itself, but she also meet & makes new friend at the activity site. Lovely. It also gives her an opportunity return to sports activity. She sadly stopped going swimming in 2020 because of pandemic, and she was reluctant to return since then until this summer, but I can see she enjoys a lot of swim activities in this YP programme. As a parent it is so nice to chat with her what the session was like at the end of day. Thank you for all your hard work, it really makes difference to her life.'

'Wonderful, thank you so much!'

'Thank you so much! She attended on Tuesday and really enjoyed it.'

'The activities she has attended have been excellent, so thank you.'

Continuing with activities:

110 young people were reached with the 15 different types of activity. 59 sessions plus any sessions undertaken by the 13 young people given passes to White Oak Leisure Centre

were undertaken. This approach allowed young people to take part in a variety of activities some of which had been organised specifically for this project (i.e. teen meditation, cake decorating masterclass) and others joining in with camps and activities already arranged by local groups and organisations (i.e. water polo, rugby, football). This not only offered the young people a large selection of activities but also encouraged the 'joining in' with existing activities that if the young people wished to/were able to, they could continue with. The majority (98%) of young people reported that if they could they would continue participating in one or more of the activities and delivery partners have reported that they have young people signing up with the club. For some young people this will not be an option so if further funding can be secured, some courses and project based activities running over a period of weeks (rather than a taster session) can be organised and offered.

Sevenoaks Climate Change Youth Forum

1st December 2022

On Thursday the 1st of December 2022 Sevenoaks Town Council held the second Climate Change Youth Forum of 2022. These meetings are aimed at trying to encourage secondary schools to talk to one another about the actions their schools are taking to help combat the current climate crisis.

Sevenoaks Town Council	Councillor Dr Marilyn Canet, Chairman of Youth Services Committee
	Linda Larter, Town Clerk
	Ieuan Chandler-Wilson, Youth Committee Clerk
	Jonathan Letendrie, Climate Project Officer
Trinity School	Elliott Boulton
	Daniella McConville
	Holly Downey-Adley
Knole Academy	
	Ben
	Eve
Walthamstow	Mrs Emma Brown
	Amelie
	Maddie
	Facility
	Zoe
West Heath	Mrs Juliette
	Ella

1. Introduction

The forum was opened by Councillor Canet welcoming many familiar faces and a few new ones to the youth forum. It was noted that we had received apologies from schools who were unable to attend. Councillor Canet noted that each of the young people around the table are in a position where they can facilitate change through the use of their words and voices. She also outline that it is great that so many schools are actively trying to work together to bring about change in the world and help to develop a more positive message.

2. Kent County Council's guest speaker

We then heard from our guest speaker Iona Rogulski from Kent County Council (KCC) who unfortunately could not join us in person but had kindly sent a power point with a voice over explaining KCC school travel plans and outlining the different ways these can be helpful to schools. (This will be circulated with the notes of the meeting.) One of the actions that was outline was the potential to create a zebra crossing outside or near to the school to help the young people feel safe when walking to and from school.

Another idea that KCC put forward is the introduction of closing the roads near schools during the peak times to help ease the congestion around the school and help with the levels of pollution. Iona mentioned that so far this had only been trialled at two different schools. However, with this plan there are limitations as to what roads can be closed, for example the roads that are proposed to be

closed must not be an 'A' road or a main road in and out of the town, It must not be a main route for regular public transport or be a road that is the only access for businesses close to the school. Iona also explained that there are free resources for Responsible Parking that is available from KCC and this has a range of items all of which are free for schools to request.

Another resource that is part of the School Travel Plan resources was the creation of Active Travel Maps which once a school have created and had a travel plan approved it would show the different routes that the parents could take or if there are safe car park areas that they could drop off at instead of driving to the front of the school.

It was noted that it would be interesting to know what schools the road closures were trialled on and what the feedback that received from parents, students, and staff was.

One concern that was brought up about idea of the five minute walk drop off zones, where parents could drop off the Young Person and they could walk the rest of the way to ease the congestion outside of schools, was that it could potentially shift the problem from the front of the school to another area further elsewhere. A potential solution to this was to, where possible, suggest safe areas like car parks for drop off points as "Park and Stride" points. The effect of this is to make the area outside of schools safer for those walking and cycling, as well as improving air quality on the road.

3. Sharing School Climate Change Projects

We then heard from each of the schools as to the different types of engagement they had for different activities and any problems they might have faced along the way. It was noted that many of the schools had introduced a meat free day. Many seemed to be held on "Meat-free Mondays", they mentioned that a lot of the feedback from the days that they had done these was that people did not really notice the difference, which is positive as it indicates that the change isn't an issue to most students. It was mentioned by a few of the schools that where they had a catering company it was more difficult to have the freedom to suggest things like meat free days as many have a set menu that they follow across the board. Another suggestion to try and boost the level of engagement and students taking the meat free options was to look at the pricing and to see if it would be possible for the schools to make these options cheaper in comparison to their meat counterparts. Another suggestion to help with these changes was to showcase the different meal plans from athletes to encourage these types of changes.

We then heard that while many of the schools try to promote gardening it is hard to get the interest of students to help out. It was mentioned that some schools were growing their own food and others were planting to help with pollination and the wider natural world. One point that was made is there appears to be a need for education into gardening/horticulture at a Key Stage level.

It was put forward that material such as posters and media posts could be created to help support and promote healthy living. These could be circulated in the Town Crier. Posters containing information on why vegetarian/vegan diets and tackling climate change are beneficial could be used to encourage students to make alternative choices. Students often are aware that certain choices are better than others but some would like information on why they are better. These, alongside events from the House in the Basement like a meat free day could be quite useful to start spreading the message to the wider community. Schools suggested that QR codes for the town criers could be sent to schools instead of physical copies as this might be more accessible to students.

The Forum then moved on to talk about the different ways in which the schools generate power. Many of the schools mentioned that they have integrated solar panels into many of their new buildings but many have noticed that with the current cost of energy, more of their economic resources are spent on heating and electricity, meaning that they have less to spend on solar which has the potential to lower their energy costs.

4. Eco Schools Projects

The Forum heard from Walthamstow Hall about the Eco-schools project and how it was having a larger impact on the school. They have started to add a “Green Award” for younger years where a student who does something that is considered to be environmental friendly such as picking up litter or turning off lights gains a sticker or merit in their planner. They have started to plant more bulbs like Snake Head (*Fritillaria meleagris*) and Hyacinths (*Hyacinthus*) around the school grounds. They run wreath making exercise and make Christmas cards from recycled paper during the lead up to the festive season. They sent a questionnaire around the school asking their students if they like the No Meat Mondays, of the ones that eat meat that were asked over 50% liked the idea.

Arts and craft events that target or use materials that are hard to recycle such as crisp packets which had been done before would be useful for schools and young people to get involved with. Walthamstow Hall also currently has hard to recycle plastic bins, though these cost £70 to replace each time they are full.

Knole Academy then discussed their actions in previous years in recycling crisp packets for use in creating thermal blankets, as well as for recycling ring pulls from cans.

It was also noted that Sevenoaks Town Council would be holding a Climate fair on Saturday the 29th of April as well as introducing ‘Warm Spaces’.

Action Points:

- Students to ask the Schools whether or not they have a School Travel Plan, and to contact Iona at KCC for more information and assistance.
- Schools to potentially look at the Eco-schools resources.
- Students to propose a survey or questionnaire.
- STC to research recycling projects- e.g. Crisp packets.
- STC to invite Sevenoaks District Councils Recycling Office to the next meeting.
- STC to Schedule for meeting dates for 2023.

Youth Climate Forum, Sevenoaks

Iona Rogulski (*Transport Planner*)

Kent County Council

Introduction



I'm Iona, I work within KCC's
Road Safety and Active Travel Group
as a Transport Planner.

My role is to support schools in their efforts to promote and enable Active & Sustainable travel options for families and staff travelling to/from school each day.

Support & Resources



STORING, CREATING
AND MAINTAINING
SCHOOL TRAVEL PLANS



GRANT
FUNDING



SCHOOL
STREETS
SCHEMES



RESPONSIBLE
PARKING
TOOLKIT



ACTIVE TRAVEL
MAPS

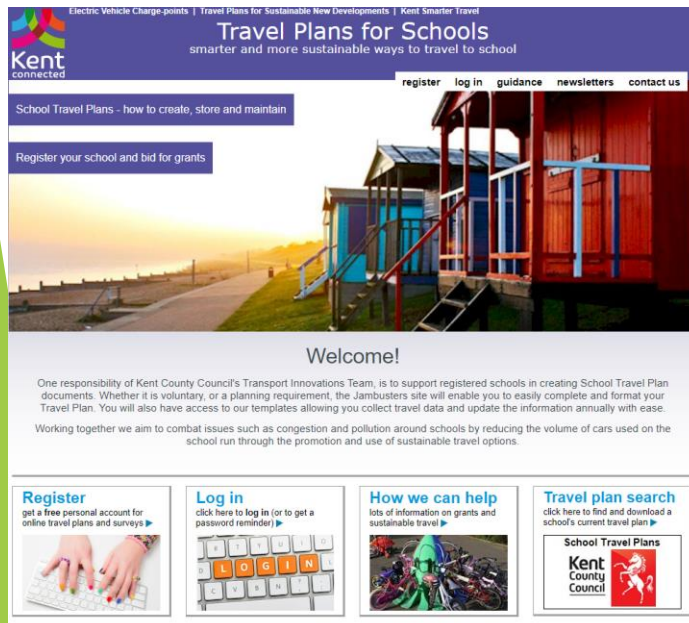


SIGN-POSTING & USEFUL INFORMATION
(ROAD SAFETY EDUCATION, HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT
SCHEMES, PARKING ENFORCEMENT ETC.)

Jambusters

Online Travel Plan Management System

- ▶ School Travel Plan
- ▶ Annual Reviews
- ▶ Grant Funding Opportunities
- ▶ General Guidance & useful information



The grant funding is available to schools to help them install infrastructure that will enable more active & sustainable travel modes, such as welly sheds, cycle/scooter storage, EV charging points and footpath improvements - to name a few!

Some benefits of having a recent and well-maintained STP include:

- ▶ *Supporting requests for highway improvements (e.g. a zebra crossing or speed reductions)*
- ▶ *Strengthening a Grant Funding application*
- ▶ *Building better community relationships through*
 - ▶ *Efficient responses to community or local resident complaints/queries*
 - ▶ *transparency about the opportunities and challenges for active travel.*
 - ▶ *Outlining the actions a school takes to tackle aspects such as, road safety, considerate parking, and reducing congestion.*

School Streets

School Streets schemes offer a proactive solution for school communities to tackle air pollution, traffic congestion and poor health and safety.

A School Street is a road outside a school that has a temporary restriction to motorised traffic at school drop-off and pick-up times (during term times only).

The restriction applies to drivers who would ordinarily pass or park outside the school gates, but enables access for those travelling “actively”, like scooting, cycling, walking etc.

 The School	 The Street
• Must have an up to date School Travel Plan in place • Must be able to release staff to set out and oversee the road closure (Note: Kent County Council will facilitate the training requirements for the school staff responsible for this aspect) • Will agree to work collaboratively with Kent County Council to ensure that Road Safety education is provided to support the introduction of the School Streets scheme • Will agree to provide regular monitoring and progress updates regarding the School Streets scheme	• Must not be on an 'A' road or a main road through a town or village • Will ideally not be on a main route for a regular public transport bus service • Will ideally not be on the main or only access road for businesses based close to the school • Should have the backing, in principle, of the local councillor or MP



School Streets can lead to a safer, cleaner, and healthier environment for everyone.

Responsible Parking

The Responsible Parking website provides useful information and FREE resources to help you raise awareness and support, for example, with tackling potentially dangerous and inconsiderate parking in the vicinity of school entrances.

Resources from the catalogue can be used in a creative and joined-up approach, to encourage school staff, parents, carers, governors and - most importantly - students to work alongside their local civil enforcement officers and local Police Force in a partnership to make a safer, cleaner, healthier environment.

- ▶ Weatherproof banners to attach to railings/fencing
- ▶ Educational/reminder flyers and handouts
- ▶ Hoodies for the pupil groups to wear when patrolling
- ▶ ...And it's all available **Free of charge!**



Active Travel Maps

Once a school has set up their School Travel Plan, they can access further resources such as Active Travel Maps.

We work closely with schools to ensure that their site-specific information is included in the leaflet.

Then schools can choose to highlight aspects such as 5 or 10minute walking distances, signalised crossing points, and Park & Stride locations.

We provide the maps to schools as a pdf which they can then print (to be used as folded, pocket-size maps), or they can share with their school community electronically.



CHALLENGE!

- ▶ Find out if your school has a School Travel Plan...
- ▶ ... and if they don't - or if it's over 3years old (i.e. 2019 or earlier) - then encourage your school staff to get in touch with me to start a new School Travel Plan!

Get in touch

If you'd like to know more about any of the resources mentioned here, or if you'd like support with advocating for any of the aforementioned projects, then please don't hesitate to get in touch with your queries:

iona.rogulski@kent.gov.uk

03000 419 582

Useful Links

Jambusters: www.jambusterstpms.co.uk

School Streets: www.kentconnected.org/school-streets-kent/

Responsible Parking: <https://www.responsibleparking.co.uk/secondary-schools/>

Knole Academy's Climate Change Initiatives

- Renewable energy (Solar panels)
- Water refill stations
- Year 7's given reusable water bottles
- Recycling stations
- Whole school recycling house competitions
- Lights which use a sensor
- Bike racks
- The use of school buses instead of being driven to school
- Having to pay for takeaway pots for lunch
- Use of wooden cutlery with take away food
- Nature group has planned trees on site



Design a Christmas Light Report:

In September Sevenoaks Town Council held a Competition for Young people aged 11 and younger to create a Christmas light that would later be manufactured and placed in the town. We received around 245 entries from across Sevenoaks.

After the deadline for the competition the Mayor Councillor Rachel Parry and Deputy Mayor Councillor Claire Shea both looked at all of the entries we had received and decided on a winning design.



Figure 1: Light Entry



Figure 2: Merlin Lighting Concept Design

The winning design was a father Christmas Motif (Figure 1) drawn by Ted Evans it was then sent to Merlin Lighting to be made into a Christmas Light (Figure 2), this was unveiled by the Mayor on the 23rd of December with Ted and his family present, Ted was also presented with a certificate by the Mayor (Figure 3). This was later published in the Sevenoaks Chronicle (Figure 4).



Figure 3: Entry Winner Presented With Certificate at the Unveiling of the Christmas Light

YOUR COMMUNITY NEWS



Competition winner Ted Evan with town mayor Rachel Parry

Brilliant Ted, 10, wins town council's Christmas light design competition

IN SEPTEMBER the town council invited children under the age of 11 to enter a competition to design a new Christmas light for Sevenoaks town centre.

Hundreds of entries were received, and the town council

would like to thank all the children who took the time to send in their fantastic artwork.

A winner was chosen and congratulations go to 10-year-old Ted Evan for his wonderful design for a jolly Father Christmas light.

The light has been manufactured and was installed at the Stag Theatre.

On Friday, December 23, Ted and his family attended a switch-on ceremony with the mayor, Councillor Rachel Parry, and

Andrew Byrne, chief executive of The Stag.

The Mayor said: "We had so many wonderful entries from local young artists that it was very difficult to choose a winner, but Ted's design stood out for its appealing portrayal

of a jolly Santa that made us all smile, and we could see how it could be turned into a light."

Many congratulations to Ted whose light will now be part of the town centre's Christmas display for many years to come.

Figure 4: Article in Sevenoaks Chronicle