

**REPORT TO:** Safer Policy and Performance Board

**DATE:** 14<sup>th</sup> November 2023

**REPORTING OFFICER:** Executive Director - Environment and Regeneration

**PORTFOLIO:** Community Safety

**SUBJECT:** Youth Diversionary Activity

**WARD(S)** Borough wide

## 1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To provide Members with an overview of the diversionary activity for young people in the Borough.

2.0 **RECOMMENDED: That the Board note the content of the report.**

## 3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 Children's Services has a commissioning contract with VIBE, this is to deliver engagement with young people and provides Youth Workers three nights per week (Thursday, Friday and Saturday) in both Runcorn and Widnes. They target hotspots are identified by Safer Halton partnership working and aim to support young people connecting into positive activities. They develop relationships with groups of young people in identified areas achieving a trust element between staff and the young person.

3.2 Vibe have extensive partnership work in the Borough with a number of agencies and funding sources: -

### 3.2.1 **Good Choices**, Funded by Cheshire Police.

Vibe's Good Choices intervention is a crime prevention programme designed to work with young people from across Runcorn and Widnes, that have been in trouble with the police, at risk of committing a crime, or they are/have been involved in anti-social behaviour.

Delivered in small groups, across a day, and comprised of discussions and activities which will enable you to make effective decisions about your choices, understand the importance of your relationships and work towards the prevention of Substance Misuse and Anti-Social Behaviour.

### 3.2.2 **Positive Vibes Programme**, Funded by Cheshire Police.

Vibe's PVP works with young people to build learning and resilience to make informed positive life choices. Open to young people aged 13-17 years from across Runcorn and Widnes, that have been in trouble with

the police, at risk of committing a crime, or they are/have been involved in anti-social behaviour.

PVP is a 6-day informal educational, skills and relationships programme. It includes teamwork, goal setting, confidence building, personal challenges and 1:1 mentoring sessions.

### **3.2.3 Short Breaks Group Support Service - Saturday Club**

Funded by Halton Council.

Vibe's Saturday Club is a fortnightly session in both Widnes and Runcorn for young people aged between 12-17 years and have Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND). An activity and friendship group for young people with attendance by referral through the Halton Short Breaks Service for Children with Disabilities.

The delivery plan is flexible and adaptable to ensure the young person's needs are the priority. Working with partners and families to ensure any EHCP or PBS Plan is included in the designing of options, to ensure any outcomes focus on these as well as providing social opportunities and a combination of stimulating activities that are safe, fun and provide opportunities to develop essential life skills.

Sessions can be adapted to meet the individual needs of the young person. The offer is structured to ensure that groups have equal access to opportunities, with activities simply adapted to accommodate young people's individual needs.

### **3.2.4 Vibe Outdoors - Sports Short Breaks**

Funded by Halton Council, Short Breaks Grant

Vibe outdoors short breaks in Halton are monthly sessions involving a range of indoor/outdoor adventurous activities chosen by the young people. Available to those aged between 8-17 years and have Special Educational Needs and/or disabilities (SEND). There are two sessions for ages 8-11 and 12-17 years.

### **3.2.5 Inclusive Needs Club (INC)**

Funded by Halton Council, Young People's Grant.

INC is a youth group with sessions for young people aged 17-25 with special educational needs. Sessions take place on Friday from 5pm-7pm. Young people enter INC club via referral.

The INC youth group focuses specifically on developing skills for independence. This includes elements such as planning to go shopping, going shopping, cooking a meal, learning to iron, learning to sew, first aid and other aspects such as making a telephone call and what to do in an emergency. Alongside this it provides a safe environment in which young people can take part in a range of

activities, explore interests, and have fun with peers away from home. It offers a wide programme of events including games, quizzes, crafts, and an opportunity to socialise.

**3.2.6 Where's Your Head At? (WYHA?),** Funded by The Arconic Foundation.

WYHA? is a twelve-week project focusing on improving the mental health and wellbeing of young people aged 11-16. WYHA? is designed for young people to learn skills and coping strategies to support their mental health.

It provides a listening ear and a safe space to connect with others with sessions themed around the 5 Ways to Wellbeing and Vibe's Relationship Model.

**3.2.7 Detached Youth Club - Hallwood Park & Palacefields**

Funded by Riverside

Every Thursday, between 5pm-6:30pm, Vibe youth workers engage with young people in both locations. Providing a structured youth club 'without walls' offering age-appropriate engaging interventions, directed by the young people.

**3.2.8 Detached Youth Club – Windmill Hill,** Funded by Windmill Hill Big Local.

Every Friday, between 4:30pm-6:30pm, Vibe youth workers engage with young people in Pheonix Park providing a structured youth club 'without walls' offering age-appropriate engaging interventions, directed by the young people. Youth workers plan activities in consultation with young people.

**3.2.9 Halton Youth Cabinet (HYC),** Funded by Halton Council.

Halton Youth Cabinet and UK Youth Parliament (UKYP) members are young people aged 11-18 years, elected to represent the views of young people across Halton, locally, regionally and nationally such as, British Council Youth Convention . They meet on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each Month in Widnes & Runcorn.

UKYP members also represent views nationally, attending an annual debate in the House of Commons in London.

Members attend events informing them about important social and political issues. They gather the views of other young people using online surveys, and campaign for changes by producing films, blogs and other media.

3.3 During the school summer holidays 2023, Vibe have provided, along with another 30 providers funded through the Department of Education to engage children and young people in holiday activities and food sessions at Crow Wood Park, Runcorn Ski centre and Windmill Hill area.

3.4 The Council have also commissioned VIBE to provide a youth club targeting support for young people impacted by parental drug and alcohol use.

3.5 The Council also has Halton Youth Grants which are to support positive activity to young people provided by 3<sup>rd</sup> sector organisations.

3.6 Children's Services have also commissioned Vibe to develop and deliver a resilience programme targeted at young people at risk of county lines and exploitation.

#### 4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 None to report.

#### 5.0 **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 There are no new financial implications to this report.

#### 6.0 **IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

##### 6.1 **Children & Young People in Halton**

The activity detailed supports youth engagement to support those at most risk of becoming engaged in anti-social or criminal behaviour, or vulnerable and to support Halton's young people to engage in positive activity.

##### 6.2 **Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton**

Skills development and learning is an intrinsic theme in the delivery of the activities. Supported young people are more likely to engage with their education and achieve better outcomes.

##### 6.3 **A Healthy Halton**

Emotional and mental health are key elements to youth work delivery, the programme also offers a range of physical activity to support overall health through the holiday activity funds delivery.

##### 6.4 **A Safer Halton**

Young people can often be associated with anti-social behaviour. The

programme of delivery provides engagement and positive activity to support young people in safe environments and enable them to contribute positively to their community and with their peer groups.

**6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal**

The youth provision and targeted activities reduces anti-social behaviour which reduces negative impacts in the towns and neighbourhoods.

**7.0 RISK ANALYSIS**

7.1 There are no risks associated with this report.

**8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

8.1 None to report.

**9.0 CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 None identified.

**10.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

None identified