

Community Board – North West Chilterns
Young and The Elderly
Briefing Report

Purpose of the report:

This report provides a brief update on the work undertaken by the Young and The Elderly subgroup since the last Community Board meeting held on 30th September 2020.

The Elderly

The topic of discussion regarding the elderly has been around social isolation. We have seen a presentation from The Clare Foundation regarding their excellent initiative to launch the Kraydel system. This enables conversation in a ‘face time’ like format using an existing TV screen connected to the phone of a remote friend. This looks to be an interesting project to address the widespread loneliness amongst elderly people living alone and other Community Boards are also considering the possibilities of expanding the Kraydel concept into their area.

However, for the initial trials in the county, the Clare Foundation are simply looking for assistance to locate those who are elderly and who may like to be part of the initiative. This is fully funded by The Clare Foundation.

In addition, we now understand that the Council are considering a County wide initiative to relieve social isolation which is not the same problem as loneliness but can be addressed in a similar way.

With two schemes underway, we need to pause until there is a clear understanding of both and then assess the outcomes before proceeding on our own venture into this important subject.

The Young

We have a proposal with costings from James Cavalier of Active In the Community to run Friday evening activity sessions in the term time and daytime sessions during holidays on the ‘fit and fed’ model, all at the Princes Risborough school. The objective is to encourage children from all backgrounds to engage in activity and especially for those from disadvantaged homes, to hopefully widen their horizons.

Some years ago, Princes Risborough Round Table had a fund that sent two or three students each year from the Risborough School to a week-long Outward Bound style activity course. The students chosen were from homes that could not usually afford this type of activity or holiday. The head of the school reported each year, that without exception, those who went

on the course returned with changed perspectives and hugely benefited from the experience. This proposal from Active In is a mini version that could be extended in time.

We would like to engage with the Youth Club and any other youth organisations to ensure that the message of these activity events reaches into the homes of all families with children of secondary school age and particularly, those from the most disadvantaged homes.

The initial objective is to address anti-social behaviour that is a problem with a significant minority of young people, many of whom live in a home that is designated as being in poverty. Children in families with a single parent are at a disadvantage particularly if there are siblings as discretionary leisure time is more limited.

The Meetings

At the next meeting on Monday 23rd November we need to do the following –

- Discuss the above projects and decide the next actions.
- Engage with stakeholders and officers who can assist with progression.
- Outline strategies and a programme for achieving the objectives.
- Provide estimates of costs for the projects and circulate to the Chair of the Community Board for discussion off line.
- Present a proposal to the next appropriate Community Board meeting.

Graham Peart
Chair of the subgroup
19th November 2020