

Annual review of working with young people September 2017

This is a review of the last year's work carried out by the young people's co-ordinator to support young people in South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse districts.

This work contributes to the councils' corporate priorities and helps council teams to deliver their priorities in partnership with external organisations.

For more information contact Karen Tolley, Young People's Co-ordinator on 07827 081818 or email karen.tolley@southandvale.gov.uk

MANAGE AND DEVELOP THE COUNCILS WORK EXPERIENCE PROGRAMME

We continue to develop interesting and relevant work experience placements, securing 39 placements for young people from schools and colleges with council teams and outsourced services, such as Licensing. Students are given real work and projects to complete, shadowing staff in all aspects of their work including visits, inspections and meetings. This year one student has been offered a part time job in the coffee shop at the Beacon after working there for two weeks.

Paid work experience (industry placement)

Aled, is our first paid intern. He started work in the leisure team in September 2017 and is with them for 11 months. He is an undergraduate at Bournemouth University studying Sports Development and Coaching and lives in Abingdon. The placement will help him develop his professional skills required for his degree whilst providing the leisure team with a valuable resource. Aled has been given his own villages to run Go Active Gold projects in.



Aled participating in an Active Gold session.

Job Centre placements

This year we've supported two people through the job centre to undertake work placements at the Beacon, leading to employment for one of them and we are planning more next year.

SCHOOL AND COLLEGE ENGAGEMENT TO HELP YOUNG PEOPLE INTO EMPLOYMENT

The young people's co-ordinator attended schools and colleges in South and Vale to help young people understand the type of skills employers are looking for and how to gain these through work experience, part time jobs, volunteering, and other activities. It provides an opportunity to promote careers in local government and the range of council services we are responsible for. She attended:

- seven careers fairs
- four mock interviews
- seven apprenticeship, work experience and employability events

RAISE AWARENESS OF THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS AND THE WORK OF THE COUNCIL

The young people's co-ordinator attended several schools and colleges with the Democratic Services trainee, who is tasked with encouraging young people to register and vote. This included sixth form assemblies to highlight the forthcoming local and general elections and attending sixth forms to register young people so they can vote at these elections.

We ran a workshop at Didcot Girls School as part of their Big Question Day exploring the topic 'should voting be made compulsory'. Students had an opportunity to discuss and debate the issues with the help of a District Councillor. We gave an overview of the council and the decisions it is responsible for to help students understand local democracy and that voting in both local and general elections is important and will make a difference. The young peoples' co-ordinator has also given presentations about council services and how local government is run to help the school with their Citizenship GCSE.

SUPPORTING COUNCIL TEAMS TO ENGAGE WITH YOUNG PEOPLE

- **Abbey Meadows Redevelopment** – supporting the leisure team to involve young people in the consultations and ensure that students attended the open day.
- **New leisure centre for Grove and Wantage** – working with the leisure team to plan and run consultations with 120 young people from schools and youth groups and produce a young people's report.
- **Neighbourhood Plans** - supporting the planning team with Neighbourhood plans by helping parish councils to involve young people in their consultations.
- **Apprenticeships and skills development** – supporting economic development to organise an apprenticeship levy event during National Apprenticeship week to help businesses understand how the levy can help their business. Working with the team to help deliver their action plan priority to address the skills gap in key sectors and strengthen links between business and education to develop skills that will support local businesses and the economy.
- **Community Employment Plans (CEP)** – supporting economic development and the Local Enterprise Partnership to negotiate a CEP with developers and how to deliver it with partner organisations such as the Job Centre, training providers and schools and colleges. Working with Planning to ensure local plan policies refer to these.
- **Housing Development** - supporting the team to consult schools and youth groups about the plans for the Didcot Garden Town. Working with the team to involve young people in the development of Berinsfield and ensure that services and activities are provided for young people and relevant partner organisations are involved in developing these.
- **Planning** – commenting on planning applications and if necessary help to consult young people about infrastructure that is needed e.g. GWP skate park, Kingston Bagpuize - Parcour, West Way shopping centre, Botley

DEVELOP PARTNERSHIPS TO SUPPORT YOUNG PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES

Youth partnership networking group was set up to share good practice and encourage partnership working to support young people and communities. The group identifies gaps, plans projects and shares resources to help council teams to deliver their work priorities. Many of the organisations are now working together such as Dalton Barracks and GLL.