



Strategy for Youth Work in South Swindon Parish Council

Mission Statement

The Mission Statement of South Swindon Parish Council is to provide a service to the communities of the parish that is relevant to young people, and is run in a reasonable, sustainable manner that respects the cultural background of the parish. Its aim is to create for young people a chance to understand these cultural back grounds.

Goals

To provide services to the youth communities of South Swindon Parish, that are:

- Relevant to their needs irrespective of colour, creed, gender, sexuality and wherever possible to be politically neutral.
- To provide those services as and wherever possible in a manner and in a venue suitable for the activity being run.
- The service/activity can be supplied by either a youth worker appointed by or contracted to work for South Swindon Parish Council, or through a joint venture in conjunction with Central Swindon North Parish Council.
- The Service could/can be provided at any of the key central hubs such as Eastcott; Walcot and Parks; Broadgreen and other suitable venues.
- As a measurement to show that we are achieving/making a difference we will use case studies as a performance indicator on an ongoing basis and to use the statistics from such publications as Public Health England- Child Health Profiles to help collate the information to show how we are doing.
- All services will be run in an open, honest and socially responsible way, so that there is respect for each other.

Strengths Weakness, Opportunities, and Threats

Strengths

- Programme to be delivered locally and under the control of South Swindon Parish Council, through its officers, and elected councillors.
- A chance for young people to understand how other parts of society operate and how they work together.
- Improve community cohesion, to show a greater understanding of each other whether that is on a community basis, religious basis or any other basis.
- The youth workers who deliver the program across the parish.

Weakness

- Young people not wishing to take part, due to barriers such as religion, culture, misunderstanding, peer pressure, plus other forms of social pressure.
- Having funds available to run programmes within the parish council boundaries.
- Community centres, venues closing and not having suitable locations to run programmes.
- Overuse of certain programmes and them becoming too successful causing resources to be diverted from other projects, causing the programme to become too narrow and not offering enough choice.
- Youth Workers leaving and not being able to replace them due to budget constraints or recruitment of youth workers becoming harder.
- Reduction in any support received from any other governmental body.

Opportunities

- To create a community that has better working understanding of each other and that extends across all communities in the South Swindon Parish.
- To get communities to work together, and break down the barriers of religion, and create a better understanding of each others culture, whether that is on a religious, non-political, gender or sexual basis.
- To see through the measurement tools creating a safe environment for the communities, so we are seeing less reports of young people being dealt with by the police for such things as carrying knives, drugs etc.
- Young people getting the chance to develop skills that will stand them in good stead for use through the rest of their lives.
- Open the potential of creativity and development: Create increased opportunities for personal development.
- Reduce inequalities to:
 - Counter the effects of poverty on the future of young people.
 - Ensure that young people in difficulties are not left aside.
- Support young people to enter the working environment or education, with the aim of reducing the number young people that are Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET's).
- Encourage the voice of young people, greater involvement of young people and increased listening to and recognition of young people.

Threats

- Funding either through grants from outside bodies, or the council budget having more important issues on which its funding is needed.
- Partnerships not working either due to restriction on one side, or reduction in funding.

- Community centres not wanting to run or have youth groups based at the centre.
- Community centres closing for a variety of reasons.

Goals

Specific

- To get youth services started in youth centres across Central South Swindon Parish Council Area, as and where possible subject to resources.
- To carry out a survey of a variety of young people from the various wards that make up the Central Swindon South Parish.
- To analyse the survey and to draw up a plan from the survey which will reflect what the young people from the wards that make up South Swindon Parish.

Measurable, Reasonable and Timely

As it is going to be difficult to measure success, how the service is progressing will be through a series of case studies that are produced by the youth staff for the Youth Working Party.

The Youth Working Party aims to work with a variety of partners these are just some of them

The Cooperative College and The Midcounties Cooperative Society
WeSet (Westmill Sustainable Energy Trust)
Swindon Town Football Club
Fit and Feed Programme (during school holidays)
Swindon Allotments and Leisure Gardens Association
and others