

**Notes of Meeting held on 10 November 2005  
at Worthing Town Hall  
to discuss Youth Issues**



**Present:**

Farhang Tahzib (Director of Public Health, Adur, Arun & Worthing Primary Care Trust (Chair)

Shirley Robinson-Viney (East Worthing Neighbourhood Worker, WS Youth Service)

Mark Lowe (Democratic Services and Scrutiny Officer, WBC)

Julian Carrington (Community Planning Co-ordinator, WBC)

Anne Jones (Community Planning Officer WBC)

Cllr Nick John (Mayor) 10.00-10.30

Mike Tyler (Churches Together in Worthing) from 10.30

Farhang explained that the purpose of the meeting was information sharing to find out what was already going on and then to investigate what Worthing Together could do to promote a positive role for young people in the town. There does not appear to be a forum for information sharing about services for young people in Worthing.

Cllr John outlined his belief in getting young people involved especially through the means of the Youth Mayor. There is a proposal for twinning with youth councils in Worthing's twin towns in France and Germany.

Shirley distributed the recently printed 'Worthing Youth Directory 2005/6' which publicises West Sussex Youth Service activities for young people in Worthing and contains a credit-card sized leaflet with contact details for other providers. She explained that the target age range for the statutory youth service was 13-19 although they did in fact cater for 11-25 year olds.

Shirley reported that there are major pieces of work being carried out at a county level including the West Sussex Youth Strategy and the countywide Children's Trust. Consultation is also currently being undertaken on the National Youth Strategy.

Shirley outlined the activities available at The Rosie, Glynn Own, Sydney Walter and The Place youth venues. WS Youth Service also fund Worthing Youth Theatre and a worker at Worthing Boys Club and give maintenance grants to Tarring Boys' Club, Mick's Garage and Stray Cats. They also provide training for voluntary youth organisations.

Anne said that she was not sure whether anyone represented Worthing Borough Council at the recent Children's Trust event and was not aware that any officer has youth and children's work as a specific part of their remit.

Mark Lowe outlined the review of the provision of services for young people 'to assess if the agencies are providing the right type and level of services for young people (5-18)' that he is currently carrying out on behalf of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Panel for Other Issues. This will result in a report and an action plan. Farhang asked Mark if he could report the findings to the next Worthing Together steering group meeting on Tuesday, 24 January.

Farhang outlined his concern that the youth service had not been regularly represented at Worthing Together steering group meetings. It was acknowledged that this was mainly due to staff changes.

Farhang spoke about encouraging links between older and younger people with inter-generational activities such as 'Adopt a Granny'. He also spoke about a joint project under the auspices of the Healthy Worthing Initiative being undertaken in Durrington schools. He has also met with the principals of the high schools in Worthing and Supt Mark Streater of Sussex Police.

Mike Tyler outlined the background to his concern for young people in the Borough including the mainly negative publicity in the local media, the possibility of obtaining lottery funding for a major collaborative project and the possibility of using under-utilised church premises throughout the Borough. He felt that Worthing Together could be a potential catalyst for bringing together interested parties. He has prepared a 3-minute video with the intention of generating enthusiasm for collaboration and it was agreed that this would be shown at the Worthing Together partnership event at Field Place on 22 November. The video will also be shown to the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Panel for Other Issues on 23 November when the Panel will also be interviewing officers from WS Youth Offending Team, Connexions and WBC Leisure and Cultural Services.

Shirley agreed to see if it would be possible for the Youth Mayor or the Vice Chair of the Youth Council to speak at the above event, despite the short notice.

Subsequent to the meeting, Julian Carrington received a memo from the WBC Community Safety Manager, Tina Favier, entitled 'Youth Services in Worthing' indicating a concern that 'youth work in Worthing has historically been disjointed, in that there are a number of projects delivering 'youth work' in Worthing that don't seem to speak to one another and work with each other'. Tina also 'applauds the fact that the LSP is going to establish a group to look at the issue of youth provision for Worthing and would ask that the LSP take on the role of leading on this to try and maximise opportunities to co-ordinate this work'.

It was agreed to seek to take forward this initiative via a workshop at the above-mentioned Worthing Together Partnership Event.