

Potential expansion of MTC youth work provision

1. Purpose of the report

1.1 To propose and agree to increasing the MTC youth work provision, if possible.

2. Background

2.1 Through C&TP MTC has provided support and funding for youth work sessions for a number of years. The Area Board contributes the other half of the funding for the youth work.

2.2 We have partnered with the Rise Trust to provide high quality youth work and advice and at the moment we co-fund youth work sessions of two hours each in the Town Hall on a Friday evening. The Rise Trust has also had funding from the Area Board through the LYN and from Green Square to provide two hours of detached youth work around Town on another evening. Our contribution to these youth work sessions has been £3,000 though we have £3500 in our annual budget to cover for some additional sessions as we did last year.

2.3 The Rise Trust has identified a need for an hour of detached youth work for the young people coming out of the Friday night sessions to give them guidance and encourage good behaviour on the streets. The cost of the extra hour would be £75 for the hour or £1,500 per year

2.4 Also, even though the Area Board funding does not provide for younger groups, the Rise Trust have been supporting young people of all ages in the town. Given that there is a need for youth work provision for a younger group, the Rise Trust are exploring alternative funding streams that MTC could match fund in order to provide a new youth work session for a younger group on a different evening to the current group held on Fridays in the Town Hall for older groups. A two-hour session on another night would cost £3,000 per year. We would need to consider how MTC re-distributes its funding so that we share the costs for both sessions with the Area Board and other funders.

3. Proposal

3.1 That the Community and Town Promotions Committee agree to a one-hour extension of the Friday night youth provision, especially in view of the increase in anti-social behaviour we've seen recently, and that we request an increase in our budget to cover any shortfall.

3.2 That the C&TP agree to explore how we could fund youth work for children younger than the age bracket than the Area Board funds.

4. Costs

4.1 An increase in the budget of £1,500 if we can't find match funding from other sources for an additional hour on a Friday night.

4.2 The potential loss of income from letting the Old Schoolroom on the evenings that the youth sessions take place if we add an additional session.

5. Risks

5.1 The usual risks relating to youth work activities

6. Recommendation

6.1 That the committee agree to bringing the youth work expansion proposals.

Cllr Fran Vandelli