

# **FOREST ROW PARISH COUNCIL POLICY ON YOUTH SERVICE DELIVERY (Mission Statement) (confirmed May 2016)**

## **STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

**The primary purpose of Youth Service Delivery in Forest Row is to provide a system of informal education, training and support which young people voluntarily enter into, and which assists them in the transition to adulthood.**

It should complement the education received at school whilst recognising that the formal, personal and social education delivered and received will vary tremendously from school to school and from individual to individual.

It should offer a variety of contexts, approaches and environments to enable young people to:

- make their own decisions
- acquire a range of practical and social skills
- confront their prejudices
- address issues of inequality
- learn about relationships
- explore values
- take responsibility for their own lives
- respect others
- express their views.

It should be committed to delivering the Parish Council's Policy by reflecting the four underlying principles:

- Participation
- Education  
Equality
- Empowerment

## **AIMS AND OUTCOMES**

Youth Work aims have emerged in response to National, Corporate and Children and Young People's Services (CYPS) Plans. They contribute to those strategies by directly linking the direction and delivery of the service to core elements contained within them. They are designed to meet the CYPS priority areas of:

- To help children and young people feel safe and happy in their communities;
- To narrow the gap in outcomes for children and young people;
- To improve outcomes for children and young people with learning difficulties and disabilities and complex needs;
- To meet the needs of children and young people in areas of growth or demographic change.

The expected outcomes and benefits of youth work may appear to vary depending on whether they are viewed from the perspective of a young person, a youth worker, a manager or a policy maker.

However a youth service which begins to meet the aspirations of all participants in the service will usually allow access to and support for activities, experiences and situations where young people are able to:

- develop decision-making skills and use them to inform their judgements and determine their actions.

- develop problem solving skills to manage the changes in their lives
- be aware of the political process and of the way in which this impinges on their lives.
- be aware of the democratic process and how to involve themselves in it
- develop a sense of values and a competency in dealing with such issues
- take responsibility for their own learning
- challenge discrimination and prejudice
- be active in seeking control of what happens to them
- develop skills to enable them to deal with the risks of drug, alcohol and solvent abuse and be knowledgeable about health issues.
- develop self-esteem and be confident about their own strengths and weaknesses.
- develop skills and interests that will be of use to them in their leisure activities as adults.
- accept their obligations and responsibilities as citizens.

## **PRIORITIES**

Youth Work seeks to provide for the needs of all young people though it is recognised that not all young people will have the same level or type of need from that service. Within that context the identified priorities for Forest Row Parish Council would include:

- A prime focus on work with 13-18 year olds within an overall responsibility for work with 12-19 year olds.
  - Work with those who are not highly motivated or successful at school.
  - Work with those who have left or are about to leave secondary schooling and are unlikely to make an easy transition into Further or Higher Education, employment or training.
  - Work with girls and young women.
  - Work with young people from ethnic minorities.
- Work with young people with physical and learning disabilities

Forest Row Parish Council will provide youth services for Forest Row that includes running a drop-in facility including some planned sessions from 3.30-6.30pm four days a week for ages 12 – 16 and on Thursday evenings from 6.30pm-9.30pm for ages 14-18

## **STAFFING POLICY**

Two part time Youth Workers will be engaged to ensure that two responsible adults will be in attendance at all times, one of whom will be employed as a Youth Worker.

They will report to the Clerk through the Youth Co-ordinator who will be their line manager/supervisor.

Appropriate training will be provided for the Youth Workers and the Youth Co-ordinator.

All staff will receive support through supervision and annual appraisal of their work.