

Report to Alton Full Town Council Meeting

The Kings Arms is very enthusiastic to be working with Alton Town Council and local stakeholders to progress youth work provision in Alton and surrounding villages. Before we detail the actions we have taken so far we would like to confirm some of the key strategies and approaches that we feel are important to the successful provision of youth work in Alton.

1. **Sustainability:** Our desire is to initiate youth work that has longevity. In our opinion that includes making wise decisions that will provide long-term foundations, build relationships, be efficient and have adequate funding. This does mean that we weigh carefully our choices and seek to understand the consequences and implications of such decisions.
2. **Young Person Centred:** Our approach to youth work is to include young people where ever possible and seek to involve them in the decision making and design processes. The needs of our young people are first and foremost.
3. **Locally Supported:** Our strategy is to engage local people in meeting local needs. This is a process that includes awareness raising, connection, engagement, training, and commitment.
4. **Safe and Fun:** Our core ethos is to ensure that we provide a quality service that is safe from both a safeguarding, and health and safety perspective. We seek to ensure that the young people who engage with us will have a fun environment where they build relationships and know that someone is available for them in times of need.

These are perhaps the considerations that have been most prevalent in our minds (other than our core values) as we have started our work to develop youth work in Alton. The following details the priorities and actions we have begun. Please bear in mind that our funding started in December 2018.

Venue

Priority: To find a base for Alton Youth work until March 2020 that is compatible with a long term arrangement

Actions: We have worked with the Town Clerk to research a variety of venues. We have been involved in the Coors site consultation to influence a venue for young people in the longer term. We have produced a list of requirements which we have reviewed against sites. We are down to 4 options: The function room at the Market Hotel, The Salvation Army downstairs hall, Alton College and ACC. We hope to make a decision by the end of February.

Personnel

Priority: To find staff and volunteers

Actions: We ran two 'come and meet KA' events which were very successful. We have built on existing relationships; we presented at the Alton Ministers lunch. We have run two volunteer events and we ran a stall at the Alton College volunteering event which enabled us to have individual conversations.

Work with young people

Priority: To start to build relationships with local young people

Actions: We have worked with three Business Studies Work experience students for two weeks, we have managed 6 Art work experience students and are also working with 10 young people from Alton College to run the East Hants Mental Health Youth Conference.

Connecting with existing youth providers

Priority: To build relationships with existing providers

Actions:

- We have met and are working with the Parish of the Resurrection Youth minister.
- We have had connections with Elkolet and discussed Alton Youth Work and alternative provision.
- We are working with community first to handover the Thursday After School provision which has been our first priority as this is an existing work that would otherwise stop.
- We invited all youth providers to join Youth link and attend the meeting discussing 'drugs' in November.
- We are looking at changing location for junior young carers following feedback from Alton Heads.

Community Connections

Priority: To raise awareness and build appropriate relationships

Actions: Connections have been made with Alton Buckle Professionals forum, Alton College, Health and Well-being partnership, Alton Heads, Alton Buckle, Church of the Resurrection, Harvest Church, Salvation Army, Rotary and Lions.

Publicity and Awareness Raising

Priority: To raise awareness of KAs Alton youth work provision

Actions: We have connected with young people including young carers to raise some awareness of what will be happening. We ran a stall at the Yuletide festival. We have been in contact with Alton Charities together, we have reviewed the KA website following input from Alton young people. We attended the Alton Society AGM.

Fundraising

Priority: To secure funding to run After School/Lunch youth clubs during 2019

Actions: We have raised the following:

- £3,900 EHDC Councillor grants (working with Town Clerk)
- £2,000 Anonymous donation
- £400 Masons (2 groups)
- £1,500 Rotary
- £200 Personal donation
- Commitment of hours from a church worker
- Church Donation
- 1/4/19 – CSI £5,000 grant for mentoring at After School (tbc)
- 1/4/19 – CSI £3,500 grant for family support around the young person (tbc)
- PCC Bid put in – turned down
- Collection of items (table tennis table, sofas)

Current Priorities

Our current priorities for the rest of this term are to:

1. Secure a venue
2. Get insurance cover sorted
3. Complete training for Services Manager
4. Complete handover of Thursday After School (2 staff, 2 volunteers)
5. Agree and train staff and volunteers and set up 2 more sessions per week
6. Make relationships through Youth Mental Health Conference with 4 Alton Schools/College