

Full Council Meeting – 8 February 2022

Report of Councillor Chris Booth - Community

One Teams

- In Halcon, we have been supporting skate sessions through Halcon Skate club. These are free Skateboarding Sessions suitable for beginners and those still learning (most suited to ages 6- 13 years) over a period of six weeks from mid-January. Skateboards and helmets can be provided and this is free to access at All Saints Church Hall on Thursday evenings.
- We have also been working with Neroche Woodlanders on Wild Explorers, aimed at getting Parent and Toddler Groups more active and outside.
- We continue to work with partners to drive down youth-related antisocial behaviour and violence across east and north Taunton.
- In Wellington, a multi-agency approach to young people will see the introduction of counselling sessions as well as access to the Resilience Voyage 'drugs bus', which aims to educate about risks and harms in drug use as well as discussing other social issues. The bus is also being deployed in West Somerset.

Youth Unlimited

In North Taunton we have been able to provide support to youth outreach sessions through the SCC funded youth resilience fund. This will help to ensure that the most at risk young people are helped to access employment hubs and training opportunities as well as being able to discuss mental health issues with trained youth workers from Youth Unlimited. This will be starting again in the next few weeks as nights get lighter and continue through the summer.

Minehead Eye

In Minehead, similar opportunities are being offered through the Minehead Eye project and will again be helping young people to access employment and training as well as giving access to wider youth facilities and guidance.

Somerset Art Work

Project working with young parents (target age 18-29), enrichment art activities with signposting to other services alongside. Will work with schools and health visitors to identify. Planning for at least 10 sessions. Church Hall and artist booked with a proposed start date of 4th March.

Somerset Skills & Learning

Halcon & North Taunton have jointly procured Somerset Skills and Learning for a 4 week online course for young unemployed. Despite widespread publicity, the take up was poor.

Food Pantries

The Local Food Pantries are starting to grow and we now have interest in new Pantries in Wellington, Minehead, Wiveliscombe and Watchet. These take some time to get off the ground and may not be running until later in the spring. We are grateful however for the support of our first pantry at Rowbarton in Taunton, who

have been able to facilitate visits and provide practical support and answers to questions that the potential new providers have. More information is available here:
Email: TheLocalPantry@somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk