

To: Cllr Elizabeth Tweed
By: John Taylor, Kent Youth Community Action Pilot Co-ordinator
Date: 6th July 2010
Subject: Kent Youth Community Action Pilot, Progress to date
Classification: Unrestricted

Summary:

This briefing note outlines the progress of the Kent Youth Community Action Pilot (KYCAP) since its inception in January 2010, following the successful grant application to the Department for Education. The pilot aims to engage 14 – 16 year olds from 13 schools across Kent in community action activities. The DfE defines community action as, *“any kind of activity which involves doing something which aims to benefit someone (individuals or groups) other than, or in addition to, close relatives or to benefit the environment”*.

DfE pilot targets are to:

- work with over 4,000 students
- engage 90% of that cohort in 50 hours of community action activity
- develop a bank of 13,000 community action opportunities

Kent's Achievements to Date:

- Over 2,600 students engaged
- Over 60,000 hours of community action delivered
- Approximately 61% of the cohort engaged with an average of 20 hours of activity per student

The above progress is in line with Kent's delivery plan and the pilot is graded 'green' (fully implementing in line with the business plan) by the DfE.

Progress so Far

All pilot schools are making good progress. The number of students engaged and the amount they are already contributing to the pilot is encouraging, especially since the summer holiday is considered to be a key period in delivering activities. KCC agreed a model of devolving the majority of pilot funding to schools to enable them to develop and embed community action within the curriculum.

In the original KCC project plan, it was envisaged that schools and young people would have opportunities to bid into budget pots to create their own activities.

Guidance for this bidding process has now been agreed and schools and students are currently preparing and submitting bids.

Community Action Youth Forums (East and West Kent) have been established. These have given young people an opportunity to understand and contribute to the management of the pilot and the Project Partner Board.

A number of Voluntary and Community Sector organisations and Kent Police have been commissioned to support schools in the delivery of community action activities. Their work is focused on supporting and engaging the most vulnerable young people. Additionally, Canterbury Christ Church University has been commissioned to evaluate the pilot and support the development of a bank of opportunities.

Challenges of the Pilot

- The DfE has not confirmed the total funding for Quarters 3 and 4, creating uncertainty about future activity
- Schools priorities may change in terms of focusing on the pilot if there is any local difficulty e.g. meeting standards
- Nationally, the VCS organisation “vInspired” was commissioned by the then DCSF to develop a portal to record young people’s activity and store opportunities created by the pilot. To date this is not live and Kent pilot schools have had to develop their own data management systems.