**Outline proposals for developing and extending Youth Work for Odd Down Bath.**

**Aim:** To offer a range of youth and children activities based at the Community Centre in Odin’s Road. To maximise the use of the Community Centre to improve opportunities and offer activities for young people in Odd Down and the wider area of South Bath. To reduce anti-social behaviour and reduce risk of knife and street crime. To support particularly vulnerable young people, those with special needs and encourage development of life skills through a range of activities and groups, both ‘targeted’ and ‘open access’.

**Potential Partnership** involving these local charities/voluntary organisation: Odd Down Community Association, Youth Connect (South West), Bath Area Play Project, and our Local Authority Bath & North East Somerset.

At a time when current resources are not sufficient to meet demand this proposal offers the potential to bring together a combination using the only part used facilities of the Community Centre with 3 local charities and the Local Authority. In time the project could offer training and development of much needed volunteers to allow the groups and activities to be fully supported, create opportunities for mentoring and expanding the partners to include others e.g local schools.

It is suggested **this programme** could extend over 3 years to allow time for an effective to be established for the long term.

Year 1 develop current targeted youth work and initiate outreach. Develop funds. Recruit and train volunteers. Resume partnership with Police. Year 2 add open access youth group/club. Continuing to train volunteers and extend into community, schools, sports clubs, etc. Develop mentoring and outreach. Continue to raise funds. Extend partners. Year 3 Youth work programme established.

Previously the local Avon & Somerset Police have supported programmes at the Centre through funding and regular visiting to build up relationships with local youth.

Previously ODCA has raised funds to help repair and improve the building, buy equipment and commission youth work with the full support of our local Councillors. Local churches have also assisted with Funds and with recruiting volunteers.

If these proposals were supported by the Local Authority involving the Centre and acting as commissioner then we believe those previously involved would support this plan, and provide much needed momentum to benefit an area of Bath where youth provision is at risk of fading away and the Community Centre lost. There is also potential to increase the number of trained volunteers, mentors and possibly recruit them to full time youth work which are needed locally and nationally.

Odd Down Community Association February 2024

Charity no: 1139206