

RAF Wittering – report for Wittering Parish Council

May 2022

Supporting Our Community

Our Airplay Youth Provision has reopened from January 2022. They are delivering 4 sessions a week, three from The Place at No18 in St Georges Road and one session from the Community Centre on Station.

Airplay Programme is term time only and runs on Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday. Currently we are working with Project Tuesday Youth Forum – “have your say”. In the process of recruiting, forming and working with a new group of young people who want to improve our facilities and activities for young people in Wittering. We also have a senior group for Year 8 and over. Another session for Year 7 only and Youth Club Juniors for those aged 8 to School year 6. Cost to attend each session is £1.50. All Clubs are open to everyone from Wittering community.

Our numbers attending sessions are very high and currently we have a full youth staff team. We are currently working with our new partner in delivering Airplay Youth provision which is YMCA Trinity based in Peterborough. We are currently working through a transition period and are planning to deliver activities in the summer holidays.

All our Airplay Youth Provision is delivered in partnership with Trinity YMCA and funded by RAF Benevolent Fund and we are grateful for their continued support.

We did conduct (myself and the Station Youth Worker) some detached youth work sessions in February. We wanted to meet young people around by the youth shelter and multi-use games area. Sadly, on most of those nights the weather was poor and there weren't many young people about, but those we met shared ideas on how we could improve that area. Ideally, we would like to conduct more detached youth sessions, but we do not have any surplus funds within our youth provision.

To help reduce some of the anti-social behaviour around by the Youth Shelter and Multi Use Games Area (MUGA), we are looking at expanding the gardens at the back of the Community Houses (old Police House), and if so possible add security lighting and possibly CCTV to the buildings. Also sprucing up the MUGA, but also you were working with the young people to see what they want from the area.

We are planning to re-open our Ben Club for those aged 5 to 7 years, in the next few weeks. A delay has been caused whilst we try to recruit two new staff members in partnership with Trinity YMCA. This club again is open to everyone from Wittering community.

We did secure some additional funding from Armed Forces Covenant in 2019 to deliver childminding course in Wittering. We still have some funding available and are working in partnership with Peterborough City Council Early Years team to deliver more courses either locally or will be an online course. This will be available to service families and civilian community members from Wittering. This course will be heavily subsidised, and we are hoping to recommence from June 2022.

We have also submitted a funding bid to the RAF Benevolent Fund and are pleased to confirm that we have received £5,000 to deliver Stay & Pay sessions at Wittering Families Centre for children and their parents. This funding commenced from 1 April.

Our Community Support Team are about to recommence weekly outreach sessions from the Community Learning Centre in St Georges Road and our team welcome visitors.

Finally, this was Wg Cdr Boyle last meeting as being posted on. She thanked Wittering Parish Council for their support to the Station personnel and to the support given from the wider community.

Mark Davis MBE, Community Development Officer, RAF Wittering – May 2022