



**Meeting to discuss the need for a Prudhoe Youth Initiative held on Wed 10<sup>th</sup> October at 5.30pm at Spetchells Centre**

**Present**

Margaret Boonstra – PCP, Cllr Tracy Gilmour – Prudhoe Town Council, George Hepburn –PCP, Vesta Moore –PCP, Angie Scott, Sean Soulsby – Corbridge Youth Initiative, Cllr Gordon Stewart – Northumberland County Council Apologies: Russell Greig,

**1 Corbridge Youth Initiative**

Sean described how CYI started in 2005 running two sessions a week and then scaled up in 2010 when the County Council youth provision was cut. CYI had to adopt policies, employ staff and raise money. It recruited a skilled set of trustees and negotiated a lease on the former library as a base for its activities.

Since 2012, CYI has employed a Project Coordinator and 4 sessional workers, all part time, and currently runs two junior groups, a girls group and a senior group. Health information is available at all these sessions. There are also lots of one off activities.

CYI has been financially supported by Corbridge Parish Council throughout and receives a small annual grant from NCC. It has been successful in gaining major funding for the Co ordinator first from the Lottery and then from Children in Need. In addition, CYI receives smaller grants from a number of charitable trusts and benefits from fundraising organised locally with Charlotte Straker Home. The annual turnover is £52k a year.

In the early years, the staff were employed by the longer established Hexham Youth Initiative and they still work together through the Tynedale Youth Forum. CYI maintains a high profile in the village and the members take part in village events and are seen to be contributing to the community.

## **2 A Possible Prudhoe Youth Initiative: Possible Structure**

It was agreed to be a good idea to set up a PYI ( though note this is only a working title) in order to bring charitable funding and widen the range of activities available for young people in Prudhoe. It was envisaged that a PYI would work along side the existing provision and not necessarily be based in East Centre.

There was a discussion about how a PYI could be constituted. Tracy Gilmour thought that the Town Council would be very supportive but that it would be unlikely to want to run a PYI directly itself. It would be much more difficult for the Town Council to attract charitable funding like Children in Need.

There was a lot of interest in PYI engaging with an existing charity in the early stages, possibly CYI, to provide sessional staff and management and which the Town Council might be approached to fund.

It was accepted that a PYI would sooner or later need to be constituted as a separate charity in order to raise funds. George offered PCP to act as umbrella and to provide support until a PYI was formally constituted.

It was agreed that we would need to proceed a step at a time to gain experience and build a reputation though Gordon Stewart said action was urgently needed to increase youth work in Prudhoe.

## **3 Steps to forming an Independent Charity**

George outlined the process for establishing and registering a charity. He explained that the Charity Commission will only register a new charity when it is 'trading' and has secured funding. A PYI could operate under PCP auspices in the early stages and then be floated off. George emphasised that PCP would not want a PYI to remain part of the Partnership. He said it should eventually be independent and able to apply for funding in its own right.

In his view, the crucial step was to recruit potential trustees preferably 'fresh faces' with the skills and commitment to develop a PYI which was likely to require considerable time and effort in the initial years. Several names were suggested which George will follow up.

## **5 Next steps**

It was agreed the Partnership should convene another meeting when potential trustees had been approached and wider soundings taken. Gordon will discuss with Ash Brown; Angie and George talk to staff at East and Gordon and George enlist the support of George McCreedy.