

Email from Neighbourhood Coordinator About Increased ASB in Todmorden and Young Lives Matter

As members will likely be aware, I am responding to community concern about the lack of youth provision in Todmorden and the anti-social behaviour (and perception of ASB) that is resulting.

I convened a roundtable on the issue back in the summer, involving a range of statutory and voluntary providers and those with an interest in the issue. I then produced a report which summarised this, and included evidence of community and police concern (attached).

Since then I have raised this with more senior people in Calderdale Council and I have another meeting scheduled on the matter in late October. It is my opinion however, that while CMBC would be supportive of any initiative, funding for an improved youth service will not be forthcoming as there just isn't the money available. This may of course change due to a change in the political landscape but it is my view that the quickest route to improved youth provision will have to come from the voluntary and community sector.

I recently attended at meeting of the Calderdale Young Lives Forum organised by the VSI Alliance and NewGround, which was useful in that I was able to raise awareness about the lack of youth provision in Todmorden among those working in that sector in Calderdale. I had several useful conversations with relevant VCS organisations including Cloud and Reach4ward (based in Hebden Bridge) and Streetgames. There is a lot of support out there to help with fundraising, set up, training etc – but in Tod, we need an organisation to step forward to take a lead. I would be delighted to support such an organisation/individual but cannot myself be that person.

Separately, the CMBC Neighbourhood Teams have been awarded a very small pot of money to do some work on community cohesion in our areas. I plan to apply to this fund to organise an event that brings young and older people together – I'd particularly like to bring together the young people who occupy the town centre in the evenings, with those who feel too afraid of them to go out after dark. This is only at ideas stage at the moment, but if there is anyone on the town council who would like to help me organise such an event, please do get in touch. Youth isn't really my area of expertise!