**YOUTH PROJECT WORKING WITH YOUNG GLOUCESTERSHIRE**

AGENDA ITEM 9

**Summary:** To review progress in working in partnership with Young Gloucestershire to engage disadvantaged young people in countryside activities.

**Recommendation: That the report be noted.**

**Officer Ref:** Simon Smith, Project Development and Business Planning Officer (01451 862031)

**Background**

1. The Board has long desired to do more to broaden engagement in the AONB, particularly to better include young people from communities that face barriers to getting out to the Cotswolds.
2. The Cotswold Voluntary Wardens do some good work in this area for example by facilitating farm visits for city centre schools from deprived wards, and our rural skills programme is working with young people in schools who are not engaging in the standard curriculum. However as an organisation we still feel that we are just scratching the surface of what could and should be done.
3. Over the summer of 2018 we ran a pilot project with Young Gloucestershire engaging two Prince’s Trust Team groups in countryside activities. Following the completion and evaluation of the pilot a joint report **Appendix ‘A’** and a Board film (available here; https://www.facebook.com/CotswoldsAONB/) were produced. The primary audience of the report is potential funders and partners, it was not written for the purposes of internal governance.
4. The report demonstrated that the pilot project achieved its two objectives which were;
* To demonstrate that by working together the project partners can provide a programme of exciting outdoors rural activities to young people who would not normally access them.
* To gather evidence of the impacts of these activities on the young people along with organisational learning on how to deliver more of this type of work.
1. The report’s recommendations included;
* That the project partners continue to work together to make more of this work happen and ultimately aim to find a more sustainable long term delivery model.
* That the project partners collaborate in identifying sources of funding and securing more resources for this work.
1. The Board is now working with Young Gloucestershire and others in developing proposals to secure new funding so we can together, deliver more of this work. These proposals are working at three different scales and timeframes. Each proposal potentially fits under the rural skills work area but their resource requirements are quite different.
2. Young Gloucestershire is submitting several small scale bids in February and March which include buying in countryside activities from us at a relatively small scale on a by the day basis. This is equivalent to an approach from a school and can be managed through our existing rural skills work streams.
3. Young Gloucestershire is planning to submit two larger bids in April and May. Both involve us providing regular activities for a year and would involve securing an additional part time staff resource.
4. Young Gloucestershire are also working on a more significant longer term proposal with associated staffing levels to the Big Lottery Reaching Communities Fund. This involves developing a new wider partnership, will take time and the ultimate outcome is unknown. Conversations have been held with a number of potential stakeholders and a meeting is being arranged for February or March. The stakeholders currently include;
* Young Gloucestershire
* Cotswolds Conservation Board
* Young Oxfordshire
* Mind
* Clinical Commissioning Groups
* Youth Clubs
* Active Gloucestershire
* Gloucestershire Youth Support Team’s Activities Team
* A locally known Big Lottery advisor
1. All of the above proposals have a focus on improving the health and wellbeing of target audiences through access to the natural environment and include us an activity provider.

**Supporting Paper(s):**

**Appendix ‘A’ - Pilot Project Report**