

## **SYP Report re: Anti - Social Behaviour in the Community February 2021**



Throughout the three lockdowns during 2020/2021 the village community have experienced a range of issues concerning young people, more recently significant concerns have arisen re: anti-social and risky behaviour by a number of young people congregating together. As Southwater's local Youth Project we have been working to address this along with the community wardens, the ASB team, the local youth police team, and also Tanbridge School which is where some of the young people who are causing concerns currently attend. To date, throughout the lockdowns I have been offering one to one sessions in-person and online, and holding text/online messaging conversations with young people, targeted at specific individuals and categories of young people. In terms of those likely to engage in risky or anti-social behaviour this has been impactful at times, but at other times the young people concerned did not want to engage with us or with any other agency. Personally, when I've been out and about in the village either for daily exercise and/or delivering prescriptions or shopping for the Community Hub, I have occasionally seen the groups hanging about and they have been willing to engage in conversation with me.

More recently, in order to try and address some of the community's increasing concerns we have been trying to get a detached youth work team together to go out and engage with the young people. However it has been difficult to find volunteers who were happy to go out for a variety of reasons including not feeling confident to meet with these youngsters in that way, and not wanting to break Covid rules etc. - although we are allowed to do detached work with social distancing measures in place we are aware that not all the young people concerned are abiding by the rules. Also, we didn't want to be seen to be out and about regularly, as this could be seen as encouraging young people to come out and congregate! The recent naming of young people and parents on local FB pages and some of the angry, frustrated and vigilante feelings being expressed, is raising further concerns. Thankfully this has now resulted in a number of volunteers coming forward to help me do some detached work around the Lintot Square area. These volunteers are known to me; all have experience working with young people as teachers/teaching assistants/youth workers. Together we have agreed that we are willing to try and engage with the young people who are out in the evenings, seek to encourage the groups to stop hanging around, and talk with them about how they are causing problems.

Since Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> February we have been out in the Lintot Square from 6.30pm. On Tuesday we saw 2 young people who stopped and had a good chat with us, as they were both known to me. On Wednesday we were out from 6.30-7.30pm and saw no young people. We will go out again from Thursday – Sunday this week, as it is half term, with the hope to have a more structured plan in place for next week.

Angie Choat – Lead Youth Worker @ SYP  
18<sup>th</sup> Feb 2021