

North Yorkshire County Council

Richmondshire Area Committee

11 January 2017

Committee Update

**REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR
(CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLES SERVICE)**

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To inform the Committee of matters pertaining to the Duke of Edinburgh's Award in Richmondshire as requested by the late Councillor Michael Heseltine.

2.0 BACKGROUND

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award

- 2.1 The Duke of Edinburgh's Award is a personal development award for young people aged 14 to 25 years old. Participants register with the Award Scheme through an operating unit (usually a school) who in turn operate under either North Yorkshire County Council's Operating Licence, or more recently in the case of some units as a Directly Licenced Centre with the DofE Award.
- 2.2 The Award Scheme charges participants £17 for Bronze and Silver and £25 for Gold participants. In addition North Yorkshire County Council currently levies a charge of £5 per participant to contribute towards the licence fee and central running of the award.
- 2.3 The award has three levels, Bronze, Silver and Gold. Each level is independent and young people can complete single or multiple levels. Young people can register for the three levels at ages 14, 15 and 16 years old. Each section has four sections: Physical, Volunteering, Skill and Expedition. For the Gold level there is a fifth section, a week Residential experience.
- 2.4 Participants must complete each section for a minimum period of time which varies with each level. Non-related assessors verify satisfactory completion of the section.

Richmondshire district

- 2.5 Prior to restructuring the Youth Service ran the Award within Richmondshire. Since restructuring all of the maintained secondary schools within Richmondshire now participate in the DofE Award scheme.
- 2.6 Schools run the award autonomously. They are free to determine how they run the award within the parameters of expedition safety and DofE guidance. They are responsible for recruiting staff as leaders and for determining the size of cohorts for each level.

- 2.7 The table below shows the number of young people registered with the award within Richmondshire. It should be noted that although each level of the award can often be completed within year, young people have until the age of 25 to complete each level.

Richmond School	130 participants
Risedale School	16 participants
St Francis Xavier School	88 participants

Risedale School have just started the award this school year and all the young people are participating at Bronze level.

Both Richmond School and St Francis Xavier School offer the award at both Bronze and Silver level. Expeditions are held within Richmondshire, usually in Swaledale for Bronze and Wensleydale and Swaledale for Silver participants. Both schools use Marrick Priory Outdoor and Residential Centre near Reeth to provide the expertise for expeditions.

Wensleydale School also offer the Award, however they have recently become a Directly Licensed Centre and there is no data available on participation numbers.

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Presenter of Report:

Background Documents:

None