

CAMBOURNE TOWN COUNCIL

District of South Cambridgeshire

Finance & Policy meeting 16th July 2019

CORRESPONDENCE

FROM	SUBJECT
Claire Coates – Principal of Cambourne Village College	Community support

Dear Cambourne Town Council

Further to our conversation: I believe it would be of enormous benefit to the town and to the College if the Town Council were able to fund the attached proposal for a consultant to carry out the role described for one day per week in Cambourne. The consultant has been working very effectively in neighbourhood Policing for some time. However, the Police have insufficient resources to devote to ongoing, effective neighbourhood policing in Cambourne and it has become increasingly difficult to access support for young people through Local Authority agencies, since budgets are so reduced. I believe that the appointment of the consultant to this role would go a significant way towards plugging this gap, for the reasons outlined in his proposal.

There is clearly a need for this work; this year there has been a marked increase in nuisance and potentially criminal behaviour by young people resident in Cambourne who attend the Village College:

- Recent stabbing in Cambourne. A number of our pupils were implicated in this event and there are strong links to County Lines activity which we believe extend to other pupils, and certainly across Cambourne. We are extremely concerned about drugs activity in the community, and possible continuing gang activity, linked for example to 'C Block'.
- Our current Year 7 cohort contains a significant number of boys with challenging behaviours. These were well known to the primary schools. We are working hard with these individuals in school, but we are receiving increasing numbers of reports of their activities in the community, including climbing on the roofs of the Blue School and Jeavons Wood School. In their first weeks at the College they were reported to be throwing furniture off the roof of a building in the business park and urinating in their fire-escape. Reports of vandalism to toddlers' play equipment at the Blue School have been received recently. These children present a risk to themselves and potentially to members of the community.
- Our next cohort of Year 7 also contains a number of challenging individuals. One has been on a long-term exclusion related to challenging behaviours and is being tutored here at the College by staff from The Vine School.
- Some parents seem unable or unwilling to set appropriate boundaries and to supervise their children out of school hours.

If the Town Council were able to fund this work by the consultant, I hope that they would be able to work with these young people and hopefully prevent the escalation of these behaviours as they grow older in the community. We would be very grateful if this could be considered; as you are aware, the school has absolutely no reserves and could not even part-fund this, so we are very much in your hands.

Kind regards

Claire