



Young People's Scrutiny
Committee
14 December 2016

Item
10
Public

Proposals for the creation of a Task & Finish Group to consider the local commissioning of youth activities

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1. Summary

At its meeting of 19th October 2016 Cabinet recommended that proposals for the future commissioning of youth activities should be considered and investigated by the Young People's Scrutiny Committee.

This report sets out proposed Terms of Reference for a time limited Task and Finish Group. Specifically, it is proposed that the Task & Finish group considers opportunities to sustain or grow commissioned support for youth activities within areas and communities of greatest need by working with partner and partner organisations. This report also highlights the timeframe and that, pending the outcomes of this review, existing funding arrangements for the local commissioning of youth activities will; be maintained at current levels until the end of December 2017.

2. Recommendations

To comment on and then confirm the Terms of Reference for the Task and Finish Group.

REPORT

1.0 Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

- 1.1 Local authorities have a duty to secure, so far as reasonably practical, equality of access for all young people aged 13 to 19 (24 for those with learning difficulties). The "local offer" should be the best possible to meet local needs and to improve young people's well-being and personal and social development within available resources. Local authorities must also take steps to gain the views of young people and to take them into account in making decisions about services and activities for them.
Visit:<http://dera.ioe.ac.uk/15549/1/statutory%20guidance%20on%20la%20youth%20provision%20duty.pdf>
- 1.2 Child safeguarding and welfare matters are paramount in our approach and appropriate safeguards are included in all arrangements.

- 1.3 Supporting early help and early prevention is a key driver for the Council. Support for youth activities as a “universal offer” alongside more targeted support for young people with particular needs underpins our approach to commissioning support for young people to be able to access a range of activities.

2.0 Financial implications

- 2.1 The 2016/17 budget for the local commissioning of youth activities is £234,950. This was allocated across 18 Local Joint Committees (LJC) areas according to specific youth related “need”, adjusted by a measure of rurality.
- 2.2 The Council’s Medium Term Financial Strategy agreed by full Council on 25th February 2016 confirmed the requirement to make 50% savings to the locally commissioned youth activities budget from 2017/18 onwards, leaving an available budget of £117,475 per annum.
- 2.3 Proposals for how the available budget would be allocated in 2017/18, based on an assessment of “need”, experience gained to date and the opportunity to create long term sustainable provision, were made to Cabinet on the 19th October 2016.
- 2.4 Subsequent to this Cabinet recommended that, pending the outcomes of the work of the Task and Finish Group, funding should be maintained at current levels.

3.0 Background

- 3.1 LJCs supported by Community Enablement Team officers make recommendations for the commissioning of activities for young people within their communities. Since the new model was introduced in 2015 over 70 separate awards have been made to over 50 different providers. Awards range from small grants of less than £200, for example, for the purchase of equipment by community groups, to large contracts to established youth activity providers. The learning from the local commissioning of youth activities suggests that awards are making a positive difference to the lives of young people.

In Shrewsbury the full responsibility for the commissioning and delivery of youth activities has been transferred within a formal delegation agreement from Shropshire Council to Shrewsbury Town Council.

- 3.2 The Shropshire Youth Association in partnership with Energize, the County Sports Partnership, provides infrastructure support to the voluntary community sector. Over 100 clubs are now affiliated to the Shropshire Youth Association and receive a wide range of support. Details of SYA and the support that they offer for the voluntary sector can be found at: <http://www.sya.org.uk/>. Details of Energize can be found at: <http://energizestw.org.uk/>
- 3.3 The Community Asset Transfer Register lists assets for potential transfer to community groups. 6 Council owned youth centres – Whitchurch, Market Drayton, The Grange, Sundorne, Monkmoor and Bridgnorth – have been listed on the register. To date business plans are being developed for 3 of the youth

centres. These will be dealt with in accordance with the Council's Community Asset Transfer policy with approvals coming forward to Cabinet as and when appropriate.

- 3.4 Progress with the implementation of the local commissioning of youth activities has been previously scrutinised by the Children & Young People's Scrutiny Committee on 22nd October 2014, 24th June 2015, 4th November 2015 and 3rd February 2016.
- 3.5 At its meeting of the 19th October 2016 Cabinet confirmed the following recommendations:
- I. That the proposals for the future commissioning of youth activities within the context of reduced funding be referred for consideration and investigation by the Young People's Scrutiny Committee;
 - II. That the Young People's Scrutiny Committee considers setting up a Task and Finish Group to consider this matter and that the Task and Finish Group liaise with partners and partner organisations to consider possible options; and
 - III. That, in the meantime, funding for youth activities remain at its current level.

<http://shropshire.gov.uk/committee-services/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=130&MId=3257&Ver=4>

4.0 Task & Finish Group

- 4.1 **Appendix 1** describes the proposed Terms of Reference for the Task & Finish Group. Specifically, it is proposed that the Task & Finish group considers opportunities to sustain or grow commissioned support for youth activities within areas and communities of greatest need by working with partner and partner organisations.

This review is not intended to cover the following areas, except in so far as they may be directly relevant to the topic area:

- Infrastructure support provided by SYA & Energize
 - Support for Special Needs Groups
 - Different mechanisms for the delivery of youth activities
- 4.2 Within the Terms of Reference a number of shared outcomes that respond to young people needs are proposed:
- Confirmation of our understanding of local need and how this should be best met including funding proposals
 - Confirmation of the Council's role, now and in the future, in providing support to young people
 - Confirmation of potential partner support for on-going youth provision
 - Cost effective provision that meets the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan
- 4.3 The proposed timetable is based on a minimum of three meetings of the Task & Finish Group, consultation with a number of potential "partner organisations" and a final report to Cabinet on the outcomes of the review in June 2017.

5.0 Funding for 2017/18

- 5.1 In order to provide sufficient time for the Task and Finish Group to develop recommendations and for these to be implemented it is proposed to extend existing funding allocations to individual LJs pro-rata to Christmas 2017; any new arrangements will then be introduced from the beginning of the Spring term 2018.
- 5.2 As part of the continuation of existing arrangements, Shropshire Council will continue to provide the use of the existing Shropshire Council owned youth centres – Ludlow, Bridgnorth, Shrewsbury (Grange, Sundorne & Monkmoor), Whitchurch, Market Drayton and Oswestry – free of charge for LJC commissioned youth activities.

6.0 Conclusions

- 6.1 A list of Frequently Asked Questions is included within **Appendix 2**. These provide background to the local commissioning of youth activities, summarise the proposed Terms of Reference for the Task and Finish Group and confirm funding arrangements until the end of December 2017.

List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)

Shropshire Children's Trust Children, Young People and Families Plan 2014
Changes to Youth Services, Young People's Scrutiny Committee, 30 April 2014
Future Commissioning and provision of youth activities, Portfolio Holder Decision, 2 July 2014
Update – Future Commissioning and Provision of youth activities, Children & Young People's Scrutiny Committee, 22 October 2014
Local Joint Committees – Update on youth commission and boundaries, Cabinet, 10 December 2014
Youth Commissioning Update, Children & Young People's Scrutiny Committee, 24 June 2015
Delegation of the responsibility for the commissioning and delivery of youth services within Shrewsbury to Shrewsbury Town Council and recommendations for Broseley Youth Club, Cabinet, 29th July 2015
Support for Youth Activities update, Young People's Scrutiny Committee, 4 November 2015
Support for Youth Activities update, Young People's Scrutiny Committee, 3 February 2016
Proposals for the future commissioning of youth activities within the context of reduced funding, Cabinet, 19 October 2016

Cabinet Member:

Cllr David Minnery – Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People

Local Members:

All Members

Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Terms of Reference for Task & Finish Group

Appendix 2 – The Local Commissioning of Youth Activities, Frequently Asked Questions