

Appendix 2

The Local Commissioning of Youth Activities in 2017/18

Frequently Asked Questions

21 November 2017

Background

What do you mean by youth activities and outcomes for young people?

The “universal” provision of group youth work and other activities for young people aged between 10 to 19 years old and up to 25 for those with learning disabilities.

Our overall high level aim is to ensure that as many young people as possible can access a wide range of group activities after school, at weekends and in school holidays. The purpose of these activities is to support young people’s well-being, development of personal and social education and preparation for adulthood. We want young people to be involved in their development.

This work will contribute to two outcome areas in the Shropshire’s Children, Young People and Families Plan 2014, namely:

- No. 3 Ensuring the emotional wellbeing of children and young people by focusing on prevention and early intervention.
- No. 4 Keeping more children healthy and reducing health inequalities.

Locally outcomes will reflect the needs and circumstances of the particular area and should be linked to the long term sustainability of provision.

How do youth activities work alongside other services for young people?

Youth activities form part of “universal” provision for young people. Where there are specific additional needs of a young person or issues impacting on parental capacity that are relatively low level, youth activities workers or volunteers may be able to take swift action within the community to meet these.

If a young person’s situation is not fully understood or if there are indicators that a young person and family would benefit from more targeted support then the young person can be referred to Early Help for an assessment. Early Help can be provided within a range of support services including dedicated social workers, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service, Substance Misuse Teams, Targeted Youth Services and Parenting Programmes. Access to Early help services is provided through a single point of access gateway, COMPASS, which provides a timely, appropriate response to all requests for support including professionally assessed and un-assessed needs and self-referrals.

How will you support community based youth organisations?

Shropshire Council has a contract with the Shropshire Youth Association, our Youth Activities Infrastructure Partner, to:

- Provide direct support for community based organisations which provide activities for young people
- Ensure that what is delivered is safe and of a set quality by providing training and support for providers where this is needed

It is proposed that, subject to a review, this contract will continue for up to a further two years from 2017/18.

For more information about SYA visit: <http://www.sya.org.uk/>

How are youth activities commissioned locally?

Local Joint Committees supported by Community Enablement Team officers make recommendations for the commissioning of activities for young people within their communities. To date over 70 separate awards have been made to over 50 different providers in 18 Local Joint Committee areas. 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.

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Will you be reviewing how youth commissioning is delivered in the future?

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>

What will the remit be of the Task and Finish Group?

The Young People's Scrutiny Committee will confirm the detailed terms of reference for the Task & Finish Group on the 14th December 2016. However, the broad remit will consider opportunities to sustain or grow commissioned support for youth activities by working with partner organisations. The review is not intended to cover infrastructure support provided by SYA & Energize, Special Needs Groups and different mechanisms for the local delivery of youth activities.

What will the timescale be for the implementation of the Task and Finish group recommendations?

Subject to confirmation by the Scrutiny Committee the following timetable is proposed:

14 December 16	Confirm scope and terms of reference for Task & Finish Group	Young People's Scrutiny Committee
January / February 2017	Develop recommendations for the future commissioning of youth activities and for wider partner engagement	Task & Finish Group x 3 + meetings
March/April 2017	Confirm recommendations of Task & Finish Group	Young People's Scrutiny Committee
June 2017	Confirm recommendations	Cabinet
January 2018 / Spring term	Implement recommendations	Local Joint Committees Young people Community Enablement Team officers Providers

What will the implications be for the local delivery of youth activities in 2017/18?

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.

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 LJ commissioned youth activities.

The proposed funding allocations until the end of December 2017 are based on 9/12th of the 2016/17 allocations and are summarised below:

LJC Area	Specific Needs Score	2016/17 funding allocation		Proposed 2017/18 funding allocation confirmed to end of December 2017
		£3,000 Rurality Allocation	Total Funding	Total Funding
Shrewsbury	2.48		£81,500	£61,125
Oswestry	0.75		£24,640	£18,480
Market Drayton	0.73		£24,060	£18,045
Whitchurch	0.47		£15,580	£11,685
Longden, Ford, Rea Valley and Loton	0.42	√	£16,630	£12,473
Gobowen, Selattyn, St Martin's, and Weston Rhyn	0.37		£12,120	£9,090
Ludlow and Cleve area	0.33		£10,850	£8,138
Bridgnorth, Worfield, Alveley and Claverley	0.31	√	£11,620	£7,590
Wem and Shawbury	0.29	√	£12,450	£9,338
Bishop's Castle, Chirbury, Worthen and Clun	0.19	√	£3,000	£2,250
Strettondale and Burnell	0.18	√	£3,000	£2,250
Ellesmere	0.17	√	£3,000	£2,250
Five Perry Parishes	0.17			
Tern and Severn Valley	0.16	√	£3,000	£2,250
St Oswald	0.15	√	£3,000	£2,250
Craven Arms and Rural	0.15	√	£3,000	£2,250
Highley and Brown Cleve	0.14	√	£1,500	£1,125
Shifnal and Sheriffhales	0.13			
Cleobury and Rural	0.11	√	£3,000	£2,250
Bayston Hill	0.09			
Broseley and Rural	0.09			
Albrighton	0.07			

Much Wenlock and Shipton	0.04	√	£3,000	£2,250
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What progress is being made with the Community Asset Transfer of Shropshire Council youth centres?

Of the 6 council owned youth centres – Whitchurch, Market Drayton, The Grange, Sundorne, Monkmoor and Bridgnorth – previously advertised as being available on the Community Asset Transfer Register, business plans are being developed for three properties. In addition, an options appraisal is being undertaken in relation to a number of different alternatives for the future use of Bridgnorth Youth Centre.

Business Plans will be required to demonstrate that organisations proposals for the buildings are viable and sustainable in the future. The assessment process will continue through 2016/17 with the intention, where possible, of confirming new management arrangements in the near future. The Council is working with the preferred organisations to determine whether they are prepared to support ongoing youth activity where required.

It should be noted that applications are subject to receipt of further information and Council processes and approvals and that no decisions have yet been taken.

The Centre in Oswestry is being retained corporately and will continue to host and support youth activities.

What will the approach be to maximising the value of future funding?

Looking forward our general approach to supporting youth activities will continue to be based on:

1. Developing a broad partnership based approach to recognising and sustaining the value of youth activities
2. Targeting resources for directly supported delivery to the areas of greatest need
3. Providing the best chance of encouraging long term sustainable local provision.

With respect to sustaining long term provision it will be important to encourage partner financial contributions, for example via local town and parish councils, businesses, etc. This work will continue locally alongside the more strategic review to be undertaken by the Task & Finish Group.

For further information, contact:
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