

**PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

**AGENDA ITEM 5**

**QUESTION 1**

Mr P F Phillips will ask the following question:

Can you confirm that the number of Youth Workers (FTE) has reduced from 100 to 49 this year? (If no, please provide accurate figures)".

**MRS K BURGOYNE** Deputy Portfolio Holder for Education and Skills will reply as follows:

As a result of changing national government strategy in relation to youth support, Shropshire Youth was restructured in May 2011 into 4 Teams.

Prior to the restructure there were 18 professional youth workers (16.5 FTE) which reduced to 9.5 (FTE) after the restructure with 6.5 going into the Targeted Youth Support Team and 3 into the Positive Activities team.

Of the full time staff, there has been a reduction of 7 FTE Youth Workers.

The number of part time youth workers remains the same as prior to the restructure (15.9 FTE)

Therefore, taking all youth workers into account:

15.9 FTE part time youth workers and 16.5 FTE professional workers = 32.4 (FTE) which reduced to 25.4 (FTE) a reduction of only 7 (FTE) or 21.6%.

It is important to note that Youth Workers and Connexions Personal Advisers were part of a pool of professional workers covering targeted youth support and positive activities. The summary of proposed reductions is what was used to determine future staffing levels and these have been applied. In order to protect front line services managers and auxiliary staff were reduced significantly. Please see table below:

## Shropshire Youth Re-organisation November 2010

Post	Current FTE	Proposed FTE	Number proposed reduction FTE	% Proposed reduction
Senior Management Team	3	0	3	100%
Divisional Management Team	7	3	4	58%
Senior Fractioned	7	6	1	12%
Personal Advisors/Professional Youth Workers	38.9	28 Pos Acts 3 Targeted 13 IAG 12	10.9	28%
Connexions advisors	11.8	8	3.8	32%
Special Needs Personal Advisor	0.8	0.8	0	0
Youth Offending and At Risk Personal Advisor	1	1	0	0
Looked After Children Connexions Advisor	1	1	0	0
Part Time Youth Workers	Grade 4; 5.76 FTE Grade 3; 8.51 FTE Grade 2; 1.63 FTE	Grade 4; 5.76 FTE Grade 3; 8.51 FTE Grade 2; 1.63 FTE	0	0
Participation Team	1.6	1.6	0	0
Duke of Edinburgh's Award Officer	0.25	0.25	0	0
Clerical/Admin	11.2	6.6	4.6	41%
Finance	1.5	1	0.5	33%
Performance & Information officer	0.6	0.6	0	0
Handy persons	69hrs = 1.9 FTE	4hrs per building 40hrs/week 1.1 FTE	0.8	42%
Information Officer	1	0	1	100%
Stores	(3) 1.9 FTE	0	1.9	100%
Total	90.45 *	58.95 *	31.5	35%

- These totals do not include the part-time youth worker figures as there is no change in this area.

## **QUESTION 2**

Joyce Brand will ask the following question of the Leader:

"Please will the Leader of the Council give a reassurance that the cuts in salaries and terms of conditions for staff currently employed by Shropshire Council is not a precursor to the privatising of a number of services now being provided by the Council, in particular the running of the Car Parks in Shropshire and the IT service now provided in house."

**MR K R BARROW**, Leader of the Council, will reply as follows:

The Council will continue to explore various different ways to deliver public services to the people of Shropshire. We will make decisions on a service by service basis, depending upon what we judge is right for the people of Shropshire. Within the Council at present we have some very successful public services delivered by the private sector eg highways and refuse collection; in some other Councils externalised services have been brought back in-house – there is no one size fits all solution. My personal preference is that we explore running a range of services in partnership with other local authorities – but we will only follow this course of action if it benefits the people of Shropshire.