

YOUTH COMMISSIONING FOR THE SOUTH WEST SHROPSHIRE LOCAL JOINT COMMITTEE AREA.

Responsible Officer

Email: mathew.mead@shropshire.gov.uk Tel: 01743 252534

1. Summary

This report summarises the progress of development of the new youth commissioning model developed by Shropshire Council to deliver youth activities to young people across the county and the planned local implementation by South West Shropshire Local Joint Committee.

Recommendations

- A That the Committee note that the £3,000 youth budget for 2015/16 has now been allocated
- B That the Committee note a further £3,000 is available to the Committee in 2016/17 and that they develop a criteria through which this funding will be allocated.

REPORT

2. Background

The role of public services is changing. Shropshire Council is moving rapidly to become a council that does more commissioning of activity and less direct delivery of services. The Council wants to meet its statutory duty and to continue to improve outcomes for young people in a sustainable way by developing a commissioning model, which is based on a locality approach, allowing management of the budgets the council has, alongside other existing provision in a community, based on evidence and outcomes, and closely integrated with other support for children and young people.

The aim is to ensure that as many young people as possible, can access a wide range of youth activities after school, at weekends and in school holidays, with young people involved in their development.

This approach combines working at a local level with increased participation from young people and the community. The Council will commission on the basis of needs, outcomes and partnership working.

LJCs will locally inform and direct the commissioning of youth activity in their areas and will receive Shropshire Council budget for this. This reflects the council's ambition for LJCs to become local governance structures that enable local councillors, town and parish councils, communities and partners to shape and influence how public money is spent locally and to work with officers in their role as local commissioners.

Money has been allocated to individual LJCs based on two factors:

- **A youth specific Needs Assessment:**
- **Rurality** based on the population density of 10 to 19 years olds

In the case of The South West Shropshire LJC, an amount of £3,000 has been allocated as a result of the lower population density under the rurality allocation.

3. Progress since the last meeting in November

At the LJC meeting on 25th November the Committee agreed to allocate its 2015/16 budget into two specific grants. These were

- Allocate £1,000 to carry out outreach work with young people in Bishop's Castle to engage with young people and evaluate their needs.
- Allocate £2,000 to a small grants scheme available to volunteer led clubs in the LJC area, with £500 available as a maximum to each group.
- The LJC also allocated funding through its South West Shropshire Community Grants Scheme to "The Honest Truth" to support safe driving amongst young drivers in the area.

The following grants have now been awarded

- 10.1 – Worthen Youth Club £500 for outdoor activity courses
- 10.2 - Bishop's Castle Duke of Edinburgh Scheme new equipment £355
- 10.3 – St Johns Church Youth Group Bishop's Castle new equipment £500
- 10.4 – Bishop's Castle Youth Club (Irene Stelfox) Outreach Work £1,000
- 10.5 – SpArC Arts Youth Dance project £645

This means the 2015/16 budget of £3,000 has now been allocated.

A further £3,000 is available to the Committee again in 2016/17, but all indications are that this will be the last year this funding is available. The Committee will therefore need to decide how they wish to allocate the funding.

As in 2015/16 the Committee can commission a specific service; operate a grants scheme; or work with partner organisations in the area to look at developing longer term projects in the area. Bishop's Castle Town Council, and South Shropshire Housing Association have indicated they would be willing to work with the Committee on potential projects.

The Committee may wish to use the same criteria as in 2015/16 which was to allocate £1,000 for outreach work with young people in Bishop's Castle and ring-fence £2,000 for a grants scheme for local groups to bid into.

4. Financial Implications

The South West Shropshire LJC has a budget of £3,000 for 2015/16 which has now been allocated.

A further £3,000 is now available to spend in 2016/17 and this funding will need to be allocated by March 2017. It is not anticipated that funding will be available beyond this financial year.

5. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

In determining these recommendations the LJC has considered reputational risk and the course of action minimises this risk.

The recommendations contained in this report are compatible with the provisions of the Human Rights Act 1998.

The proposals under consideration will improve the levels of community based and community driven youth activity in the LJC area.

List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)
Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder) Cecelia Motley
Local Member Heather Kidd, Charlotte Barnes, Nigel Hartin
Appendices