

**YOUTH COMMISSIONING FOR THE LOTON, LONGDEN, FORD AND REA
VALLEY LOCAL JOINT COMMITTEE AREA.****Responsible Officer**Email: mathew.mead@shropshire.gov.uk Tel: 01743 252534david.fairclough@shropshire.gov.uk Tel: 01743 252483**1. Summary**

This report summarises the progress of the new youth commissioning model developed by Shropshire Council within the Loton, Longden, Ford and Rea Valley Local Joint Committee and puts forward proposals for allocation the remaining funding in the 2017/18 Youth Commissioning budget.

Recommendations

- A That the Committee note that the youth budget for 2015/16 and 2016/17 has now been allocated
- B That the Committee note that following a change in policy by Shropshire Council a further £12,473 is available to the Committee in 2017 up to December 2017.
- C That the existing allocation of funding remains in place, ensuring a consistent approach for young people within the LJC area (See 3a).

REPORT**2. Background**

From 2015/16 Shropshire Council changed the way in which it delivered youth services in Shropshire. This saw a move from Shropshire Council delivering front line services and employing staff directly, to a commissioning model. This saw funding devolved to Local Joint Committee's (LJC's) who then identified local needs and allocated their funding accordingly. Each LJC had different levels of funding based on identified local needs and the Loton, Longden, Ford and Rea Valley LJC received £10,950 in 2015/16 (part-year) and £16,630 in 2016/17 (full year).

The LJC took the decision to use this funding to establish two new Youth Clubs in Minsterley and Westbury, and commissioned the Shropshire Youth Association to run these clubs one evening a week during term time. In addition grants of £699.53 in 15/16 were awarded to Great Ness and Little Ness Parish Council; Ford Parish Council and Hanwood

Parish Council to provide additional financial support to youth clubs already in existence in Nesscliffe, Ford and Hanwood. In 2016/17 these grants were again distributed to the sum of £1,199.19. Parish Councils commissioned these clubs and contract staff from the Shropshire Youth Association to run them on their behalf, matched funding for the clubs comes from the Parish precepts, local fundraising and subscriptions paid by those attending the clubs.

Feed back on the existing clubs at Westbury and Minsterley is in appendix 1

Shropshire Council policy had been to reduce the Youth Commissioning funding from the Local Joint Committees from April 2017, but following a review of policy this funding has been extended at the same level as 16/17 to an additional 9 months in 2017 which means an additional £12,473 is now available to the LJC to support youth activities in the area in 2017.

A Scrutiny review of the model for commissioning youth services will be carried out by Shropshire Council in early 2017 which will form the basis for future policy and funding for youth activities in Shropshire

3. Considerations for the Loton, Longden, Ford and Rea Valley Local Joint Committee

The LJC has a total budget of £12,473 to allocate to youth activities in the area from 1st April 2017 to 31st December 2017. The Committee will need to decide how to allocate this funding. Potential options include

- a) Extend the existing contracts at Minsterley and Westbury Youth Clubs with SYA to December 2017; and maintain grants to Great Ness, Little Ness and Great Hanwood and Ford Parish Councils on a pro rata basis until December 2017. Outline discussions with SYA indicate they have the capacity to continue to deliver these clubs based on this funding formula.

Youth Activity	Funding to be allocated Apr17-Dec17
Minsterley Youth Club	£4,267.78
Westbury Youth Club	£4,302.28
Hanwood Parish Council	£1,300.98
Great Ness & Little Ness Parish Council	£1,300.98
Ford Parish Council	£1,300.98

- b) Review the allocation of funding across the 5 youth clubs supported by the LJC to see if funding should be allocated using a different model
- c) Review the whole of the LJC youth commissioning model and allocate the money through a grant making process giving control of the funding to individual Parish Councils or volunteer led youth organisations.

Officer recommendations is to support proposal A

The benefit of this approach is that the LJC and community can be assured of continuity of the existing youth clubs until at least December 2017. The SYA youth clubs club meet set standards provide a safe and educational environment for young people. Developing a new model of deliver in the short time between now and April 2017 will be difficult, and there would be implications for SYA staff should the existing clubs be withdrawn.

Funding beyond December 2017 to continue these clubs is unclear, but the period from April to December 2017 could be used to explore other funding sources and for Councillors from the area to make a case to Shropshire Council to continue to support youth activities in the area.

Recommendations on how to proceed with the allocation of the funding should be made at the February public LJC meeting

4. Financial Implications

£12,473 is now available to spend in 2017/18 (April to December 2017).

Details of potential funding beyond December 2017 will not be known until the Shropshire Council scrutiny group publishes its recommendations in 2017

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 Tudor Bebb, Roger Evans, David Roberts
Appendices One – SYA feedback forms