

Terms of Reference for the Youth Work Task and Finish Group

Context

Over the past 8 years the provision of youth work has reduced significantly in Shropshire, as it had done in other areas of the country.

There is increasing evidence of the need for youth work. This is being widely reported in the national press, it is being recognised by cross party groups of MPs, and there is local evidence. A significant concern across the public sector is the impact of serious and organised crime where vulnerable young people are at risk.

For Shropshire Council there is an opportunity to look at how resources are used locally to best meet the needs in the council area. The aim would be to fully implement future arrangements by December 2019.

Objectives

- To understand different models of providing Youth Services in a place like Shropshire.
- To review information and evidence of need and demand for youth work in Shropshire.
- To engage with Town and Parish Councils and explore their thoughts on their role in youth work.
- To identify opportunities to lever in additional resources to deliver youth work
- To identify how the impact of youth work should be measured and reported
- To make evidence based recommendations on the options for youth work in Shropshire.

Information Required

- Information and evidence of need across Shropshire communities.
- Information on current youth work provision including:
 - locations of provision,
 - catchment area for provision,
 - barriers to access provision e.g. transport or buildings,
 - number and age of young people worked with,
 - type of provision (universal or targeted),
 - frequency of provision by location,
 - Shropshire Council budget and any arrangements with partners
- Information on how youth work is provided in other local authority areas including budget, models of provision and how resource allocation/decision making is taken.
- Relevant national reports
- Evidence from key stakeholders including the Police, Town and Parish Councils, young people and service providers.

Methods to be used

- Desktop research of Shropshire data and information.
- Desktop research of other Councils models and approaches to youth work.
- Contacting other councils about their approaches and how they measure impact.
- Research of national reports and evidence of need, demand and what can work to deliver youth work.
- Analysis of local data to help identify levels of need and demand, including possible predictors.
- Hearing from the relevant Portfolio Holders and senior managers
- Engagement workshop with stakeholders to explore issues, collect views and identify opportunities and options.
- Rapid Task and Finish group approach to identify key findings and evidence, and confirm conclusions and recommendations.

Timescales

The task and finish group is expected to start its work in April or early May 2019. It will seek to complete its work by early July 2019, holding the Rapid Task and Finish group before the summer Holidays. If this timescale is achieved the report of the Task and Finish Group will be presented to the Communities Overview Committee at its meeting in September 2019.