



SHROPSHIRE HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

Report

Meeting Date	20th November 2025				
Title of report	Local Youth Transformation Pilot & Statutory Youth Offer				
This report is for (You will have been advised which applies)	Discussion and agreement of recommendations	X	Approval of recommendations (With discussion by exception)	Information only (No recommendations)	
Reporting Officer & email	Helena Williams, Youth Support Manager - helena.williams@shropshire.gov.uk Natasha Moody, Families First Partnership Strategic Lead - Natasha.Moody@shropshire.gov.uk				
Which Joint Health & Wellbeing Strategy priorities does this report address? Please tick all that apply	Children & Young People	X	Joined up working		
	Mental Health	X	Improving Population Health		X
	Healthy Weight & Physical Activity	X	Working with and building strong and vibrant communities		X
	Workforce		Reduce inequalities (see below)		X
What inequalities does this report address?	The Local Youth Transformation Pilot (LYTP) targets four key inequalities: • Geographic: improves access to youth work in rural and isolated areas through Local Youth Partnerships. • Socioeconomic: focuses delivery in deprived communities, removing cost and transport barriers. • Health and wellbeing embeds youth work within early help and schools to strengthen mental health and resilience. • Structural: creates youth governance and participation routes so young people influence decisions.				

Report content

1. Executive Summary

Aligned with the Shropshire Plan's Healthy People priority, the Local Youth Transformation Pilot (LYTP) embeds youth work within prevention and early help pathways, ensuring that young people's wellbeing is seen as a shared system responsibility.

Youth work delivers measurable health and wellbeing benefits by:

- Providing trusted adult relationships that build resilience and self-esteem.
- Creating safe, accessible spaces that reduce isolation and support mental health.
- Offering structured group work in schools and communities to prevent escalation to higher-tier services.
- Strengthening community connectedness and belonging, key determinants of health.

The statutory youth offer (Education Act 1996, s507B) requires local authorities to secure sufficient leisure-time activities that promote wellbeing and personal and social development. Through the LYTP, Shropshire is reframing this duty as a prevention mechanism and seeking to secure greater buy in and support for this critical offer across the partnership.

This paper asks the Health and Wellbeing Board to recognise youth work as part of Shropshire's core prevention infrastructure and to provide ongoing oversight through its prevention and inequalities remit. This includes aligning LYTP evaluation with the JSNA and receiving periodic youth sufficiency updates to ensure statutory compliance and that quality standards are embedded across the wider system.

2. Recommendations

1. Endorse youth work as a preventative intervention contributing to the Healthy People priority.
2. Nominate a Health representative to join the Strategic Youth Partnership.
3. Align LYTP evaluation metrics with the JSNA and prevention indicators (mental health, resilience, participation).
4. Support shared investment and data models between Public Health, Early Help, and the Youth Partnership Foundation.
5. Utilise the new channels for engagement to develop work aimed at young people and Champion youth voice through Health and Wellbeing Board governance structures.
6. That the Health and Wellbeing Board formally participates in the Culture Change and Leadership workstream of the Local Youth Transformation Pilot, embedding youth work as a shared prevention responsibility across the health and care system.

3. Report

In July 2024, Shropshire Council an independent Youth Service Review was undertaken to establish a baseline for the county's statutory youth offer. The review identified a 98% reduction in youth service funding since 2010, fragmented local provision, and significant inequalities in access, particularly for rural, isolated, and deprived communities. Young people reported a lack of safe spaces, trusted adults, and opportunities to participate in decisions that affect them.

In response, Shropshire was selected as one of 12 national Local Youth Transformation Pilots (LYTPs), funded by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) and delivered in partnership with the National Youth Agency. The pilot enables the Council to rebuild a sustainable youth system, reposition youth work as a public health intervention, and ensure compliance with the statutory duty under Section 507B of the Education Act.

The LYTP focuses on seven core areas: culture change, youth governance, local youth partnerships, infrastructure, workforce development, youth work in schools, and programme management. Each element contributes directly to the Health and Wellbeing Strategy's "Healthy People" priority, reducing health inequalities and supporting early intervention.

A new Youth Support Team structure has been implemented to strengthen locality-based delivery, embed youth work within schools and early help pathways, and provide targeted support in areas of highest deprivation.

Alongside this, youth voice is being embedded through a three-tier youth governance model.

- Local Youth Partnerships – ensuring young people influence decision where they live
- Area Youth Assembly – bringing together young representatives from each locality to identify shared priorities
- Strategic Youth Partnership – providing representation or input into formal boards

The Health and Wellbeing Board plays a pivotal role in the pilot's Culture Change workstream, embedding shared leadership across the system and recognising youth work as part of Shropshire's prevention infrastructure. This collaboration will ensure youth outcomes are captured within the JSNA and health inequalities data.

By August 2026, the pilot will deliver a co-produced Shropshire Youth Offer Plan, creating a single, equitable framework for youth provision that contributes to improved mental health, community wellbeing, and lifelong opportunity for young people across the county.

Risk assessment and opportunities appraisal

(NB This will include the following: Risk Management, Human Rights, Equalities, Community, Environmental consequences and other Consultation)

- We have seen a sharp increase in poorer outcomes for children and young people with more children in high-cost care, accessing more acute services such as mental health support. Youth Work is an evidence-based service that leads to improved mental health, greater contribution to the community within which they live and improved positive relationships.

	- Without integration, youth work may continue to be viewed as non-essential leisure activity rather than a prevention tool. - Missed opportunities to address early indicators of poor mental health and social isolation among 11–19s. Opportunities: - Strengthens alignment between Early Help and Public Health outcomes. - Reduces long-term demand for specialist and acute interventions. - Creates sustainable, community-based prevention infrastructure.	
Financial implications (Any financial implications of note)	The LYTP is fully funded through DCMS (£621,131) until August 2026. There is a need to consider the sustainable actions that this programme delivers to ensure that we have a legacy post the funding.	
Climate Change Appraisal as applicable	Youth work encourages active travel and community use of green spaces, contributing indirectly to improved environmental health.	
Where else has the paper been presented?	System Partnership Boards	
	Voluntary Sector	
	Other	Shropshire Council Scrutiny Panel
List of Background Papers		
Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder) or your organisational lead e.g., Exec lead or Non-Exec/Clinical Lead Alex Wagner, Deputy Leader of Shropshire Council Sponsor - Natasha Moody, Families First Partnership Strategic Lead, Shropshire Council		
Appendices Appendix A. Youth Transformation Pilot - presentation Appendix B. LYT Shropshire Youth Service Review Report		