



Committee and date  
StrettonDale Local Joint  
Committee

12 February 2014

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Item

7

Public

## **YOUTH COMMISSIONING AND PLANNED IMPLEMENTATION IN STRETTONDALE LOCAL JOINT COMMITTEE AREA.**

### **Responsible Officer**

Email: [lisa.bedford@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:lisa.bedford@shropshire.gov.uk)

Tel: 07990 085 656

Fax:

### **1. Summary**

This report summarises the 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 StrettonDale Local Joint Committee.

### **Recommendations**

- A That the StrettonDale Local Joint Committee seeks to use its funding of £3000 to provide grant support to the numerous voluntary sector organisations in the StrettonDale LJC area. to deliver better outcomes for young people including those potentially disadvantaged by living in rural locations in the year 2015 - 2016
- B The LJC will form a sub group, which will be opened up to key stakeholders following approval of this report, to develop the detailed youth commissioning intentions and the process for awarding grants.
- C The youth survey undertaken as part of the Youth Board pilot project in 2014 is considered and used as appropriate in terms of providing evidence of youth engagement and priorities.
- D The LJC continues to support and consult with youth representatives and young people through the Community Enablement Officer and the recently established Youth Stakeholder meetings.

## **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:**

A detailed list of statistics and information has been gathered for each LJC area including information on numbers of young people, disabled young children, children living in deprived areas, ex-offenders, education access, referrals to social care, anti-social behaviour, childhood obesity, mental health. These data sets are used by the Children's Trust and by Children and Young People's Services to identify and suggest where there are vulnerable young people.

- **Rurality** based on the population density of 10 to 19 years olds

**In the case of StrettonDale LJC, an amount of £3000 has been provided as a result of the lower population density under the rurality allocation.**

One option is to use this money to deliver better outcomes in the form of a grant, rather than the formal contracting of an organisation to deliver a service within a contract.

This approach fits well within this LJC area due to its recent increase in size and population. There are numerous voluntary sector groups that work with young people in some form in the area, and being able to provide support via grants means the benefit will be able to be spread widely across the area of benefit.

However, in providing support it is important to be aware that the Council's voluntary sector infrastructure partners, the Shropshire Youth Association, has the responsibility for supporting the voluntary sector which is where the bulk of activity is delivered.

Any youth activities supported through a grant scheme will need to demonstrate how they contribute to the following outcome areas in the Shropshire's Children, Young People and Families Plan 2014:

- a. Ensuring all Children and Young People are safe and well looked after in a supportive environment

- b. Narrowing the achievement gap in education and work
- c. Ensuring emotional wellbeing of Children and Young People by focusing on prevention and early intervention
- d. Keeping more Children and Young People healthy and reducing health inequalities

### **3. Financial Implications**

It is anticipated that this approach will lead to an overall net increase in spend to support youth activity in the LJC area due to the increased voluntary activity and ability to be able to generate match funding.

### **4. 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.

<b>List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)</b>
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<b>Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder)</b>
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Steve Charmley
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<b>Local Member</b>
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Lee Chapman, David Evans, Cecilia Motley, Tim Barker
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<b>Appendices</b>
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Appendix A – youth summary of StrettonDale
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