

Youth Commissioning and planned implementation in Ludlow and Clee Local Joint Committee

Responsible Officer: Linda Monteith

E-mail: linda.monteith@shropshire.gov.uk Tel: 07990 085 443

1. Summary Ludlow and Clee Youth Commissioning

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 Ludlow and Clee Local Joint Committee

2. Recommendations

The committee are requested to recommend the following approach to the provision of youth activities to Shropshire Council at the Local Joint Committee on 26th February 2015.

- A. To keep as near to existing provision as the new budget will allow.
- B. That the girls group and juniors join as one group, with 1 leader in charge and qualified youth worker and volunteers
- C. The senior group have their own session, with a higher proportion of qualified staff due to a higher level of need.

Consultation and Procurement

That the LJC authorise on its behalf, the Ludlow and Area Youth Partnership to conduct consultation on the proposals outlined within this report and following this to develop a procurement package based on the recommendation.

Report

1. Background

Vision and Outcomes Framework for young people

As a local authority, Shropshire Council has a duty to secure, so as far is reasonably practicable, equality of access for all young people to the positive, preventative and early help they need to improve their wellbeing.

The council must also take steps to gain the views of young people and to take them into account in making decisions about services and activities for them.

Shropshire Council's strategic aim is to ensure that as many young people as possible, can access a wide range of activities after school, at weekends and in school holidays. The purpose of these activities is to support young people's well-being, development of personal and social education and preparation for adulthood.

Outcomes

The provision of youth activities will contribute to the outcome areas within the Shropshire Children, Young People and Families Plan 2014:

1. Ensure all children and young people are safe and well looked after in a supportive environment
2. Narrow the achievement gap in education and work
3. Ensure the emotional wellbeing of children and young people by focussing on prevention and early intervention
4. Keep more children healthy and reduce health inequalities

Shropshire Council has allocated funding to LJC areas according to identified need.

LJC's can use the funds to commission youth activities and to build sustainable capacity in the community for future activities. Shropshire Council have calculated an index for specific youth related need, based on 8 measures, best reflecting the outcomes sought by Shropshire Children Trust. The 9th measure specifically considers rurality.

1. The number of 10-19 year olds = 1,579
2. The number of 10-19 year olds with a disability (No. registered with Short Breaks) = 17
3. The number of 10-19 year olds living within the most deprived areas = 378
4. The number of 10-17 year old recorded offenders = 32
5. The number of 10-19 year old with poor school attendance = 83
6. The number of 0-17 year olds referred to social care in one year = 117
7. The number of incidents of anti-social behaviour committed by ages 10-19 in one year = 493
8. The number of children aged 10-11 year old (year 6) classified as obese = 16.6%
9. Rurality = 34.5 10-19 year olds living per sq. mile

Ludlow and Clee LJC Area Allocation

Based on the above measures Ludlow and Clee LJC area is one of the 9 LJC areas with the highest specific need index to receive an allocation of £10,850 which is proportionate to its needs.

Ludlow and Clee LJC

Ludlow and Clee LJC are now responsible for recommending the way forward for the commissioning of local youth services. Ludlow has been allocated funding of £10,850. **The budget is not intended to support or duplicate existing voluntary work** which will continue to be supported by the Shropshire Youth Association, the council's infrastructure support partner. The budget is allocated to target and address specific local needs and to provide better outcomes for young people.

Ludlow and Area Youth Partnership

The LJC have made Recommendations A, B and C but wish to still test this thinking by working in partnership with the Ludlow Area Youth Partnership. To this end and bearing in mind timescales involved Ludlow and Area Youth Partnership (members include: Police, local schools, SSHA, voluntary local youth groups and voluntary sports groups, Ludlow College, Town Council) will identify current need to formulate recommendations for the LJC, to facilitate consultation and to develop a procurement package.

Please note it has been confirmed that the Smile Club (a group designed to meet the needs of a specific range of users) will continue to be funded by Shropshire Council outside of this budget and therefore will not be the responsibility of this LJC.

It is important to note that although Shropshire Council is covering the building and maintenance costs of the Youth Centre in the first year outside the budget. Additional rental costs may need to be considered in future years.

It is also important to note that the success of the recommended approach will be subject to the commitment of competent volunteers to support the youth workers. Securing volunteers will be an integral part of the consultation process and will be an on-going imperative both for the local community and the new provider partners.

Match funding opportunities will be sought to further support the approach outlined here and to enable the scope of activities to be potentially widened and further improved. This could help to fund additional activities, materials, days out etc. and will be an ongoing priority to help to support the success of the overall provision.

In order to support a viable business model going forward that maximises value to young people opportunities to seek a contribution towards running costs will also be considered.

Formal Consultation

That formal consultation with current users of the service on the proposals be undertaken, starting at the end of February for up to six weeks. Following which a formal procurement process will commence with a contract with a new service provider being in place sometime in the new financial year.

Financial Implications

It is anticipated that this approach will enable Ludlow to adequately support youth activity in the LJC area alongside increased voluntary activity, the development of a new youth partnership and the ability to be able to generate match funding.

1. 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 recommendations 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) Cllr Ann Hartley
Local Members Cllrs Richard Huffer, Tracey Huffer, Andy Boddington and Vivienne Parry
Appendices None