



Committee and date  
Craven Arms and Rural  
Local Joint Committee

25 February 2014

7.00 pm

Item

7

Public

## **YOUTH COMMISSIONING AND PLANNED IMPLEMENTATION IN CRAVEN ARMS AND RURAL 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 Craven Arms and Rural Local Joint Committee.

### **2. Recommendations**

- A That the Craven Arms and Rural Local Joint Committee seeks to use its funding of £3000 to provide support to youth club provision, adhoc diversionary activity and a small grant pot to deliver better outcomes for young people including those potentially disadvantaged by living in rural locations in the years 2015 - 2017
- B The LJC will work alongside the Craven Arms Area Youth Group, 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 That the LJC continues to support and consult with youth representatives and young people through the Community Enablement Officer and the youth partnership, specifically those young people and parents/guardians potentially affected by the intended approach.

## **REPORT**

### **3. 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 overall aim is to ensure that as many young people aged between 10 – 19 years old as possible, can access a wide range of group 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 attendance, referrals to social care, anti-social behaviour and childhood obesity,. 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 Craven Arms and Rural LJC, an amount of £3000 has been provided as a result of the lower population density under the rurality allocation.**

It is important to be aware that the Council's voluntary sector infrastructure partner, the Shropshire Youth Association, has the responsibility for supporting the voluntary sector which is where the bulk of activity is delivered.

Any youth activities that are supported locally 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

#### **4. Current youth provision and engagement with young people**

Currently Shropshire Council delivers a group specifically for girls ages 10 – 16, two hours per week for the majority of the year based in Craven Arms. This activity will cease to be delivered by Shropshire Council early in the next financial year. There is also a generic club which caters for boys and girls aged 9 - 13 but this is paid for through grants and donations which is raised on an annual basis by the Craven Arms Area Youth Group to enable the club to continue. South Shropshire Youth Forum is then commissioned to deliver the club.

There are also numerous other youth opportunities including; football, netball, gymnastics, cricket, guides, brownies and young farmers (see list in appendix A)

Engagement and consultation is currently taking place with the girls that attend girls group and their parents / guardians, to work through how girls only activities could be retained going forwards.

Consultation was undertaken in 2014 as part of a pilot project to get young people involved in decision making. Over 100 young people from the Craven Arms area took part and responses showed the top three activities young people wished to participate in was sports, trips and outdoor activities, although more young people attended youth clubs than any other activity, Hence the requirement to be as flexible as possible in our approach.

#### **5. Next steps**

In order to maximise the benefit of the funding available, it is proposed to divide it as follows:

- i. Youth Club provision (maintaining at least one club in Craven Arms) £1500
- ii. Diversionary / outreach activity (e.g. short term multisport club) £1000
- iii. Small grants scheme (to support the wider youth voluntary sector) £500

Working with the Craven Arms Area Youth Group, the details in relation to the proposals above will be further developed and implemented following the commissioning and procurement guidance from Shropshire Council.

#### **6. 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.

#### **7. 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>
---

<b>Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder)</b>
--

Cllr Ann Hartley
------------------

<b>Local Member</b>
---------------------

Lee Chapman, David Evans, Cecilia Motley, Tim Barker
--

<b>Appendices</b>
-------------------

Appendix A – youth summary of Craven Arms and Rural LJC area
--