



Committee and date

Shrewsbury-wide Local Joint Committee

12th March 2015

7.00pm

YOUTH COMMISSIONING AND PLANNED IMPLEMENTATION IN THE SHREWSBURY-WIDE LOCAL JOINT COMMITTEE

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1. Summary

This report summarises the framework of the youth commissioning model developed by Shropshire Council, to deliver youth activities to young people across the county. This report contains the recommendations from the Youth Commissioning Working Group, which was established to inform the Shrewsbury-wide Local Joint Committee about the youth commissioning intentions for the Shrewsbury area.

2. Recommendations

That the Shrewsbury-wide Local Joint Committee recommends to Shropshire Council the following approach to the provision of youth activities.

A. Core Youth sessions

That the Shrewsbury-wide Local Joint Committee uses its funds to deliver youth sessions in Harlescott, Sundorne, Monkmoor, Ditherington and Meole Brace principally within existing youth centres.

B. Specialist time limited sessions

To complement the core youth sessions, the Local Joint Committee wishes to fund additional specialist sessions in youth centres in Harlescott, Sundorne, Monkmoor and Ditherington. These centres will act as 'hubs' for an extended programme of youth activities, which could include arts, sports, education, and life skills.

C. Youth providers network

To encourage greater partnership and collaborative working, the Local Joint Committee recommends that a youth providers' network meeting is arranged at a minimum of twice a year.

3. Background

The role of public services is changing. Shropshire Council is moving rapidly to becoming a Council that commissions activity, with less direct delivery of services.

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

The Council must also take steps to gain the views of young people and to take these into account when 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.

The Local Joint Committee will inform and direct the commissioning of youth activity in their areas. This reflects the Council's ambition for LJs 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.

Money allocated to individual LJs is based on two factors:

- **A youth specific Needs Assessment:**

A detailed list of statistics and information has been gathered for each Local Joint Committee area, including information on numbers of young people, disabled young children, children living in deprived areas, excluded from school, referrals to social care, incidents of antisocial behaviour and young offenders.

This data is used by the Children's Trust and by Children and Young People's Services, to identify and suggest where there are vulnerable young people. Shrewsbury-wide LJ was allocated £82,954 for youth provision.

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

The Shrewsbury-wide Local Joint Committee has not been awarded funding based upon a rurality assessment.

Outcomes

Any youth activities that are supported locally will need to demonstrate how they meet the following outcomes in the Shropshire's Children, Young People and Families Plan 2014:

- Ensuring all Children and Young People are safe and well looked after in a supportive environment
- Narrowing the achievement gap in education and work
- Ensuring emotional well-being of Children and Young People by focusing on prevention and early intervention
- Keeping more Children and Young People healthy and reducing health inequalities.

4. Next steps

In order to maximise the benefit of the funding available, it is proposed that:

- Further consultation with young people and the community be undertaken
- Further discussion take place with potential providers regarding commissioning intentions
- An 'invitation to quote' document be developed
- Feedback/comments on the commissioning intentions be taken into account by Shrewsbury-wide Local Joint Committee

5. Financial implications

It is anticipated that this approach will adequately provide youth activities in the Shrewsbury-wide Local Joint Committee area, and the addition of the youth providers network will increase the ability to generate match funding.

6. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

In determining these recommendations, the Local Joint Committee has considered reputational risk and any course of action minimises this risk.

The recommendations contained in this report are compatible with the provisions of the Human Rights Act 1998.

The proposal under consideration will improve the levels of community-based and community-driven youth activity in the Local Joint Committee area.

List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)

Human Rights Act Appraisal

The recommendations contained in this report are compatible with the provisions of the Human Rights Act 1998.

Environmental Appraisal

None.

Risk Management Appraisal

In determining these recommendations, the Council has considered reputational risk and the course of action minimises this risk.
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Community / Consultations Appraisal
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Consideration has been given to the public opinion expressed in the lead up to this meeting.
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Local Members

Councillors Peter Adams, Beverley Baker, Andrew Bannerman, Vernon Bushell, Dean Carroll, Anne Chebsey, Ted Clarke, Hannah Fraser, Ioan Jones, Miles Kenny,
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Jane MacKenzie, Pamela Moseley, Alan Mosley, Peter Nutting, Kath Owen, Mike Owen, Kevin Pardy, Malcolm Price, Keith Roberts, Jon Tandy, Alan Townsend, Mansel Williams

Appendices

None.