



Committee and date  
South West Shropshire  
Local Joint Committee

12<sup>th</sup> March 2015

7.00 pm

Item

3

Public

## **YOUTH COMMISSIONING FOR THE SOUTH WEST SHROPSHIRE LOCAL JOINT COMMITTEE AREA.**

### **Responsible Officer**

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### **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 South West Shropshire Local Joint Committee.

### **Recommendations**

- A That the South West Shropshire Local Joint Committee seeks to use it's funding of £3,000 to provide grants to support youth activities in the South West Shropshire LJC area.
- B A youth survey is undertaken with young people to identify priorities young people in the area wish to see delivered through the grant scheme. This will supplement the findings of the 2012 Youth Survey in the area.
- C The LJC, through the Community Enablement Officer, to explore sources of additional funding to support youth activities in the LJC area
- D That a report on development of a Youth Grant scheme is presented to the Committee for further consideration at their next meeting in May

## **REPORT**

### **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 The South West Shropshire LJC, an amount of £3,000 has been allocated 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.

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.

## **Existing Provision and Consultation**

Within the LJC area there is only one Shropshire Council funded Youth Club, which takes place at the Community College in Bishop's Castle, on Monday evenings in School Term time. The club runs between 6pm and 8.30pm and is generally attended by 12-16 year olds. The cost of running this service is approximately £5,100.

Existing Shropshire Council activities will continue to May half term 2015, but will then cease. Alternative services, supported by LJC funding will then start after this time.

No other Shropshire Council clubs take place in the area, although there are clubs run by volunteers, church groups and uniformed youth clubs (such as the Scouts and Guides)

*Initial conversations with youth workers in the area, and Shropshire Councillors has shown a need to look at the following areas of support through this grant scheme*

*Maintaining a youth club in Bishop's Castle*

*Supporting volunteer led youth clubs*

*Being able to react to issues of Anti-Social Behaviour involving young people in South West Shropshire on an ad hoc basis*

*Examine ways in which young people can be encouraged to drive safely once they pass their driving test, with the aim of reducing road traffic accidents in the area.*

Any youth activities supported through a grant scheme will also 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

Consultation with young people, over what types of activities they would like to see delivered also need to take place, and a draft questionnaire is attached in Appendix B

## **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.

## **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>
Steve Charmley
<b>Local Member</b>
Heather Kidd, Charlotte Barnes, Nigel Hartin
<b>Appendices</b>
Appendix A – 2012 Bishop’s Castle Youth Survey
Appendix B – Proposed Youth Consultation Questionnaire