

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

Responsible Officer

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1. Summary

This report summarises the progress of 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 The LJC Committee note that no tenders were submitted to Shropshire Council when an invitation to tender for a youth club in Bishop's Castle was issued. It is therefore recommended not to pursue the establishment of a youth club in Bishop's Castle
- B It is Proposed to allocate £1,000 from the Bishop's Castle LJC to deliver outreach youth work in the LJC, and to commission Irene Stelfox to undertake out-reach work with young people in the area.
- C That the LJC support "The Honest Truth" partnership with a grant from the South West Shropshire Community Grants Scheme.
- D To establish a small grants scheme which volunteer led youth clubs can apply. £2,000 of the LJC budget should be allocated, with a maximum grant available of £500. This grant scheme will be judged by Committee members via email to allow grants to be allocated outside of full LJC 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:**
- **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.

3. Progress since the last meeting in July

At the LJC meeting in July the Committee established its priorities for spending the £3,000 to allocate to Youth Activities in the area and the LJC, which were

- A one night a week youth club in Bishop's Castle
- Outreach work to tackle Anti-Social Behaviour
- Work with Police and Fire Service to reduce accident rates amongst young drivers
- Support volunteer youth clubs in the LJC area

One night a week youth club in Bishop's Castle

A tender asking interested parties to bid to run a youth club in Bishop's Castle was issued by Shropshire Council in July 2105, and tenders closed on 3rd August. Unfortunately no tenders were submitted for the opportunity at Bishop's Castle

Subsequent to this the Community Enablement Officer, in partnership with Irene Stelfox (Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme coordinator in Bishop's Castle) a drop in session to encourage volunteers to come forward to help establish a youth club in Bishop's Castle was held on 8th October. Volunteer opportunities were also promoted through the Town Council and other networks in the town. However no volunteers have come forward.

At this stage it would seem unlikely therefore that a youth club can be established in Bishop's Castle.

Recommendation: Not to pursue the establishment of a youth club in Bishop's Castle

Outreach work to tackle Anti-Social Behaviour

The LJC, Bishop's Castle Town Council and other agencies have identified a need within the LJC to be able to react to issues of anti-social behaviour, and groups of children congregating in areas of Bishop's Castle, and also other villages in the LJC.

Discussions between the enablement officer and Irene Stelfox have taken place to discuss this work.

From previous experience it is suggested that detached youth work – that is a youth worker based in the Community, rather than at a building - is the best way of tackling this type of behaviour amongst young people. The youth worker would target areas and groups and young people, engage them in conversation and look to identify why they are not engaging in other activities available to them.

From these initial outreach sessions the youth worker would then look to work with young people to engage them in other activities taking place in the area which might appeal to them, or establish new activities in the area.

Initial discussions with the South Shropshire Housing Association suggest that an application to their Community Fund, but young people, would be considered by them to establish new activities in the town. Similarly the Bishop's Castle Town Council has indicated it would support new activities in the town.

Recommendation: It is therefore proposed to allocate £1,000 from the Bishop's Castle LJC for this piece of work, and to commission Irene Stelfox to undertake outreach work with young people in the area.

Work with Police and Fire Service to reduce accident rates amongst young drivers

The South West Shropshire LJC area has a higher than average level of road traffic accidents involving teenage drivers, and tackling this was seen as a priority for the LJC

Discussions with the Police and Fire Service have taken place and highlighted that a safer driver scheme called the Honest Truth has been established. Run in partnership with Driving Instructors and Motoring Schools it provides additional awareness training for young drivers on behaviour when they are driving, with the aim of reducing accidents and fatalities.

Recommendation: As this scheme is aimed at 16-25 year olds (an older age group than the Youth Commissioning funding can be spent on) so it is proposed that the LJC support this scheme through the South West Shropshire Grants scheme. (See item marked 3)

Support volunteer youth clubs in the LJC area

Within the LJC there are a number of volunteer led clubs, which provide activities for young people. These include youth clubs; uniformed groups; sports clubs and church groups and the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme.

These groups have identified a need for additional funding to support their work, either in the form of new equipment and resources, or to offer young people new experiences through day trips or one off activity sessions.

Recommendation: To establish a small grants scheme which volunteer led youth clubs can apply. £2,000 of the LJC budget should be allocated, with a maximum grant available of £500. Grants should meet the following criteria

- Organisations applying must be affiliated to the Shropshire Youth Association, or other governing body
- All organisations should meet basic Child Safe Guarding criteria
- Grants will only be used to fund new activities or purchase of equipment, not the on-going costs of running the clubs
- Groups will need to identify the benefits the funding will bring to young people in their group, and be able to evaluate the success of the grant

Outline grant application forms have been prepared by Shropshire Council to support this process

4. Financial Implications

The South West Shropshire LJC has a budget of £3,000 for 2015/16. The recommendations set out in this report would allocate all of this budget. However a further £3000 should be available in 2016/17 when further activities can be commissioned.

The next LJC is not scheduled until March 2016, it is proposed that the grant scheme element of this project is evaluated by the LJC Committee members via email. The assessment will be coordinated by the Community Enablement officer and grants awarded to projects where the majority of the LJC are in favour of supporting the project.

5. 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.

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)
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Steve Charmley

Local Member

Heather Kidd, Charlotte Barnes, Nigel Hartin
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Appendices
