

**SHREWSBURY TOWN COUNCIL**

**Meeting of the Youth Services Working Group  
Held at the Grange Youth Centre  
At 3.30pm on Thursday 14 July 2022**

**PRESENT**

Councillors P Moseley (Chair), C Lemon, E Roberts and D Vasmer.

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Andy Hall (Youth and Community Manager), Helen Ball (Town Clerk), Andy Watkin (Head of Resources – RFO) and Michelle Farmer (Committee Clerk)

**01/22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillor Bentick and Amanda Spencer (Deputy Town Clerk)

**02/22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (PECUNIARY & NON-PECUNIARY) IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CODE OF CONDUCT**

Shropshire Councillors	Those twin-hatted members declared a personal interest in any matters relating to the Town Council's relationship with Shropshire Council.
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**03/22 MINUTES OF THE LAST WORKING GROUP MEETING**

To approve the minutes of the Working Group meeting held on 5 April 2022 were submitted as circulated and read.

**RESOLVED:**

**That the minutes of the Youth Working Group held on 5 April 2022 be approved and signed as a correct record.**

**04/22 UPDATE ON YOUTH ACTIVITY DURING THE SUMMER TERM**

The Youth and Community Manager updated the group on the summer term activities. The Thursday evening football sessions held at Monkmoor were still popular and they would be continuing through to the new school term.

The football session at the Grange was poorly attended so the decision was made to withdraw this session and use the resources elsewhere.

The Youth and Community Manager had also agreed to support Shropshire Youth with detached work in the Quarry and the town centre throughout the summer months. The Town Clerk enquired if the Youth & Community Manager had contacted Prosecure regarding co-ordinating with patrols in the Quarry. He stated that he had attempted contact but had not yet received a response. The Town

Clerk suggested that a Thursday and Friday in the Quarry would be good, and he agreed that he would talk again to Prosecure to arrange a time to meet.

## **05/22 HOLIDAY ACTIVITY FUND**

The Youth & Community Manager confirmed that an application to the Holiday Activity Fund was submitted to Shropshire Council with a view to developing a programme of activities for the summer holidays and the winter term (December). This had now been successful, generating an income of £4,968.40, that was split as £3,958.72 for Summer and £1,009.68 for Winter (Christmas).

The Young Shrewsbury team, supported by an external sports worker from Embrace, intended to deliver multi-activities in an informal learning setting at the Grange Community Centre.

Young Shrewsbury also intended to provide nutritious hot and cold meals, prepared in house, and that met school food standards. Young people would be encouraged to participate in the preparation of nutritious meals on a budget, they would also have the opportunity to join in with gardening in the vegetable/orchard garden at the Grange Centre. In addition, Football coaching sessions were to be delivered from Shrewsbury Town Council's outdoor recreation ground at Monkmoor with youth and sports workers in attendance. All activities had been designed to target self-confidence, motivation, communication skills, teamwork and build resilience.

Posters of the Holiday Activity Fund activities had been circulated and would also be promoted via social media platforms. 20 Young people could attend each session through a booking system completed by parents/guardians.

## **06/22 ALTERNATIVE CURRICULUM**

Tash Dews was now back at work and had contacted all the local schools regarding Alternative Curriculum. The Youth & Community Manager confirmed that they had productive meetings with many of the local schools, resulting in interest for eight young people from September. A half-day session charge had been agreed. This was considered favourably against other providers.

It had been important that they looked at Young Shrewsbury's record keeping and that it was robust and in-line with school & Ofsted requirements. Young Shrewsbury had also had a quality assurance visit today by members of Shrewsbury Academy's management team, which went well.

Councillor Roberts informed the group of the Autism Educational Trust which was a free of charge resource tool and may benefit some Young People under Alternative Curriculum.

## **07/22 PLANS FOR YOUTH ACTIVITY FOR THE AUTUMN**

The Youth & Community Manager informed the group they were currently looking at recruitment and that a Youth Leader in Charge and Youth Worker job vacancies were currently advertised on the Shrewsbury Town Council website and social media platforms. Ellen Green from the Hive had now joined the team on a Thursday evening at Monkmoor.

Due to the success of the newly relaunched Wednesday Grange Pre-Juniors youth group, some session timings had been changed as the numbers of young people attending was more than 70. In order for young people to get the best experience possible from Young Shrewsbury's Youth

provision, they had made the following changes to youth club sessions to take effect from Wednesday 22nd June 2022:

- Years 4&5 session will now start at 6pm and finish at 7pm.
- Year 6 session will now start at 7:15pm and finish at 8:15pm.

There had been a staff suggestion of applying an optional donation from parents for young people to attend sessions. Staff had suggested a donation of 50p per session. It was explained that this was not uncommon in other youth clubs and some parents were surprised there was no charge. The extra income generated from this could pay for visits or trips.

Councillors discussed the suggestion of a 'donation' but they all agreed that at the present time, they did not feel it was right to ask parents to pay or put them under pressure to pay. If themed events were to be held, then a donation could be asked for but for general session attendance it was agreed that they would remain free of charge.

The Youth & Community Manager raised the matter of youth provision in the south of the town and stated that they were looking into developing a new session attracting young people from the south of the town. A central location like the Hive could be an option for one evening a week, but they are looking at all areas and unique ideas.

The Youth & Community Manager attended a meeting organised by Councillor Bentick. Few organisations attended, but Councillor Bentick had now created the "South Shrewsbury Youth Partnership" and set out its terms of reference. He had arranged a meeting for 8 September 2022 at 3.30pm at the Shrewsbury Town Football Club Foundation.

Councillors noted that they had not been made aware of this meeting and the Town Clerk agreed that diary entries would be sent out to all Councillors so they could attend the meeting if they wished to.

A staff meeting had been arranged for 20 July 2022 to reflect on the year's youth delivery across all sessions and plan for the September cohort. The Town Clerk requested that herself and the Deputy Town Clerk attended this meeting also so they could meet with staff and discuss any issues raised.

## **08/22 YOUTH SERVICES BUDGET**

The Head of Resources provided an update to the group regarding the Youth Services budget and commented that following on from discussions last financial year, the budget had been split to represent core activities and then Alternative Curriculum and grant funded expenditure.

Overall, there had been a small overspend but this would be covered by earmarked reserves, the budget was loosely set in January to be shaped going forward. The Alternative Curriculum setup was inherited by the Youth & Community Manager and a plan was in place from the Autumn to reduce staff costs and bring in income to free up resources for core work.

Budget setting would take place in September and from then, members would get a better idea on what could be spent and costs and incomes.

## **09/22 NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Youth Services Working Group is Thursday 15 September 2022.

The Town Clerk informed Members of a company called Play Innovation, who sell all-inclusive sports boards which are played by throwing or kicking a ball at targets to accumulate points. They encourage active playtime for all ages and abilities and were an educational tool as well. There were options of street snooker, snooker ball and tennis. The boards could be used anywhere and taken to various locations. The Town Clerk agreed to send a link to Councillors to see if they would be in agreement to purchase 2 or 3 of them and that this would be put as an item to discuss on the next agenda.