

SHREWSBURY TOWN COUNCIL

Youth Service Delivery Committee Meeting held at Grange Youth Centre, Shrewsbury At 9.30 am on 3rd July 2019

PRESENT

Councillors A Mosley (Chairman), I Jones, Mrs P Moseley, & D Vasmer

IN ATTENDANCE

Helen Ball (Town Clerk), Andy Watkin (Responsible Financial Officer), Adam Purnell (Youth & Community Development Officer) and Heather Phillips (Administration Assistant)

APOLOGIES

Kevin Pardy

01/19 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CODE OF CONDUCT

Councillor Mosley declared a non-pecuniary interest in Flaxivity as he was Chairman of the Friends of Flaxmill at which the Town Council operates a youth session.

All present declared non-pecuniary interests as both Town & Unitary Councillors in any matters relating to agreements between both Councils.

02/19 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the Youth Services Delivery Committee meeting held on 15th May 2019 were submitted as circulated and read.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Youth Services Delivery Committee meeting held on 15th May 2019 be approved and signed as a correct record.

03/19 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

03.1 Ref: Min: 26.2 (i) Meet Place

The Town Clerk met with the Assistant Director of Development of Housing Plus to discuss the Meet Place. Options for development are being considered including the use of the site of the previous demountable and an area on Mary Webb Road. Also under consideration is any benefits to be gained from releasing land to housing development. Housing Plus will contact the Town Council by mid-July with proposals.

It was reported that the church's new youth worker has started to be more active in the area and is working with the youth team. The tunnel behind Sainsbury's and leading to the football ground is a popular meeting place for groups of youths; the Youth & Community Development Officer will arrange for the detached team to visit the area.

03.2 Ref: Min: 26.2 (ii) Meet Place

The cost and viability of using demountables has not yet been explored.

RESOLVED

That the Town Clerk meets with the vicar to discuss the current issues.

03.3 Ref: Min: 32/18 Plans for Summer Holiday

Preparations for the summer activities as proposed by the Youth & Community Development Officer at the last meeting have begun. Funds are available for any young person who may struggle with the affordability of a summer activity they want to attend.

The Youth & Community Development Officer reported that during the summer the Monkmoor Youth Club will be open for two weeks and the Detached Team will be holding 2 youth sessions per week. A poster advertising the Summer Programme will be available shortly.

03.4 Ref: Min: 25/18 Engaging with young people on Town Council activity

No progress has been made to date on gathering together a Forum.

04/19 COUNTY LINES/CHILD SEX EXPLOITATION/CHILD CRIME EXPLOITATION

The Town Clerk circulated a report to members following a meeting of the Town Clerk and the Youth & Community Development Officer with the Head of Early Help and the Early Help Change Manager which was set up to discuss Shropshire Council's approach to the youth service and the wider child criminal exploitation matters.

Councillor I Jones joined the meeting.

Councillor Mrs Moseley recently met with the Scrutiny Chair for Communities and a further meeting has been set for 17th July 2019. A Scrutiny Day to be held in Birmingham that considers the national picture of youth work had been set for 18th September 2019 but as members would not be able to attend Councillor Mrs Moseley will attempt to get it altered.

Members discussed the sustainability of the funding. The Youth & Community Development Officer will keep records of evidence of the effectiveness of the projects so that further funding could be secured from Shropshire Council or elsewhere.

Members were in favour of the proposals in the report to recruit a part-time youth worker to co-ordinate a programme of regular alternative curriculum work, focussing on some recognised accreditation (Duke of Edinburgh Scheme as an example) to provide regular contact and mentoring to a group of young people. The post-holder's chief focus would be on detached work. A further youth worker would also be required for (approximately) 12 hours per week to avoid lone working.

The Youth & Community Development Officer reported that the worst affected areas for youth exploitation were Monkmoor, Ditherington and Meole Brace (although the young people were

not necessarily resident in those areas), and that all secondary schools reported that they were experiencing problems of this kind in their schools with vulnerable children on the cusp of exclusion.

It was noted that further funding could be applied for eg Youth Endowment Fund. The fund is most often allocated to cities experiencing serious problems such as murder/violence but these problems have begun to spread out to more rural areas.

Councillor Jones asked how the criminality that can often run in families is being addressed. Early Help was designed with this in mind and the Pre-Juniors Youth Club helps in some way to address this by targeting 8/9 year olds.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (i) That the Town Clerk works with the Head of Early Help to explore opportunities to help shape youth provision in the county.
- (ii) That the RFO assist in costing out proposals.
- (iii) That the Y&CDO engage with the Pastoral Teams in all Senior Schools to develop proposals for alternative curriculum.
- (iv) That a part-time youth worker be recruited by September to provide an alternative education for young people with the caveat that members see the job description and person specification in advance.