

**SHREWSBURY TOWN COUNCIL
FINANCE COMMITTEE
24 JULY 2023**

Officer: Andy Hall – Youth and Community Manager

Youth Services Update

Purpose of Report

To update the Committee on Youth Services activities.

Introduction

The Summer term has gone well with numbers up at all sessions.

- The Hive has had plenty of targeted creative sessions in the Spring and Summer terms, in addition, the young people have also recorded their own record!
- Monkmoor New Lodge sessions have returned to normal numbers. To date, there have been no issues to mention. The sessions have been led by myself (YCM) and other staff members when required. As the centre is closing for redevelopment in August, it was felt unwise to recruit another contracted leader in charge for this period.
- The Grange and Sundorne sessions continue to be popular with end of summer term trips planned.
- Ongoing repairs to equipment which have fallen into disrepair over the last few years.
- Arranging more school visits, however, with recent GCSEs exams taking place has made the secondary schools difficult to access.

Alternative Curriculum

The Alternative Curriculum (AC) has gone from strength to strength over the last 12 months with students attending from Mount Pleasant School, Shrewsbury Academy & TMBSS. Originally this programme was funded by STC, however this was not sustainable. The schools have acknowledged the benefit of this provision and now pay an agreed amount through their various funding streams for students to attend. Going forward, from the start of the September 2023 term, AC will generate an income of £1000+VAT per week term-time.

HAF (Holiday Activity Fund activities) for 2023/24

Easter HAF went well with no issues. HAF sessions funding has been agreed with Shropshire Council for the summer HAF delivery from both the Grange centre and Monkmoor recreation ground. These 18 sessions will be delivered over the six week school's holiday.

Temporary Premises (New Lodge Monkmoor)

The Summer term Thursday night youth sessions at the New Lodge Monkmoor are due to finish on 20 July 2023.

The New Lodge is due for demolition at the end of August to make way for SYA's new headquarters to be built. Therefore, we will not have access to this space until January 2024 at the earliest.

We have contacted various hirers of space in the area including Crowmore & Belvidere schools and local churches with no success. We are now planning to expand our delivery from the Monkmoor recreation ground with our Mobile Youth trailer and introduce more detached youth work in the area including play areas around Upton Lane.

Stay Safe Day

A Stay Safe day is to be held in Frankwell on Friday 4 August 2023 from 5pm -8pm. Young Shrewsbury (STC) have teamed up with Shropshire Council and our community partners/stakeholders to provide Information, Advice and Guidance on keeping safe for the summer and in the community to young people. This will include (but not exclusively) drugs advise, river safety, online CEOPS, sexual health etc. A foldable credit card size leaflet is being produced to hand out to young people with local information of services.

Funding has been secured to develop a larger event in May 2024, however it was felt a smaller event was needed in the wake of contaminated drugs in the area recently. Schools and colleges have been informed, welcoming this initiative, all have agreed to support this.

Project Funding

In May 2023 Young Shrewsbury submitted a bid to the Thriving Children and Families grant fund. I have recently been informed Young Shrewsbury (STC) have been successful in being granted £20,000 from this fund subject to agreeing key objectives with Penny Bason at Shropshire Council. We were hoping to deliver the following projects, however this may need to be adjusted accordingly.

- "Stay Safe" days to be held in the Quarry or other identified areas of Shrewsbury. Young Shrewsbury (YS) will bring together all our partners and stakeholders in the Shrewsbury area supporting young people to keep safe. Helping young people identify how to access local services and get information, advice, and guidance from professional practitioners all in one place.
- Provide a weekly session of mixed martial arts based at The Lantern in Sundorne which has been a problematic area of anti-social behaviour. Youth leaders have already run four taster sessions which have been well received by the young people and attendance has been good.
- YS intend to create a youth council to champion the voice of the child. This Youth Council would represent the views of young people at a local level. Run by young people for young people, having their own budget, will give young people a voice and enable them to make their views heard in the decision-making process. It also gives young people the chance to discuss relevant issues, engage with decision makers and contribute to improving the lives of young people within their communities.
- YS intend to deliver a series of weekly workshops and visits to schools or Youth Clubs to provide a safe place for young people to access professionals including a fully qualified youth & community worker. To facilitate small group workshop interventions around relevant subjects identified by young people. To provide Information, advice and guidance on all issues that affect young people and/or referrals to other services. These subjects could include, bullying, exam stress, self-harm, sleeplessness, social media, exploitation, county-lines, drugs and alcohol, housing, or careers advice up to level 6.

It goes without saying we delighted with this outcome as it enables Young Shrewsbury to widen its delivery and support to the young people of Shrewsbury.

Youth Club Attendance Statistics

These are attached in Appendix A.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the report be noted.