



**SHREWSBURY TOWN COUNCIL
FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE
4 OCTOBER 2021**

Agenda No

14(i)

Officer: Amanda Spencer – Deputy Town Clerk

Update on the Youth Services Working Group

Purpose of Report

To inform members on the activities of the Youth Services Working Group.

Youth Services Working Group

The Youth Service Working Group met on 15th September and the Youth & Community Manager gave an overview of activity over the last few months:

- Youth Clubs have started back albeit on reduced numbers. These include:
 - Grange Pre-Juniors (Yrs 3,4,5) (Weds)
 - Grange Juniors (Yr 6 only) (Mon)
 - Sundorne Juniors (Yrs 6+) (Weds)
 - Monkmoor Juniors (Yrs 6-9) (Thurs)
- Football Sessions are running at Monkmoor (Thurs) and the Grange (Tues) facilitated by a Sports Worker and a Youth Worker
- Music Project – By invitation only
- The Hive is currently not being used
- Flaxivity has closed
- Detached Work has been pared back as this is the focus of Shropshire Council's Youth Service
- Structured activity sessions are currently being favoured more than general open access sessions
- The Youth & Community Manager is attending School Assemblies to raise the awareness of youth sessions
- Summer Activities – were run throughout the holidays using the Holiday Activity Fund money received. This included:
 - Daily sessions at the Grange
 - Trip Every Friday including Great Escape, Bowling, Jumping and Ice Skating
- Residential at the Long Mynd Adventure Camp



- Outward Bound – This was funding from the residue Jeux Sans Frontier funding for 2 young people. This did not prove successful and any future allocation of funding will have to be thought through more thoroughly

Alternative Curriculum

48 young people have been on roll to date and the Alternative Curriculum provided a number of case studies which showed the project had been successful. 22 young people were already booked on for the Autumn term and will be accommodated in 6/7 half day sessions. All Councillors present stressed the benefit of such a service to some of the most vulnerable young people in the town

Autumn Term

The following activities were discussed

- Development of outreach into Gains Park, Meole & Copthorne where some youth related issues had been picked up
- Attendance at school assemblies to promote the service
- Re-establishment of Open Access Sessions
- Explore opportunities for young people in the town centre, possibly around work experience and youth placements with local businesses

Finances

Finances were in place for all services until the end of the financial year. Discussions will need to take place regarding Alternative Curriculum work as this was currently being funded through reserve money.

Future of the Service

The Youth & Community Manager outlined his intentions to move on and pursue other things; he was though keen to help shape the future of the service before he left and discussions took place around the type of individual required to lead the service.

Members discussed the difficulty in recruiting youth workers of late and the need to develop a more substantive team rather than employing casual staff who found it difficult working around full-time employment.



Members discussed how the Town Council's youth function needs to complement the Shropshire Council's service and elected members need to press for the need for Shropshire Council provision in the town as a significant number of the county's young people live in Shrewsbury. The Youth & Community Manager detailed the work he had been doing with Sian Makin, the new Youth Manager for the Central Area.

Members stressed the need you Youth to be a focal point of the future Visioning Work as it was not just about developing services for them but integrating young people into the future decision making of the town.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the contents of the report be noted.