



**SHREWSBURY TOWN COUNCIL
FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSE COMMITTEE
1 FEBRUARY 2021**

Officer: Adam Purnell – Youth & Community Manager

YOUTH

Purpose of Report

To inform members on the current position regarding the activities undertaken by Young Shrewsbury.

Update

This report provides an update as to what we have been up to since the October. Up until Christmas our engagement continued as previously explained, with our open access youth club sessions currently postponed we continued to deliver our Alternative Curriculum offer to our most vulnerable young people, and have maintained detached sessions throughout.

Since the government's increased lockdown restrictions imposed at the end of the year, we have had to re-evaluate our offer again and have now made the decision to postpone our face to face Alternative Curriculum sessions for the time being.

Whilst the National Youth Agency have not said that face to face work with our most vulnerable needs to cease, it was advised that it is only undertaken if deemed safe and with strict restrictions in place. Given the nature of the work that we do with young people, being hands on and informal it is particularly difficult to deliver our sessions safely.

Further to this, from local intelligence and our own observations on detached we know the many of young people who are enrolled on the AC are not social distancing, staying at home or taking any of the restrictions seriously. This makes the situation even more difficult and we have decided that for now we are not able to put our staff at risk working with this group.

We will continue to offer online support by way of the weekly You Tube workshops and meeting with young people who need support remotely. This will be reviewed in line with the next government announcement.

Youth Endowment Funding

This project continues to deliver its online workshops via YouTube and is still well engaged with by those enrolled. We have 25 young people taking part each week, and have had some very positive feedback by way of case study shared below:

Child on Child Protection plan.

Dropping the ingredients on a regular basis highlighted concerns at the family home that were raised with social worker. Child was removed from family home and placed with other parent. The Cook Along provided a very welcome activity to unite child and parent, they both really enjoyed the cooking process and then sitting down to eat together. With the Cook Along already established I was able to then discuss accessing the food bank and recommend the family for Christmas Food Hamper from the Barnabus Centre.

Looked After Child:

Engaging weekend activity has proved to be really positive, especially when going to respite – gave the young person consistency and something to unite the temporary carers and YP.

Detached work

We have continued to deliver our detached sessions throughout the winter, engagements have slowed as expected in the colder weather but we are still making contact with some young people who are out and about. This is allowed under the NYA guidelines and local police are aware. Information gathered is reported back to Team Shrewsbury

Youth Club Sessions

Open access youth club sessions remain closed following advice from the NYA, and will be reviewed in line with the next government announcement.

Kynaston Road Community Centre

The Youth & Community Development Manager has been working with residents in the Kynaston Road Recreation Ground Area to look at ways of re-establishing the Community Centre which has been closed for a period of time. A new committee has now been formed and the former Treasurer of the existing Committee has offered to stay on as Treasurer. Councillor Jones kindly used some of his Councillor Grant Fund to allow the Committee to become Members of the Shropshire Rural Community Charity so that they could access support and guidance from the Village Halls Adviser. They are looking to set up a Constitution and ensure good governance so that they can in turn seek external support. Housing Plus has given a conditional offer of some funding and the Committee are working on how they might meet the conditions of funding.

One of the first tasks of the Committee will be to organise a building survey to establish exactly how much work does need to be done for the building to be able to reopen. Council might need to consider the level of any ongoing support to this committee if their aspirations of opening the venue up is to be achieved

Filmmaking Equipment

As discussed previously we are currently delivering weekly YouTube cook along and craft along videos, all of which have to be shot and edited on a mobile phone, which is quite challenging and doesn't produce the best quality and sound. Having a proper camera and Mac with editing software would make this a whole lot easier, but will also allow us to start to involve the young people in the AC in the filming and editing of the videos once restrictions begin to lift again. Currently we don't have any equipment suitable to do this.

We would also like to start to encourage the AC group, and when clubs open our general members to start to build a bank of video evidence of what we get up to in the sessions, their own achievements and it would be an excellent way to help to give our young people a voice within the town. This would link really nicely into the work we are doing with The Big Town Plan, and for getting info across to decision makers from the young people directly. It will also be a fantastic tool for consultation work too, for example we wanted to involve young people in the refurbishment of the BMX tracks and play areas. This could all be done via film making and in the current climate with COVID, this is an ideal way to be working.

We talk to our young people, and ask them what they would like to be when they are older and I can tell you that a high number of them will say that they want to be a YouTuber or Vlogger. So it is important that tap into this common interest and encourage our young people to develop those skills. We have made contact with some local production companies who would be able to offer workshops for our young people to help them see how to get the most out of the equipment, and we hope to develop a youth media reporting team, and build a YouTube Channel that really showcases the work that we are doing most importantly provide young people with a platform to make their voices heard in a time of extreme isolation for most.

Big Town Plan

The Youth & Community Manager presented the work of Young Shrewsbury alongside Joe Barratt the Junior Fellow of the Institute of Place Management and a Board Member of the High Streets Task Force. This gave an opportunity to showcase the work of Young Shrewsbury and explore the potential of engaging with young people more of the delivery of a Masterplan which will have generational change.

If members had been unable to log onto the sessions live, they can catch up on the recordings on the Shrewsbury Big Town Plan Festival Website:

[Shrewsbury Big Town Plan Festival](#)