Agenda No

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SHREWSBURY TOWN COUNCIL
COMMUNITIES & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
14 OCTOBER 2026

Officer: ANDY HALL – Youth & Community Manager

Young Shrewsbury Activity

Purpose

To update the Council the work of Young Shrewsbury.

Youth Activities

Youth club sessions at The Grange, Ditherington, The Hive and Lodge Monkmoor resumed successfully after the summer break. Attendance at all four venues has already returned to expected levels, indicating sustained demand and a strong start to the new term. To re-establish engagement quickly and ensure that young people and families are aware of the opportunities available, the team has worked proactively with local schools through visits and assemblies. This outreach has been reinforced by social media activity and direct communication with parents through ParentMail.

Youth Council

Shrewsbury Town Council's Youth Council met at The Grange Youth Centre on Tuesday 29th September. Jake Lewis was re-elected as Chair for a second year, providing valuable continuity, while Eleanor was elected Vice-Chair. The Youth and Community Manager (YCM) also presented his August report, previously delivered to this committee, and updated members on the summer events and Million Hours activities.

Members responded very positively to the Million Hours summer programme, with many having attended at least one event. Their feedback highlighted the programme's value and its potential to provide a strong foundation for broadening the range and reach of youth services, where appropriate and subject to available funding.

Shropshire Youth Advisors

Jake Lewis reported on the Shropshire Youth Advisors' work to strengthen youth voice and engagement across the county. His update covered progress since July, current priorities and next steps. He summarised the work undertaken to develop an effective countywide approach and outlined the group's key areas of focus, agreed communication methods and priorities for the next phase.

Since July, the group has explored how young people's views can more effectively influence decisions and services across Shropshire. Its work has centred on three related priorities:

- Ensuring that young people from across Shropshire are represented

- Identifying ways to improve the effectiveness of youth services across the county
- Embedding youth voice at the heart of service planning and local decision-making

He explained that the group's ideas can help shape communication between current and future youth committees, councils and partnerships across the county. Members also considered how future committees could communicate and recruit participants, agreeing that a blend of informal and formal channels would be most effective. Suggested methods included WhatsApp groups, social media posts, particularly on Instagram, and formal email communication. Using these channels consistently would strengthen communication within youth councils and other groups, broaden participation and improve links between organisations.

The work completed so far provides a practical foundation for stronger youth representation and coordination across Shropshire. By identifying shared issues, establishing effective communication networks and creating a clear route for feedback, the group can support the continued development of youth councils and partnerships throughout the county.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the contents of the report are noted.