



**SHREWSBURY TOWN COUNCIL
COMMUNITIES & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
4 FEBRUARY 2026**

Officer: Andy Hall – Youth and Community Manager

Youth Services

Purpose of Report

To provide an update of Youth Services activities.

Youth Activities

Young Shrewsbury's programme of youth activities resumed in the week commencing Monday 5 January 2026, following the Christmas break. All youth clubs operating at the Grange, Ditherington, The Hive and Monkmoor Lodge have re-opened and are running as scheduled.

Unfortunately, during the first week of re-opening, an incident occurred at the Grange Youth Centre in which a window was damaged. This followed sustained snowball-throwing by four young people, despite repeated requests from staff for them to stop. The matter was reported to the Police, who through information provided by staff, have identified the individuals involved. In agreement with the Police, a Community Resolution Order will be issued, requiring the young people to contribute financially towards the cost of the window repair.

Alternative Curriculum

Delivery of the Alternative Curriculum (AC) continues this term. All current participants are attending from Shrewsbury Academy, and the programme is progressing as planned.

Youth Council

The Youth Council met on 22 January 2026 at the Grange Youth Centre. Attendance was lower than usual due to the number of members being unwell.

The Committee was advised that Councillor Dartnall has stepped down from attending future meetings. The chairman recorded the Council's appreciation for Councillor Dartnall's valued support and past contributions.

The meeting included a presentation from STC Communications Officer, Max Ball, who delivered the final report on the Future Services Survey and the Service Devolution review. Members held a detailed discussion on the findings, noting in particular the low

engagement levels from young people. Notably, one member present had been aware of the survey prior to the meeting.

Following discussion, and through the Chair, the Youth Council agreed in principle to support the proposed devolution of street sweeping, litter picking and public bin collection from Shropshire Council to Shrewsbury Town Council. Members requested that their position be communicated to Full Council for consideration during the decision-making process.

The Youth Council also agreed to hold meetings at a range of council locations including Weeping Cross and the Guildhall to strengthen their understanding of the wider remit and operations of both Shrewsbury Town Council and Shropshire Council.

A submission was made on behalf of the Youth Council to the National Crimebeat Awards 2026. Sadly, the entry was not shortlisted. While we are naturally disappointed that our project was not selected as a finalist, it is important to recognise the efforts made by the Youth Council and that participation provided valuable experience and the efforts of the young people involved are acknowledged with appreciation.

Recruitment

Young Shrewsbury is currently recruiting to fill several vacant Youth Support Worker posts. Interviews are scheduled to take place in February.

Stay Safe Day 2026

Planning is underway for Stay Safe Day 2026, which is provisionally scheduled for Wednesday 25 June – 11.00am – 2.30pm in the Upper Quarry, Shrewsbury. Youth Council considered the following ideas for the event:

- Invite civic leaders (MP, Mayor, High Sheriff) for informal engagement with young people
- Encourage active participation through sports and inflatables
- Improve school engagement and attendance
- Create a clear structure with workshops whilst keeping it fun
- Strengthen partnerships across youth services, sport, safety and local government
- Maintain a relaxed, youth-friendly atmosphere
- Drop-in style Q&A on youth involvement in local politics
- Meet and greet opportunities with civic figures
- Civic leaders rotate through activity zones to keep things relaxed
- Background DJ music throughout the day
- Inflatables such as obstacle courses, sports inflatables, reaction games
- Check with Beth Heath for potential equipment or activity support
- Include local sports clubs for taster sessions (e.g. squash, pickleball, football, basketball, martial arts, athletics)
- Short workshops (20-30 minutes) on wellbeing, personal safety, digital safety, first aid, community involvement, youth democracy

- Share a workshop timetable with schools in advance
- Engage schools early and link to PHSE/citizenship/enrichment
- Explore minibus transport to increase school attendance
- Provide simple catering (free cheeseburger/chicken burgers, BBQ)
- Create a social eating area with seating
- Combine fun, safety education and community partnership in one event

Further details will be brought to Committee as arrangements progress.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the report be noted.