

SHREWSBURY TOWN COUNCIL

**Meeting of the Youth Services Working Group
Held Virtually on Microsoft Teams
At 3.30pm on Wednesday 14 July 2021**

PRESENT

Councillors P Moseley (Chair), B Bentick and D Vasmer.

IN ATTENDANCE

Helen Ball (Town Clerk), Tash Dews (Alternative Curriculum), Adam Purnell (Youth and Community Manager), Amanda Spencer (Deputy Town Clerk).

01/21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None were received.

**02/21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (PECUNIARY & NON-PECUNIARY) IN ACCORDANCE
WITH THE CODE OF CONDUCT**

Shropshire Councillors	Those twin-hatted members declared a personal interest in any matters relating to the Town Council's relationship with Shropshire Council.
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03/21 TERMS OF REFERENCE

Members were asked to note the Terms of Reference for this Committee that had been approved by Full Council on 17 May 2021.

There was a discussion about how the Town Council's Youth Services interacted with other youth services across the town.

RESOLVED:

It was agreed that the Terms of Reference be amended to include the line 'To liaise with Shropshire Council to offer complimentary delivery of youth services across the town'.

04/21 SUMMER HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

Adam Purnell provided an update on the summer holiday activities that Youth Services would be offering in Summer 2021. The service had received funding to offer five days a week for four weeks, although some of this provision would be in the evening. The funding allowed for the provision of activities and food for those attending. The service would be based out of the Grange and would include trips on a Friday.

Councillor Bentick enquired if there were any plans to run youth activities in the south of the town. AP explained that Shropshire Council were planning some in the Quarry.

AP also explained that Youth Services was planning to run two fully funded residential weeks at Longmynd Adventure Camp.

05/21 DETACHED WORK

Adam Purnell explained to the committee that the recruitment of detached workers was currently very difficult due to the number of people becoming qualified. He explained that he, Amanda Spencer and Tash Dews would be meeting shortly to look at long term plans for the service including how best to bridge this gap.

06/21 ALTERNATIVE CURRICULUM

Tash Dews provided an update on the Alternative Curriculum Project, explaining that 44 young people had engaged with the service since it began. The current number enrolled was 15 with 9 more joining in September, which meant that the service was now at full capacity. A waiting list was now in place.

Of those who had participated with the alternative curriculum, the majority were making very good progress.

Councillor Vasmer commended the alternative curriculum programme and said that he would like to see it expanded wherever possible. Amanda Spencer explained that it was very resource intensive but that alternative funding models could be explored.

TD was asked to collate some anonymised case studies to demonstrate the success of the programme.

Councillor Bentick asked if the committee knew the numbers of young people at risk from exclusion. AP explained that the exclusion rate across schools was extremely high, including those who were in receipt of informal short term exclusions, but that the funding for alternative curriculum ended as soon as a young person was permanently excluded. Helen Ball explained that Youth Services were often part of the multi-disciplinary task forces that looked at particular cases and at times the alternative curriculum programme was the only thing these young people engaged with.

07/21 UPDATE ON BOXING PROVISION

Adam Purnell provided an update on progress of boxing provision in conjunction with Shrewsbury Boxing Club. He explained that the club were due to leave the Grange that week but they had not yet signed a lease for the new site as there were outstanding queries regarding business rates.

08/21 EXTERNALLY FUNDED PROJECTS

Adam Purnell provided an update on each for the following projects:

a) Reach out to Music Project – with The Hive – Youth Music funded

AP explained that funding for this programme was due to end in July 2021 but that it had now been extended until Christmas. The provision of funding for the project beyond this date would not be possible so alternative funding would need to be considered if a similar provision was to be considered.

Resolved:

That AP would discuss the future of the programme with The Hive and report back.

b) Youth Endowment Fund Grant

AP explained that this project was due to end this week. The project had been extremely successful in providing food and cookery demonstrations to young people via Zoom within the town throughout the COVID pandemic.

c) Other potential projects

TD, AP and AS would discuss other potential projects at their planning meeting in August and report back at the next meeting.

09/21 SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL – YOUTH SERVICE DELIVERY

Adam Purnell explained that Youth Services were working closely with the newly formed Youth Service team at Shropshire Council.

10/21 WORKING WITH THE BID TO SUPPORT YOUNG PEOPLE OF THE TOWN

The Town Council was currently looking at ways it could engage young people in its decision making activities including the formation of a youth council. The current Mayor was also keen to develop the position of a young mayor.

11/21 YOUTH SERVICES BUDGET

It was noted that the budget would be considered at the next meeting.