

**SHREWSBURY TOWN COUNCIL**

**Meeting of the Youth Services Working Group  
Held at the Grange Youth Centre  
At 3.30pm on Tuesday 5 April 2022**

**PRESENT**

Councillors P Moseley (Chair), B Bentick, C Lemon, E Roberts and D Vasmer.

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Andy Hall (Youth and Community Manager), Helen Ball (Town Clerk), Amanda Spencer (Deputy Town Clerk), Michelle Farmer (Committee Clerk)

**42/21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Andy Watkin (Head of Resources – RFO) and Tash Dews (Alternative Curriculum)

**43/21 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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**44/21 MINUTES OF THE LAST WORKING GROUP MEETING**

To approve the minutes of the Working Group meeting held on 20 January 2022 were submitted as circulated and read.

**RESOLVED:**

That the minutes of the Youth Working Group held on 20 January 2022 be approved and signed as a correct record.

**45/21 UPDATE ON YOUTH ACTIVITY DURING THE SPRING TERM**

Andy Hall updated the Committee on the Spring term activities stating that numbers had improved slightly at the Grange and Sundorne as the weather improved. Young People attending the football session at Monkmoor had risen to 70+ attendees. They are working alongside Embrace with the football sessions and have now split the groups in to Junior & Senior due to the large numbers. As the activity is proving very popular it is a good opportunity to do great youth work. Andy will enquire if the detached team at Shropshire Council could also assist.

The Thursday Youth session has also gone up to an excess of 50 young people and this has now also been split into two sessions – Junior Year 7 & 8 and Senior Year 8 – 11.

There have been five members of staff absent due to Covid which has proved difficult, but all generic sessions have continued.

There is no HAF funding for Easter due to a late application which occurred due to the crossover over of Youth Manager roles, however the Town Council will fund a week of activities to ensure there is provision for young people. Youth Services will be providing organised activities for young people in the town for the first week of the Easter holidays. Activities will take place from 11 April – 14 April from 11am-2pm at the Grange Centre. They will be providing food for those coming along to the activities, which will be a massive boost to families in the current economic climate. They are working with a range of partners including Shropshire Youth Services, Embrace, Shropshire HAF and Kynaston Road Community Centre. The scheme will ensure that young people from age 11-16 will have a range of activities in various locations across the town covering the two week school holiday.

An application will be put in place for the next HAF funding.

#### **46/21 UPDATE ON ALTERNATIVE CURRICULUM WORK**

Some Alternative Curriculum sessions were cancelled as staff were absent due to Covid. The sessions are held on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday Am and Thursday PM.

The current fund for Alternative Curriculum ends in July 2022. The Town Council are looking to create a self-funded programme which, when finalised, will be publicised to all schools at a charge set only to cover costs. An individual learning plan for each young person will be created and agreed with the school in advance.

Councillor Bentick raised the question on provisions for the south of the town. It was agreed that this needs to be looked into to see what can be put in place. The Deputy Town Clerk confirmed that they would like to get the changes to Alternative Curriculum implemented first and then will consider sessions in the south.

Members raised that possible avenues to consider are Autism Education Trust and Schools Forum at Shropshire Council.

#### **47/21 PLANS FOR YOUTH ACTIVITY FOR THE SUMMER TERM**

There will be a joint HAF bid for summer funding submitted along with Shropshire Youth Services, and also joint partnership working with Shropshire Youth, the Darwin Centre and the Police surrounding detached work in the local shopping/town centres and targeted work in the Quarry. The aim is to get more Young people on board and provision of food will be essential during these sessions.

There are plans for taster weeks with local clubs during the summer where young people will have the opportunity to try new things such as fishing, canoeing, tennis, bowling, football to name a few. Andy Hall is currently liaising with Town Council staff and other contacts across the town to see what can be put in place.

#### **48/21 YOUTH SERVICES BUDGET**

The figures provided to Committee were based on the last financial year. Expenditure was up due to grants, but it was agreed it was a balanced budget. The Youth budget is still very limited so they are not in a position to over commit to projects at present.

#### **49/21 NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Youth Services Working Group is Thursday 19 May 2022.