



# YOUTH OFFER PROGRAMME

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

REPORT 52/16

8 AUGUST 2016

The purpose of this paper is to ask Members to consider the current progress of the Isle of Wight Council's Youth Offer Programme and an initial proposal for responding to the current 31 March 2017 end date of the funding for it.

## No. DETAIL

### 1) BACKGROUND

- a) Local authorities have a statutory duty under section 507B of the Education Act 2006 *to secure, as far as is practicable, sufficient services and activities to improve the wellbeing of young people.*
- b) The Island-wide Youth service was one of the services targeted for significant cuts in the Isle of Wight Council's 2014/15 Budget, resulting in the closure of Youth Centres and the replacement of the existing services with a Youth Offer programme funded by £987,880 over the period from 1 October 2014 to 31 March 2017.
- c) Island organisations were invited to bid for a share of that funding in May 2014 and 13 did so successfully, including the Town Council as the only Town and Parish Council to do so.
- d) That Report shows that 2,494 (18%) of the Island's estimated 14,110 11-19 year old young people were registered with one or other of the 13 providers as at 31 March 2016, representing an 8% increase on the situation with the Isle of Wight Council's Youth Service provision at 31 March 2014.
- e) Ventnor Town Council's application was based on assisting three of the Town's already experienced providers of youth opportunities – Ventnor Together's Café 34, the Skate Park and the Exchange to extend their range of activities: 201 young people were recorded as registered with them at 31 March 2016.
- f) The Town Council's grant has funded a 20-hour a week Youth Opportunities Officer, Sessional Youth Work and additional activities provided by the three partners.
- g) As at 31 March 2016, £48,909 of the Town Council's grant had been spent.

### 2) R BEYOND 31 MARCH 2017

- a) There has yet to be any indication from the Isle of Wight Council that the Youth Offer funding will be extended: after considering the Report referred to in 1c) above, the Children's Committee has only asked for a further Report to its January 2017 meeting.
- b) The organisations currently delivering the Youth Offer are –
  - Breakout Youth (Island-wide – LGBT)
  - Central Eltham Project (Sandown)
  - Community Action Isle of Wight
  - The Footprint Trust (Newport)
  - The Foyer (Spectrum Housing Association) – (Ryde, Wootton and Eats Cowes)
  - Island Scouts (Island-wide)
  - Pan Together (Newport)
  - Quay Arts / Vectis Radio (Island-wide)
  - Revive Newport (Newport)
  - South Wight Area Youth Partnership (Rural South Wight)
  - Ventnor Town Council (Ventnor)
  - West Wight Sports Centre (Freshwater & West Wight)
- c) The Partner organisations have held a series of discussions to formulate a plan to continue the Youth Offer beyond April 2017 based on a strategy with two main strands:
  - lobbying the Isle of Wight Council Members to provide funding to continue the

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- Youth Offer; and
    - o setting up an Island-wide organisation to obtain funding for a continuation of the Youth Offer and to continue to share information between youth service providers
  - d) Melvyn Davies of Community Action Isle of Wight was asked to prepare a paper setting out the rules for establishing a *Collaborative Partnership* and giving current providers the opportunity to opt-in to this arrangement.
  - e) A meeting of the Community Youth Offer Providers was held at the Isobel Centre in Newport on the 21 July. In attendance were representatives of Community Action Isle of Wight Breakout Youth, Central Eltham Project, The Footprint Trust, Spectrum Housing, Island Scouts, Pan Together, Quay Arts, South Wight Area Youth Partnership and Ventnor Town Council. A representative from Ryde Town Council was also in attendance.
  - f) At the meeting a document that had been circulated to the partners headed Isle of Wight Youth Offer Collaborative Agreement was discussed. This sets out a model constitution for the organisations that are currently delivering the Youth Offer as a structure for taking forward the project beyond April 2017.
  - g) The agreement would enable the partners to:
    - o share information
    - o apply for funding
    - o co-ordinate efforts
    - o operate independently at a local level
    - o monitor and evaluate the success of the Partnership
  - h) The meeting decided that Partners should give an indication of whether they would like to be part of the Collaborative Partnership by the end of August and have further discussion of the way forward at the next meeting.
  - i) Of the partner organisations present The Footprint Trust, Island Scouts, Pan Together, Quay Arts and Ventnor Town Council expressed an interest in becoming part of the partnership. South Wight Area Youth Partnership were intending to consult their Trustees. Spectrum Housing are no longer able to be participants as a result of the changes to the activities that housing associations area able to carry out. Ryde Town Council are very keen to become involved in the partnership at a future date and take on some of the youth activities delivered in Ryde by Spectrum Housing.
  - j) It was further suggested that Ventnor Town Council become the lead agency as set out in the draft *Collaborative Agreement* attached the this Report.
  - k) A lead partner does not infer any more responsibility, or any voting rights, or any greater share of any funding that is being sought, but it does streamline some of the processes that are required to administer the partnership, particularly around funding and co-ordination.
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### 3) RECOMMENDATION

The Town Council is recommended to resolve to:

- i) agree to join the proposed Collaborative Partnership as the basis for securing a future for the Youth Offer programme;
  - ii) accept the draft Agreement attached to this Report as the basis for that Partnership; and
  - iii) accept the Lead role for the Partnership if requested to do so.
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## **Isle of Wight Youth Offer Collaborative Agreement**

### **1. Purpose of the Agreement**

Partners A, B & C have agreed to work together to support youth work on the Isle of Wight. This agreement describes their understandings and commitments to this collaborative effort.

### **2. Scope and Duration**

Partners will work together to maintain, support and develop the provision of youth work on the Isle of Wight. This agreement will guide the collaboration beginning on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2016. The scope and duration of the collaboration may be amended and/or extended through the joint agreement of the partners by amendments to this agreement.

### **3. Decision-making structure and authority**

All significant decisions regarding the collaboration will require agreement by all collaborative partners. Significant decisions will include decisions regarding eligibility for services provided through collaboration, the nature of the services to be provided, and decisions regarding seeking and using funding to carry out collaborative activities.

The partners will each identify one person within their own organisation to serve on the Joint Steering Committee for the collaboration. Each member of the Joint Steering Committee will be authorised to represent their organisation in joint collaborative decision-making. Each organisation will be responsible for ensuring that the person granted authority to represent their organisation is kept informed regarding the operation of the collaboration and the identification of issues for joint discussion. Each participating organisation will make all parties to the collaboration aware of any limits in the authority of their representative to bind their organisation to collaborative decisions and will establish a clear process for their representative to use to become fully capable of committing the organisation.

The Joint Steering Committee will agree upon an effective structure for operational management of collaborative activities and efforts. Each member of the Joint Steering Committee will keep their organisation informed of collaborative progress and actively seek feedback regarding the collaboration from within their organisation. Leadership Committee members will regularly discuss the progress of their collaborative effort and regularly share feedback from their respective organisations in order to ensure clear communication, issue identification and problem resolution.

### **4. Legal and Financial Structure (Should Funding Be Sought and Received for the Collaboration)**

The Partners will agree that Ventnor Town Council should serve as lead agency for the purposes of seeking, receiving and managing funding for collaborative activities. Ventnor Town Council agrees that all applications for funding will be approved through the collaboration joint decision making process. Ventnor Town Council further agrees that if proposals for collaborative funding are only partially funded, the Joint Steering Committee of the collaboration will determine priorities for the use of funds awarded.

Ventnor Town Council agrees that it will enter into subcontract agreements with other partners specifying the funding that Ventnor Town Council will provide to each organisation and the deliverables which each organisation will provide to the collaboration. Recognising that Ventnor Town Council will be responsible to the funder for the management of funds

and the achievement of collaboration goals, partners agree that X must have final authority over the administration of the subcontract agreements. However, all partners agree that to the greatest extent feasible, Ventnor Town Council will consult with and abide by the joint decisions of the Joint Steering Committee.

## **5. Resource Commitment to the Collaboration**

Each participating organisation has agreed to commit resources to the collaboration. All participating organisations will contribute:

- The time and effort required for consistent representation of and participation by the organisation on the Joint Steering Committee;
- Careful attention to risk assessment and risk mitigation and including maintaining appropriate insurance coverage and ensuring appropriate supervision for staff, and volunteers, and use of facilities and equipment contributed to the collaboration.
- The resources of their organisation required to ensure fulfilment of specific commitments described below;

Specifically, each organisation agrees to provide the resources described below:

- X will provide
- Y will provide
- Z will provide

## **6. Risk Management Strategies**

The partners agree that the Joint Steering Committee will complete an initial risk assessment for the work to be carried out through the collaboration, and will regularly update the assessment as the collaboration is expanded or changed, and review both the analysis and the risk mitigation strategies at least annually.

Each participating organisation will consult with its insurance providers to determine the extent to which the organisation's insurance coverage is needed to mitigate its own risks and to protect the other organisations participating in the collaboration.

The collaborative risk assessment will include, at a minimum, considerations of risks relating to serving programme participants, facilities and equipment, employment, volunteers, financial management, and compliance with funder requirements and applicable law and regulation.

## **7. Accountability Process and Problem Solving:**

The Joint Steering Committee will meet regularly to jointly evaluate the collaboration, including its progress toward meeting collaborative goals. The Partners are committed to open communication with each other with regard to strengths and limitations in the collaboration. The Joint Steering Committee will work together to address weaknesses and to improve outcomes.

## **8. Addition of New Participating Organisations**

The Joint Steering Committee may from time to time recommend the addition of other organisations or statutory organisations to the collaboration. Upon the agreement of all the partners, additional organisation or statutory agencies may be invited to participate in the collaboration. If the invited organisations/ entities decide to participate in the collaboration, the partners will amend this collaboration agreement to include all participating organisations, with all participating organisations sharing equally in the rights and responsibilities described in this agreement.

**9. Termination of this Agreement**

Each participating organisation retains the right to withdraw from the collaboration upon giving the other participants at least 30 days' notice of its decision to withdraw. The withdrawal of any participating organisation from the collaboration shall result in termination of this collaboration agreement. The remaining organisations may choose to enter into a new agreement to guide their continuing work together.

**10. Extension or Amendment of this Agreement**

This agreement may be extended or amended only through unanimous agreement by all the partners. The decision to amend or extend the agreement, and language describing the agreed upon changes, shall be documented in writing, including the date of the amendment/ extension, and the signatures of the representatives of each participating organisation.

This agreement was unanimously adopted by designated representative of partners (list names) on (date). The signature of the chief Executive or Chair of each participating organisation below represents the full commitment of their organisation to participate actively in the collaboration and implement fully all elements in this agreement.

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-----	----- (Date)
-----	----- (Date)
-----	----- (Date)