



The purpose of this report is to provide an update on developments since the last meeting in respect of the Isle of Wight Council's *Youth Offer* and the *Prospectus* issued on its behalf by Community Action Isle of Wight.

**No. DETAIL**

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**1) BACKGROUND**

- a) The decision to achieve an annual saving of £200,000 a year from the Isle of Wight Council's current £943,000 a year Budget for the Island's Youth Service was included in the Budget paper adopted on 26 February 2014 and has prompted the move to a radical restructure of the service.
  - b) The new structure was outlined in a paper – *Youth Offer Report* – presented to and agreed by the Isle of Wight Council's Executive meeting of 8 April 2014 section 41 of which identifies the new basis as:
    - a) *The voluntary and community sector will be commissioned to deliver a universal youth offer, with a particular emphasis on ensuring young people most in need are supported, through a 'commissioning prospectus' approach.*
    - b) *The council will cease to offer universal services directly but will provide funding to commission the voluntary and community sector, drawn from staff savings created through not employing youth workers directly.*
  - c) The paper did not include much of the detail of how that change would be accomplished, but that has now been identified with the publication by Community Action Isle of Wight on 7 May of *A Commissioning Prospectus: Youth Offer Grant Programme 2014-2017* described as *an opportunity for groups, organisations and enterprises of all types to bid for grant funding.*
  - d) Both the *Youth Offer Report* and the *Commissioning Prospectus* are available on the Town Council's web site [here](#).
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**2) CONCERNS**

- a) The Town Council had concerns about the process including the short time scale and the lack of discussion with Town & Parish Councils: these were set out in a letter on 27 May to Steve Handforth, Area Director of Children's Services.
  - b) Both that letter and Steve Handforth's response are attached to this report for information.
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**3) VENTNOR MEETING**

- a) The Town Council also decided to convene a meeting of local organisations and individuals involved with services for young people.
  - b) The meeting took place at St Margaret's Hall at 6.30pm on Wednesday 4 June. Fifteen people from 11 organisations joined the Mayor Jason Mack, Deputy Mayor Leigh Geddes, Councillors Brian Lucas and Stewart Blackmore and the Clerks to discuss the *Prospectus*: the attendance list is also attached to this report.
  - c) Concerns about the short timescales and the relatively limited amount of funding were shared by all and only one project was presented as being in a position to submit a proposal by 30 June.
  - d) The most encouraging aspect of the meeting was the wide range of provision for young people in the town already available from the organisations round the table.
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**4) RECOMMENDATION**

In view of the sensitive nature of proposals at this stage, Members are recommended to note the contents of this Report and agree to continue discussions in the Private Agenda.

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# VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL



Salisbury Gardens, Dudley Road, Ventnor, Isle of Wight PO38 1EJ

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Steve Handforth  
Area Director, Children's Services  
Isle of Wight Council  
County Hall, High Street  
Newport  
Isle of Wight PO30 1UD

27 May 2014

Dear Steve Handforth

I have been asked by last week's meeting of Ventnor Town Council to write to you directly to express our concern at the unacceptably short timescale for the submission of local proposals in response to the Youth Offer Prospectus recently published by Community Action Isle of Wight.

Allowing only seven weeks to work up a proposals from scratch based on voluntary organisations and requiring responsible and serious discussions not only of the activities to be offered but the range of related matters from safeguarding through employment to building management is difficult to understand as other than an unseemly rush to achieve savings at any price.

There is also concern that the further work with Town & Parish Council's promised in the Youth Offer Report approved by the Executive at its meeting of 8 April has yet to take place:

*The council will undertake further work with town and parish council's to explore opportunities for additional match funding for the youth offer. It will ensure further consultation in development of the commissioning prospectus and involvement in the commissioning process. Local council's will be a key part of the future performance management of the local youth offer.*

Meanwhile, Ventnor Town Council has convened a meeting of local voluntary organisations engaged in or concerned about work with young people for Wednesday 4 June.

A further reason for concern about the deadline is that in accordance with the Administration's commitment to localism and their consequent framework for discussions with Town & Parish Councils in the wider context of service devolution, Ventnor Town Council has begun discussions with the Isle of Wight Council's officers about the future ownership and uses for the town's Youth Centre.

David Bartlett  
Town Clerk

CC: Councillor Richard Priest

Our ref: KM/jd

3 June 2014

Mr David Bartlett  
Town Clerk  
Ventnor Town Council  
Salisbury Gardens  
Dudley Road  
Ventnor  
Isle of Wight  
Po38 1EJ

Directorate of Children's Services  
Director **John Coughlan CBE**

*Contact*

**Steve Handforth**  
**Area Director IW**  
Floor 5  
Isle of Wight Council  
County Hall  
Newport  
Isle of Wight  
PO30 1UD

Tel (01983) 821000  
Email [stephen.handforth@iow.gov.uk](mailto:stephen.handforth@iow.gov.uk)  
Web [www.iwight.com](http://www.iwight.com)

Dear Mr Bartlett

Thank you for your letter dated 27 May 2014 regarding Ventnor Town Council's concerns in relation to the youth offer commissioning process.

Whilst understanding your concerns, the commissioning timescale is in line with other funding prospectuses the council has launched. We have tried to ensure that town and parish councils have been fully briefed regarding the council's intentions for the youth offer throughout the process, which started in January 2014.

The council undertook an extensive consultation between 20 January and 28 February 2014. The consultation highlighted proposed changes in the way the youth offer was delivered on the Isle of Wight. Key to the proposal was that the council would cease to deliver an in house youth service from October 2014 and that instead voluntary and community organisations would be commissioned to deliver the youth offer. Town and Parish Councils were invited to attend 4 meetings where the proposals were explained in detail and there was an opportunity to feed into the consultation. In addition the presentation was sent to all town and parish councils with a link to the online consultation.

The Executive approved the proposal to commission the voluntary and community sector on 8 April 2014 and the funding prospectus was launched a month later on 8 May 2014.


As part of development of the new youth offer we have funded a Youth Offer Development Officer, based at Community Action Isle of Wight to work with organisations and groups wishing to submit a bid. We would recommend that all groups, intending to make a bid, contact this officer to access support, information and guidance regarding the process. They will be able to support organisations in relation to requirements on safeguarding, employment matters and provide links to the relevant council officers in relation to buildings issues. (Contact details: Trudy Shephard, [TShephard@actioniw.org.uk](mailto:TShephard@actioniw.org.uk), Tel: 01983 524058).

Town and parish council's made it clear during the consultation period that as precepts were set for the 2014-15 financial year they would not be in a position to offer match funding in relation to the youth offer. We therefore removed this requirement from the commissioning prospectus. We are however advising all those considering making a bid to speak with their local town or parish councils and to seek their endorsement. Town and parish councils will be able to express their support through endorsing a bid or offering further funding/resources over the 2.5 years length of the contracts.

In relation to local councils being a key part of the performance management of the local youth offer, we are in the process of recruiting to a quality and performance officer role. This role will develop the performance management framework and will work with town and parish council's to ensure that you are part of the process and have clear roles and responsibilities in monitoring performance locally.

If you have any further queries please let us know.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steve Handforth', written in a cursive style.

**Steve Handforth**  
**Area Director (IW)**



# YOUTH OFFER MEETING

WEDNESDAY 4 JUNE 2014 : 6:30PM – ST MARGARET'S HALL

<i>Organisation</i>	<i>Representative</i>
<i>Skateboard Park</i>	<i>Fred Woodworth</i>
<i>Skateboard Park</i>	<i>John Baldry</i>
<i>St Albans Church</i>	<i>Jackie Burden</i>
<i>Street Pastors</i>	<i>Nava Young</i>
<i>Street Pastors</i>	<i>Mick Young</i>
<i>Ventnor Baptist Church</i>	<i>John Walker</i>
<i>Ventnor Cricket Club</i>	<i>Keith Newnham</i>
<i>Ventnor Fringe</i>	<i>Mhairi Macaulay</i>
<i>Ventnor Golf Club</i>	<i>Stewart Blackmore</i>
<i>Ventnor Music for Fun Festival</i>	<i>Helen Foster</i>
<i>Ventnor Music for Fun Festival</i>	<i>Hannah Larkin</i>
<i>Ventnor Rugby Club</i>	<i>Roger Evans</i>
<i>Ventnor Sea Kayaking</i>	<i>Rob Chuter</i>
<i>Ventnor Sea Kayaking</i>	<i>Nick Hargreaves</i>
<i>Ventnor Together</i>	<i>Jane Dobbas</i>
<i>Ventnor Town Council</i>	<i>Jason Mack</i>
<i>Ventnor Town Council</i>	<i>Leigh Geddes</i>
<i>Ventnor Town Council</i>	<i>Brian Lucas</i>
<i>Ventnor Town Council</i>	<i>David Bartlett</i>
<i>Ventnor Town Council</i>	<i>Alison Killick</i>