

YSWG/01/21

Oswestry Town Council

Minutes of a meeting of the Youth Services Working Group held on Monday 15th February 2021 at 6.00 pm via zoom.

Present: The Mayor Councillor D Kerr
Councillors M Isherwood, and J Moore

In the Chair: Councillor J Moore

Also in Attendance: Arren Roberts, Town Clerk
Richard Parkes – Chief Executive SYA
Simon Clay – SYA
Lynne Taylor – SYA
Andy Haller - Youth Support Area Lead (North)
Shropshire Council

1. Appointment of Chair

It was **resolved** that Councillor J Moore was appointed as Chairman of the Working Group.

2. Apologies

It was **resolved** to note no apologies had been given.

3. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests

To receive declarations under consideration on this agenda in accordance with the Localism Act 2011 s32 and The Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012.

It was **resolved** that there were no disclosure of pecuniary interests declared.

4. Youth Services Contract

The Chair invited SYA to provide an update on their work to date. It was noted that a contract monitoring report had been circulated to all Councillors earlier in the day and that the verbal update would build upon the information provided.

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The contract, which had been delayed due to the pandemic, is delivered in partnership with TNS Foundation Trust and the Qube. Services have been delivered since September 2020, with some restrictions in place, as youth sector providers are allowed to provide support and services to vulnerable young people indoors. It was noted that due to restrictions the arts activities had not been delivered as planned and these would be carried forward. The contract was awarded on a 12 month basis with an option to extend for a further 24 months.

Simon Clay and Lynne Taylor provided an overview of their youth work which highlighted:

- Their established relationship with young people in Oswestry which meant that they could talk/listen and signpost young people.
- The outreach work, delivered over two evenings per week and which covered all areas of Oswestry;
- That although numbers appeared low, they were working with a regular cohort of young people;
- Concerns regarding substance misuse and associated issues;
- That some young people find remote schooling difficult;
- That the Centre is seen by young people as a positive space (especially the kitchen) and it was seen as a critical part of service delivery;
- Changes to youth services has had an impact on young people.

5. Shropshire Council Youth Provision

The Working Group was joined by Andy Haller who is Shropshire Council's Youth Support Area Lead (North). Andy provided an overview of the focus of the new team and their work to date. This highlighted:

- The recruitment to the new team;
- The positive links being made with schools;
- Opportunities to work together to develop youth and community work.

6. Next Steps and Recommendations

A discussion ensued highlighting the need in the community for an improved youth offer and the potential to work in partnership to deliver on this including the development of other support programmes.

It was **resolved** to recommend to Council that:

- The contract with SYA (as the lead organization) is extended until March 2023;
- Officers liaise to reprofile the budget and delivery plan;
- Priority should be given to supporting young people deal with issues such as substance misuse, healthy relationships, etc;
- An invitation is extended to SYA and Shropshire Council Youth Support team to join the working group as non-voting members;
- That the partnership seeks to develop and support a Youth Forum;
- The Youth Services Working Group will meet in June 2021 to undertake the spring term contract monitoring.

Councillor J Moore
Chairman