

# Appendix E

## Notes of the Youth Services Contract Monitoring Meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2020

**Present** Councillor Isherwood  
Richard Parkes – Shropshire Youth Association  
Gill Jones – TNS Football Foundation  
Jim Creed - QUBE

**Also present** Arren Roberts - Town Clerk

### 1. Purpose of the meeting

Following introductions, the Town Clerk noted that the purpose of the meeting was to consider the delivery of the contract since September 2020 and to discuss the impact of the second lockdown.

### 2. Overview of contract

There are a number of elements delivered through the contract between SYA and Oswestry Town Council which is predominately youth work driven with aspects of sports and arts provision. In addition TNS Foundation provide holiday activities and the social inclusion football.

Following a successful tender process which was agreed by Council in March 2020, the contract was signed and had a delayed start due to Covid-19 commencing in September 2020.

### 3 Update

Staff training to update detached youth work qualification as it was not possible to deliver youth work indoors.

Detached youth work at various locations in the town and feedback from youth worker is that this enabled contact with those young people who needed support e.g. excluded or at risk of exploitation. This work was seeing engagement with 15-25 young people per session and was positively received.

Youth club open for two weeks prior to lockdown – only one person has turned up. There are a number of issues given for this, but it is clear that

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more needs to be done to communicate the service. A summary from the lead youth worker is shown at **Appendix (i)**.

The New Saints FC Foundation delivered holiday activity provision in October half term in the form of a 2-hour Street Football session on the afternoon of 28th October - on Oak Street MUGA. In spite of the poor weather, it was well attended - with 15 young people participating throughout the afternoon.

### 4. Lockdown

Some initial guidance had been provided by Government meaning that only one to one plus small support groups could operate. The Youth Club cannot operate.

The TNS Foundation have been supporting the detached youth work which has provided some additional capacity for this work. The Social Inclusion Football has been disrupted and will not be permitted under the published guidance. Once permitted it will now run on Sunday afternoons.

Whilst the Qube's cultural aspect to the work has not started the creative sessions will include both music and writing activities with the aim of these being introductions to longer running Qube projects.

### 5. Additionality

Richard from SYA referenced work in Market Drayton called the "Heads Up Project" which was aimed at supporting health well-being.

Information is provided at **Appendix (ii)**. It is hoped that this service in some form could be delivered in the Oswestry area and sources of funding were being investigated.

TNS Foundation highlighted that they had secured funding for portable floodlights and to support additional training.

### 6. Next Steps and Action

Town Council to request continuation of detached youth work for the period of the lockdown as this work has provided some much needed support. The Town Clerk will conform this in writing to SYA.

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Town Council signpost to the Oswestry Youth Club Facebook page  
<https://www.facebook.com/Oswestry-Youth-Club-1715439245413970> .

Contract monitoring meeting in January to review the Autumn Term delivery.

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## Appendix (i)

We have had two sessions within the Centre (14th and 21st of October) - with one vulnerable young person attending. This child came to sessions prior to lockdown and was previously difficult to manage. We have seen a change with him since coming back to the sessions and we have had the opportunity to do some quality work with him about relationships, school and his behaviour at home and within the community.

Within both these sessions we have also given out over 20 registration forms to be completed- so they can attend future sessions. It has also been an opportunity to talk through COVID restrictions and how the sessions will function from now on. Some young people have said they are keen to come back, whilst others have stated that the sessions are not the same and they won't be returning.

We have also been able to meet with lots of young people outside the Centre and have had the opportunity to build upon previously built relationships. We have been encouraging young people to come back to the session and have talked about wearing masks, etc. The word is definitely out there about sessions recommencing and we have seen the same young people on a weekly basis- albeit outside the centre.

With COVID restrictions and working practices in place we have had to be firm about young people entering the building without masks. We hope over time that they will get used to this new set up and will start to join in the sessions.

In reality we have only been 'open' for the last few weeks and we are sure the numbers will increase over time.

Prior to using the Centre, we have done a number of outreach sessions within Oswestry. (Park, Skate park, back of Sainsburys, and around the MUGA). We have regularly been in contact with young people and have had the opportunity to do some good work with them.

There are still ongoing concerns about substance misuse in the community and conversations around this have been ongoing with the young people. As we have good relationships with most of the young people in Oswestry, we are able to have these conversations, offer support and challenge where needed.

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In conjunction with TNS we have met up with young people on the park and have promoted the sessions at the Centre. We have also arranged to meet with young people the following week - which they have turned up for.

Although we are working within different restrictions, we are still in the position to build up good relationships with young people and provide support, guidance and a listening ear.

Many of the young people we are meeting are not in school (excluded), have issues at home and are in unhealthy relationships. Some of the young people we have met recently have a social worker attached to them and they are on Child Protection Plans.

We have also been talking weekly with some girls who have been meeting up with younger male adults from Park Hall. These girls are previous members, who feel comfortable in talking to myself and Lynne. From a safeguarding perspective this is good- as they could be at risk of CSE.

Throughout the detached weeks we were probably meeting between 15- 25 young people a session. (Often the same young people, but on occasion new faces).

There are lots of young people 'out' in Oswestry at the moment and without doubt, COVID has had an influence on how they access sessions within the Centre. However, it is early days and as previously mentioned we anticipate an increase in numbers.

There is very much a need to support young people at the moment, and the feedback we have had from young people is that they have found lockdown and new measures difficult to deal with. We are continuously talking to young people about the current restrictions and they feel at ease to talk about their feelings, etc.

It is a strange time to be doing youth work in Oswestry and moving forward I think local communities will see a deterioration in young people's health and wellbeing, therefore, the work and support we can offer, is really important and it provides a safe outlet for many vulnerable within the Oswestry area.

Within the Centre we have played pool, and games that can be easily kept clean. (Ensuring social distancing is in place)



The “Heads Up Project” is an early intervention project, designed by SYA’s “Shropshire Young Health champions project”. The aim is to help young people understand different aspects of emotional health & wellbeing. It was originally written and trialled with pupils from The Community College, Bishops Castle and has been adapted to create this new project.

### How the project works

There are two aspects to the provision:

1. We offer a **safe space drop-in** service for young people aged 10 to 18.
  - a. It will be staffed by qualified and experienced youth workers.
  - b. The space will be friendly, warm, comfortable and safe where young people can relax and talk to appropriate adults who will listen and support them.
  - c. The team will utilise small group work techniques to enable young people to explore their feelings, worries, concerns and aspirations with a view to developing coping strategies to help them move forward.
  - d. Refreshments will be available to help create a welcoming environment.
2. Each week we will explore a specific issue related to emotional health & wellbeing, for example:
  - a. Stress
  - b. Stigma
  - c. Self-Esteem
  - d. General mental health
  - e. Feeling low
  - f. Anxiety

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- g. We will work with young people to develop additional subjects as need arises, such as living through the pandemic

These sessions have been shared with Shropshire council' PHSE advisor and Public Health which means we can advertise the subject areas in advance so that other agencies can signpost young people to them.

We will also offer support to individuals and small groups who drop-in because they want to talk about other issues and concerns that are affecting their emotional health & wellbeing.

### Confidentiality

The information shared by young people in the session will be treated sensitively and confidentially within usual safeguarding guidelines, that is to say, if staff regard the information shared to be important to the safety of the individual or others, they have a duty to share it through safeguarding channels.

### What we don't do:

- We are not counsellors and therefore do not offer counselling services
- This project is NOT a referral pathway to CAMHS

### Project Specifics:

- The Drop-in sessions will last 2.00 hours once a week for 46 weeks a year (full year less holidays)
- The project costs £12,000.00 + vat per year plus the venue hire costs
- This pays for:
  - A leader in charge
  - 2 youth support workers
  - Resources & refreshments (£20.00 per session)
  - Insurance
    - £5M Public liability, employers and professional indemnity.
  - Managerial support
  - Access to SYA's equipment & training offer.

If you would like to discuss this project please contact Richard Parkes at [richard@sya.org.uk](mailto:richard@sya.org.uk)