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Oswestry Town Council

Report from the Town Clerk to Council – Wednesday 26th August 2020

Youth Services

Purpose

To consider the arrangements for the commencement of the youth services work, tendered by the Council in early 2020.

Background

The minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee on 2nd March 2020 record the following decision

“It was noted that whilst there were risks associated with the commissioning of services that there are opportunities to grow and develop provision through improved co-ordination of activity and potential grants.

It was resolved to accept the recommendations made by the Youth Services Working Group:

To approach Shropshire Council to discuss all available options for ensuring dedicated resource from the new team in Oswestry;

That the Council accepts the tender submission received;

That the Council contracts with SYA for the delivery of services as set out in their submission for a value of £30,000;

That the contract is offered for an initial 12 months with an option for an extension for a further 24 months;

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That the Youth Services Working Group be the accountable body for monitoring the service and report onwards to the Finance and General Purposes Committee;

That a detailed document is produced setting out the data required for contract monitoring purposes.”

As a reminder this would have provided:

- A **junior club** led by SYA and have Qube and/or The New Saints FC Foundation staff delivering activities weekly to meet the needs of young people,
- A **senior’s drop** in for young people in school years 10 and above. Led by 2 staff from SYA and one from The New Saints FC Foundation or Qube as appropriate.

- **Holiday provision**
 - 9 weeks of school holiday activities (Easter, May half term, Summer, Oct half term - when the youth clubs are closed) in two locations in the town - the sessions would have been for 3 hours, and include a free healthy meal,
 - Arts run by Qube 8 x 2hour sessions.

- **Oswestry Social Inclusion Football League**

As a result of the pandemic, none of these activities have taken place. In line with schools opening and the advice of the National Youth Agency, discussions have been taking place with the successful provider for the commencement of the contract and the delivery of services under the successful tender proposal.

Shropshire Council

The Council’s decision to support youth services was made, in part, following a change of policy by the Unitary Council. The most recent update is provided below:

Shropshire Council – youth support - Following extensive consultation last year, Shropshire Council proposed changes to the delivery of support for young people across Shropshire. The report submitted to and agreed by cabinet in January recommended a phased implementation of a team of detached youth workers across the county, whose aim would be to focus on our vulnerable young people at risk of exploitation and criminal activity. This team would be introduced as town and parish councils came on board with the new proposals to directly commission and fund open access youth clubs previously funded via LJC arrangements. All to be in place by end of March 2021.

Covid 19 has impacted on the above proposals – and Children’s Services has adjusted plans to ensure young people continue to get the support they require. With this in mind we feel it is prudent to continue to fund the open access youth clubs until the end of the financial year, in areas where new commissioning arrangements have stalled due to the current situation, which will allow all town and parish councils additional time to consider future commissioning arrangements. Children’s Services will now recruit the team of detached youth workers in one go, and these posts will be going out to advert in the coming weeks. We would hope that this team will be in post by the end of the year at the latest and will then be able to support local planning of youth delivery from April 2021.

Given the delay in establishing their new arrangements, Shropshire Council have agreed to making a financial contribution to the delivery of services in Oswestry. The final figure has yet to be agreed but it would be in the region of £9,000.

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Moving Forward

The Council as a Commissioner, and SYA as the provider, recognise that there is a need to begin to provide support for young people as soon as practicably possible. Plans will need to be flexible and will need to be adapted as situations arise, however, subject to confirmation by this Council, and any changes to Government advice, the contract with SYA will commence on 1st September 2020. Initially in the following ways:

1. 2 sessions of youth work weekly as per the contract. Adapted for Covid-19 social distancing by meeting outside in the first instance, and then being allowed back into "The Centre". Junior club 4.45 to 6.45. Senior drop in 7.00 to 9.00pm
2. Social inclusion football will restart subject to Covid-19 advice on sporting activity

Discussions are ongoing with Shropshire Council regarding the re-opening of the Centre.

A Covid Ready risk assessment for SYA (Using the Government template) has been completed and will be subject to review.

Contract

A draft contract is shown at **Appendix (i)** to this report; this contract will run to 31st March 2021 (the end of the financial year).

Sessional monitoring forms are collated by SYA in order to collate the emerging trends and then develop informal education activities to address these issues in clubs. This information will be provided to the Youth Working Group as part of their role in monitoring the contract.

Benefits

The Council's approach, albeit at the very start of its involvement in youth services, is already highlighting potential benefits through partnership working. For example, projects being facilitated by the Qube such as the Young Writers Project and the Youth Music Project can be offered as taster sessions to young

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people attending youth clubs. This will help to reduce some of the barriers to participation.

Recommendations

In line with previous decisions made by Council, elected Members are asked to confirm that the contract can be issued and that services can commence.

Arren Roberts

Town Clerk

Appendix (i)

Oswestry Town Council – Youth Services Contract Agreement and Monitoring

Oswestry Town Council are pleased to have appointed SYA to deliver open access youth activities in Oswestry. Elected Members have made this significant decision to commission services which is consistent with their aspiration to support young people in the town. It is therefore important that the Council monitors the performance of the contractor and understands whether its services meet the needs and aspirations of young people.

Deliverables:

The provider is expected to:

1. Deliver a weekly junior and senior session (2 hours each) and the other elements of their submission as agreed with the Council.
2. Provide a Level 3 qualified youth support worker and a Level 2 qualified youth support worker at every session as a minimum, or equivalent qualifications in the case of sports and arts work
3. Report any safeguarding concerns to Shropshire's Children's Services and attend appropriate meetings regarding individual young people where concerns have been identified. The provider must have an awareness of and comply with Shropshire's Children Safeguarding protocols
www.safeguardingshropshireschildren.org.uk
4. Handle information securely and efficiently, in compliance with data protection legislation.
5. Establish a strong and effective working relationship with Shropshire Council's Youth Support Team in order to provide young people with an integrated offer.
6. Establish strong and effective working relationships with partner agencies and organisations that provide support to young people.
7. Build a positive working relationship with the Town Council.

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8. Work with the Town Council to promote the service to encourage participation
9. Work with the Town Council to identify other opportunities to support the young people of Oswestry.
10. Provide the Town Council with copies of employer's and professional insurance for the worker and appropriate insurance for the delivery of the youth activity/club.
11. Adhere to and provide the Town Council with copies of policies and procedures appropriate to running a youth club, to include Child Protection and Health and Safety.

Requirements:

The provider must:

- Obtain consent before making significant changes to the service;
- Act lawfully in carrying out the project;
- Acknowledge Oswestry Town Council as the commissioner in any publicity material/information;
- Keep accurate and comprehensive records;
- Allow reasonable access to premises and records to inspect the project;
- Inform the Council of any risks that will have an impact on the Council;
- Not do anything that brings the Council into disrepute.

Payment:

Payment will be made quarterly in advance, subject to receipt of satisfactory invoice.

Outcomes

Oswestry Town Council developed a set of aspirational outcomes to for this service and the contractor is requested to include data and examples against these when reporting performance.

Young People:

- Are supported;
- Are socially responsible and engaged;
- Recognise the need to contribute.

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Services:

- Provide support;
- Provide positive exit routes for those who need support;
- Encourage leadership, promote engagement and positive contribution;
- Provide activities which young people want to attend.

Monitoring

The Town Council wish to build a positive working relationship with the provider and this will be based on open and honest dialogue using data and information collected by the provider.

It is a requirement that you will provide the Town Council with a termly monitoring report, which evidences quality assurance of the local provision and meet termly with the Town Council to discuss and agree delivery requirements for the coming term. This will be carried out by the Youth Services Working Group who will report back to full Council and who will (with the necessary arrangements in place) attend a session to hear from the young people themselves.

Feedback from service users

Please provide a summary of the results of service user feedback and let us know how you have collected the information.
Please provide an example/case study of service user involvement/feedback against the Councils aspirational outcomes (as set out in this document)
Is there any specific service user feedback/compliments that you wish to share?
Please report any service user complaints/serious incidents e.g. safeguarding and health and safety issues

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Outputs Reporting

List below the individual activities that took place this quarter.	No. of people benefited

We are asking you to collect this information to help inform future commissioning activity

About the Young People

Total number of individual young people who have benefited from services =

Average attendance =

Broken down into

Junior =

Senior =

Other programmes =

% of young people from Oswestry Town

Any additional information you wish to provide?

We are asking you to provide this information to help us assess whether the services commissioned are the right services to commission

Variation to service

Has there been any variation to the service that you were commissioned to provide in this quarter and what actions are you planning in responses? (for example, service developments, changes of venues, sessions cancelled due to bad weather, fewer attendees than anticipated, etc.)

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