

**SHREWSBURY TOWN COUNCIL**

**Meeting of the Youth Services Working Group  
Held Virtually on Microsoft Teams  
At 3.30pm on Wednesday 20 January 2022**

**PRESENT**

Councillors P Moseley (Chair), B Bentick, E Roberts and D Vasmer.

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Adam Purnell (Youth and Community Manager), Amanda Spencer (Deputy Town Clerk), Michelle Farmer (Committee Clerk) and Andy Hall (incoming Youth and Community Manager).

**33/21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Helen Ball, (Town Clerk), Andy Watkin (Head of Resources – RFO) and Tash Dews (Alternative Curriculum).

**34/21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (PECUNIARY & NON-PECUNIARY) IN ACCORDANCE  
WITH THE CODE OF CONDUCT**

Shropshire Councillors	Those twin-hatted members declared a personal interest in any matters relating to the Town Council's relationship with Shropshire Council.
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**35/21 MINUTES OF THE LAST WORKING GROUP MEETING**

To approve the minutes of the Working Group meeting held on 18 November 2021 were submitted as circulated and read.

**RESOLVED:**

That the minutes of the Youth Working Group held on 18 November 2021 be approved and signed as a correct record.

**36/21 INTRODUCTION OF THE NEW YOUTH AND COMMUNITY MANAGER**

The Deputy Town Clerk introduced Andy Hall to the Committee. Andy will be starting his role as Youth and Community Manager from the 1 March 2022, as Adam Purnell will be leaving the role at the end of February 2022.

Andy and Adam will liaise together over the coming weeks to complete the handover.

Andy informed the Committee of his current working role and the experience he has within the Youth Service. He has known Adam for some time through working with NCS and Shropshire Council Youth Team. Andy went into Further Education and worked for County Training as part of Shropshire

Council, which was then taken over by Hereford, Ludlow and North Shropshire College. His role was a key worker and tutor with 16–18-year-olds on the advanced study programme. This helped Young People get back into education and to obtain the functional skills required to get them into the work market.

Andy hopes to bring his experience to the role and is looking forward to working with the Town Council and the Youth Services team.

Andy will also be involved in the current Youth Worker interviews which are taking place w/c 24 January 2022. There are two/three evening slots available, but this will be decided at a later date.

### **37/21 UPDATE ON YOUTH ACTIVITY DURING THE AUTUMN TERM**

Adam updated the committee on the number of attendees at the Grange. These were lower than expected at the moment which it was thought was partly due to Covid.

Adam informed the Committee that the football sessions held at Monkmoor are very busy with consistent numbers each week. They have needed to employ two sports workers to help run the session due to the popularity. In the Summer, further investigation may be required to investigate the possibility of some sub work to help with the high volume of attendance and an alternative location may need to be sought for the activity. The sessions are a good opportunity for growth and Andy may wish to discuss with Helena's team at Shropshire Council to see if there could be a collaboration.

Monkmoor Youth Club is also busy following the football as once the session finishes, the Young People attend the Youth club straight after. Grange football sessions are not as busy, but attendance is steady.

Overall, Adam was happy with the attendance for the centres especially during Covid as it has not been consistent for two years, so the fact they are getting the numbers they are is very good.

Masks are no longer required along with other restrictions which have been lifted so hopefully some normality can resume.

Councillor Bentick enquired if Shrewsbury Town in the Community had any involvement and if this was an avenue that could be considered. Adam explained that their paths do cross but capacity and staffing was an issue. This could be an option to look at in the future as a possible collaboration and for additional support.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

That the contents of the report are noted.

### **38/21 UPDATE ON ALTERNATIVE CURRICULUM WORK**

Adam provided a brief update on Alternative Curriculum. They received new recruits in January, who have settled in well. It is currently running all day Monday and Tuesday, half days on Wednesday and all day Thursday. As it is busy, there is no room for any extra slots due to limited staffing. There is

the possibility of some spaces for some new young people but only if they can drop into some of the existing sessions. Tash has had a number of referrals come in which she is working through and slotting in where appropriate. Alternative Curriculum is still very popular and the Young People who attend are being retained and they are achieving.

Councillor Bentick suggested a newsletter to show what is available for Young People in Shrewsbury to go primarily to all schools and local Facebook groups and local press. Councillor Roberts informed the Committee that this information is already out there at schools and suggested that the best solution would be social media and the Shrewsbury Town Council website, posting regular updates to ensure Young People are getting the correct information.

**RESOLVED:**

Funding for the alternative curriculum programme needs to be a focus in coming months. The Committee will also look at the possibility of providing more information to Young People via the Shrewsbury Town Council website and social media pages. Information could also be provided at the Youth Centres.

**39/21 PLANS FOR YOUTH ACTIVITY FOR THE SPRING TERM**

Plans for the Spring term will be similar to those already in place. Adam is prepared to come back to help with Cooking and Fishing sessions. Andy and Adam will meet to discuss further.

**40/21 NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Youth Services Working Group is Thursday 17 March 2022.

**41/21 OTHER BUSINESS**

Councillor Roberts informed Committee that she had received notification from the Police regarding children on railway tracks around Harlescott, Monkmoor and Meole Brace. This is a very large risk and the issue had been highlighted to parents. Councillor Roberts asked Committee if this was an issue that could be addressed.

**RESOLVED:**

It was agreed that this information would be raised with Team Shrewsbury to make sure they were aware of this. It is was also suggested to investigate the possibility to co-ordinate with Helena at Shropshire Council regarding this.