



The purpose of this paper is to provide Members with the background to a verbal report on the Youth Offer Programme by the Town Council's Community Development Officer, Tony McCarthy.

No. DETAIL

1) BACKGROUND

- a) The Isle of Wight Council closed its Youth Service with effect from 1 October 2014 as part of its Budget reduction programmes and in its place allocated a total of £200k for the remainder of that financial year and of £400k for each of the next two years to be available to third sector organisations and Town and Parish Councils to apply for to provide services and activities appropriate for young people in the 11 -19 age-group, extended to age 24 for those with special needs.
 - b) Applications were invited in June 2014 to the programme branded as the Youth Offer.
 - c) An application based on partnership working with Ventnor Together, Ventnor Fringe and Ventnor Skate Park Group involving an extension of their current provision supported by the Town Council's employment of a 20-hour a week Youth Opportunities Officer was submitted by the Town Council.
 - d) The application in a total of £86,833 over the 2½ year period - £17,367 for 2014/16 and £34,733 for each of 2015/16 and 2016/17 was successful.
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2) VENTNOR'S YOUTH OFFER

- a) Ventnor's Youth Offer programme is managed by our Community Development Officer Tony McCarthy supported by two staff recruited for the programme and funded by it: Youth Opportunities Officer Laura Reid and Sessional Youth Worker Charlotte Denness who is also the Safeguarding Officer for the programme.
 - b) Tony McCarthy will attend the meeting to report directly to Members on developments with the programme.
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3) FUTURE FUNDING

- a) Members will be aware that the Budget cuts due to be determined by the Isle of Wight Council's Full Council Meeting of 24 February include a potential 50% reduction in its funding of the Youth Offer Programme for 2016/17.
 - b) The Funding Agreement allows for this possibility, subject to giving three months' notice of its implementation.
 - c) The possibility of such a reduction in the programme's final year and planning for sustainability beyond 31 March 2017 are both under discussion within the programme's providers and the Town Council's staff team.
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