



The purpose of this report is to provide Members with the latest information on developments in the Town Council's response to the Isle of Wight Council's decision to close down the Island's current Youth Service on 30 September 2014.

## **No. DETAIL**

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### **1) BACKGROUND**

#### *The Youth Offer*

- a) The Isle of Wight Council has decided to close its current Youth Service provision with effect from 1 October this year as part of its achievement of the required cuts to its Budget of £28M by 2016/17.
- b) In its place it has allocated a total of £1,000,000 made up of £200,000 for the remainder of this financial year from 1 October and of £400,000 for each of the next two financial years. Under the heading of the Youth Offer, third sector organisations and Town and Parish Councils were invited to apply for funding to provide services and activities appropriate for young people in the 11 -19 age-group, extended to age 24 for those with special needs.
- c) The Town Council submitted 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 on the final day for receipt, 30 June 2014.

#### *The Youth Centre*

- d) The closure of the Island-wide Youth Service also meant the closure of Ventnor's Youth Centre on 30 September 2014.
  - e) The Town Council had already registered its interest in the retention of the building for the benefit of the town by successfully nominating it as an Asset of Community Value under the provisions of the Localism Act 2011.
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### **2) THE YOUTH OFFER**

- a) In a letter dated 28 July from Kathy Marriott, Service Manager Early Help of the Isle of Wight Council's Directorate of Children's Service the Town Council learned that its application for a total of £86,833 over the 2½ year period - £17,367 this year and £34,733 in each of the next two.
  - b) The letter is attached for Members' information.
  - c) Our identified partners are delighted and an initial meeting with them is being arranged for the week following the Carnival/Fringe celebrations.
  - d) A meeting of the Town Council's Staffing Committee on Thursday 7 August agreed the Job Description, Person Specification and Recruitment procedure for the two posts provided for within the funding: a 20-hour a week Youth Opportunities Officer and a 6-hour a week Sessional Youth Worker.
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### **3) THE YOUTH CENTRE**

- a) Following helpful and positive advice from the Isle of Wight Council's Ashley Curzon, Strategic Manager Economic Development and Astrid Davies, Commissioning Manager for Building Community Capacity, discussions are underway with a view to the Town Council taking responsibility for the management of the Youth Centre under a Tenancy at Will.
  - b) It is hoped that this will be in place in time for a seamless change on 1 October as that will mean that existing and future bookings of the building can be secured and the potential for its connection with the delivery of the Youth Offer funding fully explored.
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Date 28 July 2014

Directorate of Children's Services  
Director **John Coughlan CBE**

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Dear David

Thanks for your organisations application and presentation to the Youth Offer panel.

I am pleased to confirm that following the panel's evaluation of your bid, your application has been successful.

Following our initial discussion last week I can confirm that we propose to award Ventnor Town Council £86,833 over the next 2.5 years.

We will be working with you over the next month to finalise the funding arrangements and we will be in touch shortly regarding the funding agreement.

Trudy Shephard at Community Action is undertaking a training needs analysis with all selected providers as we aim to deliver a support programme to develop capacity across the island. She will also be providing you with details of the 'Safeguarding Policy' master class that I mentioned as part of our discussion last week.

On behalf of the panel I would like to pass on our congratulations on being awarded funding, in what was a highly competitive process. I hope you will join me in celebrating and supporting the youth offer across the Island. Your organisation will play a key role in reshaping youth provision on the island and will form part of a network of agencies improving outcomes for young people.

If you have any further queries please contact Trudy Shephard ([TShephard@actioniw.org.uk](mailto:TShephard@actioniw.org.uk)).

Yours sincerely



Kathy Marriott  
Service Manager-Early Help