



The purpose of this paper is to summarise the developments with the Youth Offer programme and the Youth Centre and to ask Members to consider a proposal for the renaming of it.

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**No. DETAIL**

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**1) CONTEXT**

- a) The Isle of Wight Council's Island-wide Youth Service closed on 30 September and its new Youth Offer programme funded at the level of £400,000 a year until 31 March 2017 became effective on 1 October.
- b) The Town Council's successful application to that programme has provided £86,833 over the next 2½ years for an exciting development of local youth opportunities through the activities of our three partner organisations for this purpose – Ventnor Skatepark, Ventnor Exchange and Ventnor Together's Café 34 – supported by two new staff appointments of Youth Opportunities Officer (20 hours a week) and Sessional Youth Worker (six hours a week).
- c) The Town Council has also taken over responsibility for the Youth Centre building under a Tenancy at Will.

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**2) STAFF APPOINTMENTS**

- a) Laura Reid has been appointed to the Youth Opportunities Officer post with a start date of 13 October through a process that included members from all three partner organisations.
- b) Charlotte Denness has been appointed to the Sessional Youth Worker post working with Café 4 and joined us on 6 October.

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**3) PARTNER MEETINGS**

- a) The initial partnership meeting following confirmation of the success of the funding application took place on 8 August.
- b) The next meeting, following the completion of the staff recruitments, has been arranged for 21 October.

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**4) FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS**

- a) The Town Council will receive the sum of £8,683 at the beginning of each of the 10 quarters of the project period.
- b) The allocations to our partner organisations within the annual allocation of £34,732 are:
  - o Ventnor Skatepark: £4,000
  - o Ventnor Exchange: £10,000
  - o Ventnor Together: £8,000 (including the salary costs for the Sessional Youth Worker)
- c) They each have access to half those annual amounts for the remainder of the current financial year.
- d) The Town Council is responsible for financial records and monitoring and payments will be made to the partners against invoices issued by them to reclaim project-related costs.

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**5) YOUTH CENTRE**

- a) With the Tenancy at Will signed with an effective date of 1 October, the keys were provided to us the previous afternoon.
- b) During a tour of the building by the Clerks with the Isle of Wight Council's Commissioning Manager for Building Community Capacity Astrid Davies, it was agreed that all contents would remain in place until future uses were clarified.
- c) The Clerks met with the Bands that have been accustomed to using the Music Room for a discussion about future use and to inform them that the building would be closed until the end of

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October and that a meeting with the new Youth Opportunities Officer with them would be arranged in due course.

- d) The Assistant Town Clerk arranged for the locks on the building's external doors to be changed in view of the uncertainty about the circulation of keys previously.
  - e) The external signs have also been removed from the building.
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#### **6) FUTURE USES**

- a) It is expected that the future uses of the buildings will clarify as the Youth Offer programme gets into its stride and from consultations and discussions with other potential users.
  - b) What is clear at this stage is that it will have a much broader range of age and user groups than its designation as Ventnor Youth Centre signals.
  - c) A more appropriate name for its future has been discussed by the Community Development Working Group and Ventnor Central is their recommendation for consideration at this meeting.
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#### **7) COSTS**

- a) Although the Town Council is not responsible under the Tenancy at Will for repairs or maintenance, it does have to meet running costs for which it has no current budget provision.
  - b) As previously reported, the Isle of Wight Council's recorded running costs for the building in the financial year 2013/14 were approximately £11,000.
  - c) Under the Tenancy at Will the Town Council is only responsible for Rates, Electricity, Gas, Water and Refuse Removal and those added up to £6,500 last year.
  - d) Every effort will be made to fund the £3,250 half-year anticipated costs from bookings for use of the building's facilities that will now be made through the Assistant Town Clerk.
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#### **8) RECOMMENDATION**

The Town Council is recommended to consider re-designating the building as Ventnor Central.

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