



# YOUTH SERVICE PROVISION

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

REPORT 38/14

19 MAY 2014

The purpose of this report is to provide a summary of the Isle of Wight Council's *Youth Offer* as set out in the latest documentation as a basis for decision about the Town Council's contribution to the new arrangements.

## No. DETAIL

### 1) BACKGROUND

- a) The decision to achieve an annual saving of £200,000 a year from the Isle of Wight Council's current £943,000 a year Budget for the Island's Youth Service was included in the Budget paper adopted on 26 February 2014 and has prompted the move to a radical restructure of the service.
- b) The new structure was outlined in a paper – *Youth Offer Report* – presented to and agreed by the Isle of Wight Council's Executive meeting of 8 April 2014 section 41 of which identifies the new basis as:
  - a) *The voluntary and community sector will be commissioned to deliver a universal youth offer, with a particular emphasis on ensuring young people most in need are supported, through a 'commissioning prospectus' approach.*
  - b) *The council will cease to offer universal services directly but will provide funding to commission the voluntary and community sector, drawn from staff savings created through not employing youth workers directly.*
- c) The paper did not include much of the detail of how that change would be accomplished, but that has now been identified with the publication by Community Action Isle of Wight on 7 May of *A Commissioning Prospectus: Youth Offer Grant Programme 2014-2017* described as an opportunity for groups, organisations and enterprises of all types to bid for grant funding.
- d) Both the *Youth Offer Report* and the *Commissioning Prospectus* are available on the Town Council's web site [here](#).

### 2) THE PROSPECTUS

- a) The Prospectus, administered by Community Action Isle of Wight on behalf of the Isle of Wight Council is, in its own words:

an invitation to groups, organisations and enterprises of all types to bid for grant funding that they can use to provide services and projects which will deliver youth opportunities and positive activities within an environment where young people can engage in a safe, social setting. The provision will be targeted towards young people aged between 11-19 (up to 25 with specified additional needs) by supporting individuals and groups directly.
- b) In describing the delivery arrangements, it continues:

a key driver for the transformation of the youth offer on the Isle of Wight is the localism agenda. The council is seeking to engage with local providers within the voluntary and community sector, supporting capacity building and increasing the links with town and parish councils... We are keen to see bids that support the employment of local people and engage and support volunteers from the Island's communities...We are seeking a mix of smaller locally based youth provision and one or two larger island wide initiatives.

### 3) TIMESCALE

- a) The deadline for applications is 30 June 2014.
- b) Applications will be assessed in mid-July by an Appraisal Panel consisting of commissioners from the Isle of Wight Council, young people, Community Action Isle of Wight and a representative from the Local Safeguarding Children Board with applicants providing a short presentation of their proposals.
- c) Successful programmes will start on or about 1 October 2014 and end at 31 March 2017.

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#### 4) TOWN & PARISH COUNCILS

- a) The role of Town and Parish Councils is unclear in both the Isle of Wight Council's *Youth Offer Report* and the *Prospectus*.
- b) The *Youth Offer Report* makes just two explicit references to Town and Parish Councils in its discussion of the new arrangements. Having noted, in paragraph 4 (e) that the Root and Branch review had referred to the *potential for additional funding to be made available if town and parish councils contributed a degree of match funding*, paragraph 41 (H) states:  
The council will undertake further work with town and parish council's to explore opportunities for additional match funding for the youth offer. It will ensure further consultation in development of the commissioning prospectus and involvement in the commissioning process. Local council's (sic) will be a key part of the future performance management of the local youth offer.
- c) The *Prospectus* refers only once to town and parish councils with the comment in the introduction: *The council is seeking to engage with local providers within the voluntary and community sector, supporting capacity building and increasing the links with town and parish councils.*

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#### 5) BUILDINGS E

- a) The *Youth Offer* approach to the use of existing Youth Centres leaves their future open to local negotiation:  
The council will work with local partners, as part of the commissioning process, to identify the preferred local outcome for each former youth club site. The aim is for a sustainable community-based youth offer to be made available in the most appropriate venue. [para 36]
  - b) Initial discussions about the future of Ventnor's Youth Centre with the Isle of Wight Council are in the process of being arranged.
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