

STRONGER COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

Date: Monday, 15 July 2024

Title: Youth Services

Contact Officer: Deputy Town Clerk

Background

The purpose of this report is to update members on youth services provided and/or funded by Witney Town Council; to update on current budgets and to decide on the dispersal of the remaining youth provision budget in the current year.

Current Situation

Youth Council

As members have been advised, this launched on 8 July 2024. Applications will be welcomed until 15 September. Membership will be decided by the Youth Council mentors and the first meeting is expected to take place in early October.

Summer Holiday Youth Activities

Following stakeholder meetings, the Council's Business Administrative Apprentice is compiling a list of summer holiday activities to be published and shared, as in 2023. This is due to be published in the week commencing 22 July 2024.

The Station Detached Youth

Updates and metrics are expected quarterly and are due at the next meeting. At the time of writing, The Station are expected at Witney Carnival, the Play Day and have their 'Kick' event in place for the summer holidays.

Remaining Youth Services Budget 4169/408 (£40,000)

The Station Detached Youth – The Council is committed to funding a further £28,000 within the new year based on the Y2 details of their business plan submitted to the Council in 2023.

APCAM - Assists Parents of Children Affected by Mental health by: - Providing parent groups and drop in facilities - Offering counselling and treatment clinics - Running events and providing mental health training.

In 2023, the Council funded APCAM to run six young people's mental health sessions at the Corn Exchange during the summer holidays. APCAM have been approached to see if they would like to do this again in 2024. They are open to the suggestion and have advised the

Gallery Room would be more appropriate than the Green Rooms used last year but are waiting to hear from therapists on availability.

Home Start Oxford – As last year, Home-Start have submitted a grant application for funds in the new fiscal year for £11,000. Last year, £10,000 was awarded. Members are asked to consider the grant application and make a recommendation to the Policy, Governance & Finance Committee.

The Council may like to consider setting a separate budget for The Station service in the next year which would free up funds for further youth services, and/or recommend a strategy on youth spending is brought to a future meeting.

Risk

In decision making Councillors should give consideration to any risks to the Council and any action it can take to limit or negate its liability.

There are financial and reputational risks of assisting the same groups, especially with larger sums each year. It could lead to expectance and reliance and other groups who offer similar youth services may feel sidelined after the cessation of the previous grant scheme.

Social Value

Social value is the positive change the Council creates in the local community within which it operates.

Benefits to Witney's community - young, disadvantaged and vulnerable people within the town would benefit from these projects/services and help towards young people and their families having the best chance of a fulfilling and happy future.

Financial implications

- There is £12,000 remaining on budget line 4169/408 (Youth Provision)
- Home-Start Oxford are asking for £11,000
- The APCAM sessions cost £1,200 in 2023
- Funds are still available via the Discretionary Grants budget 4100/407

Recommendations

Members are invited to note the report and consider the following:

- Dispersal of the remaining youth provision budget and recommendation to the Policy, Governance & Finance Committee:
 - Grant Application from Home-Start Oxford
 - Funding of APCAM mental health sessions (if applicable) If members are agreeable, to delegate progression to officers & The Chair/Leader
- The need for a strategy on future youth provision funding.