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**Agenda Item:** Youth Services

**Meeting Date:** Monday, 27 January 2025

**Contact Officer:** Deputy Town Clerk

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The purpose of this report is to provide Members with an update on Youth Services being funded by the Town Council.

### **Background**

Following approval of the 2025/26 Budget the following items will be progressed by officers in the coming weeks and months.

### **Current Situation**

#### Youth Café

Officers are in discussion with The Station concerning a café at the 1863 café bar during February half-term, Monday 17<sup>th</sup> -Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> February 5-8pm and are hopeful this will take place.

This will be funded from an underspend in the 2024/25 grant award to The Station and will be a trial to see how well it is received by young people.

#### Youth Services Grant

The grant scheme will return in 2025/26 as agreed during the budgeting cycle. Officers will provide a report to the March meeting to confirm how the Council wishes to proceed with the application for and allocation of the £20k budget, along with updated criteria.

#### School Holiday Mental Health Drop-in Sessions

Officers will contact the provider and ask that a proposal is made which could be funded from the above grant scheme.

#### The Station Detached Youth

The Station have updated their website with a fresh and vibrant look [www.thestation.life/](http://www.thestation.life/) They are hoping to work with the police regarding a further KICK event during the summer and will provide an end of year report to this Committee in March.

### **Impact Assessments**

The Town Council has a duty to consider the effects of its decisions, functions and activities on equality, biodiversity, and crime & disorder. Consideration should also be given to effects on the environment, given the Council's Climate Emergency declaration in 2019.

- a) Equality – Access to well-funded, quality services can help mitigate the effects of social inequality. Ensuring that resources are directed toward the communities and individuals who need them most is a crucial step toward improving outcomes for young people, fostering social mobility, and promoting a more just and equal society.
- b) Biodiversity – none.
- c) Crime & Disorder –By offering young people the tools, opportunities, and support they need to thrive, youth services reduce the likelihood that they will engage in criminal behaviour, contribute to social disorder, or face long-term negative outcomes. These services not only benefit individuals but also promote the well-being and safety of entire communities.
- d) Environment & Climate Emergency – none.

## **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.

- Facilitating a Youth Café in the Corn Exchange comes with at moderate risk – from safeguarding, security and the precedent and expectation of a sustained service indefinitely.

## **Social Value**

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

Investment in youth services can reduce the risk of negative outcomes, such as involvement in crime, substance abuse, or mental health crises. By offering structured activities and support systems, these programs help prevent young people from falling into harmful behaviours and provide alternatives to risky or destructive paths.

Funding youth services is a critical investment in the future of individuals and communities. It creates long-term social value by addressing the needs of young people, promoting positive development, reducing social inequalities, and fostering a more resilient and cohesive society. The benefits are far-reaching, influencing everything from personal well-being and mental health to economic stability and societal growth.

## **Financial implications**

- There are no new financial implications from this report.

## **Recommendations**

Member are invited to note the report and the current situation with agreed youth services provision.