STRONGER COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

Agenda Item: Youth Services

Meeting Date: Monday, 16 November 2026

Contact Officer: Deputy Town Clerk

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

Current Situation

The Station - Detached Youth

The report from The Station in accordance with Section 11 (Quality & Review) of the Service Level Agreement (SLA) between Bright Futures Oxon and the Town Council which is attached as **Appendix A**.

Following an update meeting between The Station and Town Council officers, information was provided on a range of successful recent events, including KICK, BREAK and SPARK. Members will note that use of The Leys for KICK sessions during the summer holidays proved more effective than the previous venue, offering improved functionality, higher levels of engagement, and greater opportunities for collaboration with other organisations, such as Courtside Hubs.

The Station is therefore seeking permission to hold its Spring BREAK and KICK programmes at The Leys in 2027 and beyond, excluding areas affected by the planned sports pitch renovation works.

APCAM

The organisation delivered a successful programme of summer drop-in sessions and outreach activities, providing early intervention and ongoing support to local families facing a range of challenges, including educational disengagement, domestic abuse recovery, housing needs, and special educational need. Full response details on the sessions and the organisations future work can be seen in the attached **Appendix B**.

In addition, APCAM has submitted an application seeking £2,450 to deliver five free We Game inclusive gaming drop-in sessions for young people in Witney during the 2027 school holidays.

The application is attached as **Appendix C**. The Committee is invited to consider whether it wishes to make a recommendation to the Policy, Governance & Finance Committee at its meeting on 23 November regarding this request.

Summer Youth Activities Feedback

The Administrative Support Assistant – Communications & Engagement has sought feedback from local partners and community organisations to assess the impact and value of the Town Council's Young Persons Summer Activity List and to ensure that officer time devoted to its production is providing a meaningful benefit.

Although responses have been limited, social media analytics have been gathered and are provided for information at **Appendix D**. Based on the available evidence, it is considered that the Summer Activity List continues to provide value and should therefore be maintained.

Corporate Strategy

The Council's Strategic Plan 2025–29 sets out the Council's long-term priorities and direction, supporting its mission to 'make Witney a great place to live, work and visit.' This report contributes to the delivery of the following strategic pillar of the plan:

1. An Engaged & Supported Community

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 – the provision of free to access to services.
b) Biodiversity – no direct implications.
c) Crime & Disorder – the provision of youth services is aimed at reducing anti-social behaviour.
d) Environment & Climate Emergency – no direct implications.

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.

The Council must ensure it is receiving value for money in the services it commissions or any group it enters into a partnership with to mitigate against both financial and reputational risk.

Social Value

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

The social value of services and support (via The Station's detached youth work and Young Person Mental Health drop-in sessions) should be considered. Support contributes to young people being able to live fulfilling lives.

Financial Implications

- The cost of the proposed We Game sessions is £2,450.
- The charge for APCAM mental health drop-in sessions for the current year was £2,250.
- Neither of these services are covered under Council budget lines.
- The Policy, Governance & Finance Committee ringfenced £3,500 of the unspent youth services grant budget for future youth-related applications during the municipal year.

Recommendations

Members are invited to note the report and,

1. Note the six-monthly report of The Station and consider the organisation's request to use the Leys for BREAK in May 2027 and KICK in July/August 2027.
2. Note the update from APCAM on summer mental health drop-in sessions and consider whether these should continue and therefore be budgeted for in 2027-28.
3. Consider whether to make a recommendation to the Policy, Governance & Finance Committee on the APCAM application for We Game sessions in 2027.
4. Note the Summer Youth Activities List feedback/analytics and intention to continue providing the list annually.