

## **Report from Cllr L-B for Full Town Council 2023**

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2023

Review of youth provision across Cornwall council.

### **Introduction**

Children and Family Services invest a significant proportion of our budget in services dedicated to meeting the needs of vulnerable young people. Youth Services in Cornwall have transformed from being a separate service outside of Children and Families Services to become integrated within the Service. Historically Youth Services primarily provided 'open access' universal youth services through Youth/ Young People's Centres and through outdoor activities.

We have transformed our approach, targeting support at the most vulnerable young people through the integration of youth resources into our Early Help teams and Family Assessment and Support teams. This has supported joined up multi-disciplinary working, enabled Targeted Youth Workers to build on their expertise, and supported them to undertake high quality direct work with the most vulnerable young people, co-ordinated with other forms of family support. Targeted Youth Workers work in particular with young people at risk of family breakdown, vulnerable to exploitation, and those engaging in antisocial behaviour leaving them at risk of entering the criminal justice system.

Open access Youth Work is delivered through local voluntary and community youth work groups/organisations at a local level. A number of buildings have been devolved down to district councils, management committees, and community interest Companies for this purpose including Hayle Young Peoples Project, The House in St Austell, K3 in Saltash. Other Youth Work services are also being delivered through space in the Family Hubs e.g. Torpoint, Par/St Blazey, Bodmin, and Newquay.

### **Commissioned Provision**

Together for Families commission a range of services for young people including 'open access' and universal services through 'Kernow Connect' that young people can engage in without formal referral mechanisms, including on a voluntary basis.

### **Universal Provision:**

1. Local Youth groups and activities provided in communities and online
2. Information, Advice and Guidance Website
3. Online Employability Service

Criteria: All Young People aged 11-19 years or 25 years with SEND.

**Targeted Provision:**

1. Focussed group work for young people with a shared need/ issue
2. 1:1 support for those that feel that they would benefit from extra support or mentoring, including supporting them to access provision
3. Blues Programme: group support in schools focusing on changing how you think to change what you do
4. 1-1 Drop in's in Secondary Schools
5. SilverCloud: An online self-help programme using Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT) based techniques.

**Specialist Provision:**

1. Wellbeing Practitioners - offering one to one CBT support to Young People aged 11-17 years.
2. A specialist issue-based service, via group work or 1-1, provided through Dreadnought for young people aged 11-18 years with a specifically identified mental health need, who are experiencing significant impairment to their ability to engage in day to day life.

**Youth Participation**

3. To support young people to participate in decision making processes around their interests, needs and/or concerns.
4. Supporting MYP's in their roles, including how they represent other young people
5. Developing the Youth Council
6. Facilitating local participation in the Make Your Mark process

**Training and Qualification of Youth Workers**

Over the last five years, the Voluntary and Community Sector has collectively responded to the need for a local qualification route for training and qualifications in Youth Work, to enable providers to develop their workforce. During the last 2 years this has been coordinated through BF Adventure, supported by a bursary from the Department of Culture, Media and Sport and includes staff from across a number of agencies involved to deliver training, assessment and verification of qualifications. Over the last two years, this has resulted in the achievement of:

7 x Level 2 Award in Youth Work Principles

19 x Level 3 Certificate in Youth Work Practice completed / working towards

All 15 of the level 3's who started this year are apprenticeships

Staff are from the following VCSE/ agencies:

Action for Children

Young People Cornwall

BF Adventure

Treningle Residents Association Bodmin

Live West ( Registered Social Landlord)

Cornwall Council

Carefree

Pentreath

Wild Wonder Wisdom

Early Help and Help and Protection services

The Council's children's services were judged by Ofsted to be 'Outstanding' in October 2019, despite higher levels of deprivation and lower funding than most. Children and Family Services help and protects the most vulnerable young people in Cornwall through our commissioned services, Early Help and social care services. Our Early Help and Help and Protection services deliver significant targeted help and support for the most vulnerable young people, including:

A significant investment in Targeted Youth Support Workers across the Service to deliver intensive, relationship-based support for young people to improve emotional health, develop safer relationships, and reduce harmful risk-taking behaviour. We have increased the numbers of Targeted Youth Support workers in response to increased demand.

- Targeted Youth Support drop ins in Secondary schools, which are highly valued by schools.
- Our Disabled Children's Community Based Short Breaks Services includes a range of youth groups specifically for Young People with SEND
- In 2021, we commissioned the VCSE to work more closely with us to deliver Connect+, a new Adolescent Intervention Service. This service involves direct referrals from Child Protection/ FAS Teams to Action for Children where they can provide support needed but from a nonstatutory provider. This has helped develop relationships and facilitate access to statutory services and voluntary services and vice versa.
- Various Youth projects have been supported in their communities with support of Local Family Partnerships and Community Link Officers.

- Local Family Partnerships have funded a range of initiatives to target resources in communities.

These have included:

- Supporting a Kicks Project with Plymouth Argyle which ran a football programme with young people with some 'informal education' attached ie. work around substance misuse, staying healthy etc, in Penwith.
- Funding a Football Project run by the Community Development Worker with Truro FC this involved putting on a day's football coaching on the 5 estates of Truro at both Easter and the Summer and funding a Community Safety initiative which involved an evenings basketball coaching from the Saracens.
- The 'Living with Parents' course for parents and young people together with Take 3 for parents of adolescents; both of these courses are highly rated by parents who attend and there are now follow up courses available The Teenage brain, Introduction to Teenagers with Sensory Challenges ; Introduction to Teenagers with Traits of ADHD ; Introduction to Teenagers with Autistic Traits.
- Gweres Tus Yownyk, a specialist adolescents' service including the Youth Offending Service (£2.1 million), supporting adolescents on the edge of care, including those who have returned home after an unplanned admission to care, and completing preventative work to reduce offending.
- The 16+ (Leaving Care) Service (£1.9 million) is responsible for ensuring that young people leaving care are supported to make a safe and successful transition to adulthood and independence, including commissioned services from Carefree (£131k)
- Our Youth Homelessness Officer and specialist Social Workers for 16-17 year olds at risk of homelessness.
- The Family Plus Team supports young people living with family and friends as a result of Residence, Child Arrangement and Special Guardianship Orders.
- We commission additional youth services on a case by case basis where appropriate for individual young people from other providers, for example Hayle Youth Project and White Gold mentoring.
- In our development of Family Hubs and 'Making Integration Happen' we are partnering with services for young people at a local level to enable this provision to make use of Family Hubs should they wish so that young people can benefit from the network of services and support available there.
- We have made significant progress in reducing the risks of criminal and sexual exploitation of young people though partnership working with the Police and other partners, Disruption Legal Planning Meetings to take action against people who would exploit children, and our multiagency Missing and Child Exploitation (MACE) panel.

These services are only a proportion of the total spend in Cornwall on Young People, with a wider range of traditional universal services delivered by other organisations available from the Voluntary and Community Sector including uniformed groups such as Scouts and Cadets, sports and music organisations, youth clubs, faith groups, and charitable organisations such as Young People Cornwall, BF Adventure, Carefree and WILD Young Parents.

## **Youth Intervention Fund**

### **Background**

The Youth Investment Fund (YIF)'s objective is to create, expand and improve local youth facilities and their services, in order to drive positive outcomes for young people, including improved mental and physical wellbeing, and skills for life and work.

The Youth Investment Fund (22/23 to 24/25) will deliver up to 300 facilities that represent positive value for money, are environmentally sustainable and enable positive activities for young people aged 11 to 18 (up to 25 for young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) in eligible places across England, by 2024/25.

This funding will be available for new facilities that youth organisations can afford to sustain. Utilising modern methods of construction (MMC) and other innovative construction techniques, as well as supporting redevelopment projects that expand youth service provision in England:

1. Increase the number of regular positive activities undertaken by young people in the targeted areas by 45,000 per year, by 2026/27.
2. Provide new and redeveloped facilities delivering positive activities to young people, funded through self-reliant funding models.
3. Improve the environmental sustainability of the youth sector estate in target areas through energy efficiencies and/or low carbon heating.
4. Reduce the environmental impact of construction activities across the programme, by funding facilities with the lowest reasonable carbon footprint across their lifetime.
5. Reduce build and ongoing running costs, by supporting new or redeveloped youth facilities that demonstrate 20% reduced annual running costs by 2025/26, compared to ageing youth facilities.

## **Scope of the grant**

It is estimated that the majority of capital grants will be between £300,000 and £8.7 million, with around 300 capital grants awarded and small resource grants linked to these. This is subject to the volume and quality of applications. Projects must be viable for delivery between 22/23 and 24/25 financial years. Capital grants may include, for example:

1. large new youth centres/zones, with multiple rooms, including outdoor space and full youth facilities
2. medium new youth centres, with one or more rooms/spaces and uses for youth services/activities
3. small new modular youth units, using modern methods of construction, or other innovative and efficient construction techniques, consisting of a single main space for smaller youth services/activities
4. repurposing of existing facilities, including preserving or reinstating disused or derelict spaces for use as youth centres, where renovation work will expand the capacity, inclusivity or quality of services being offered to young people
5. expansion or extension of existing facilities used for youth services/activities, where renovation work will expand the capacity, inclusivity or quality of services being offered to young people. Repairs, maintenance or cosmetic works that do not expand the capacity, inclusivity or quality of services being offered, or do not prevent a facility from falling into disuse, will not be eligible for capital funding. Resource grants must create, expand or improve local youth services/activities from YIF's capital-funded facilities, enabling more positive activities that deliver improved mental and physical wellbeing, and skills for life and work for young people. Resource grants should be used as early-stage or seed funding for youth activities from new or redeveloped youth facilities, to ensure that facilities drive these positive outcomes for young people, and to help enable youth organisations to develop sustainable funding models.

All projects will need to be completed or be un-reliant on YIF funding beyond 31 March 2025.

The indicative allocation for Cornwall is £2,050,000.

Buildings must be within the list of wards.

All applications must have match funding, either cash, in kind or land, etc.

### Eligibility of applicants

VCSE sector or youth sector organisations are encouraged to apply for this role.

Applicants may apply as a single organisation with or without delivery partners or may alternatively submit a joint application (for example, as a consortium, joint venture, unincorporated association, partnership or otherwise). Applicants are responsible for determining the most appropriate approach to delivering their proposal. Local Authorities are asked to be 'convenors' in supporting bid applications.

**Key application requirements**

All applications must:

1. Have additionality, e.g., better facilities, increased opening times, engagement with more young people, etc.
2. Evidence the positive impact the building will have.
3. Show how the building is environmentally sustainable.
4. Evidence sustainability of the provision, e.g., ongoing revenue.
5. Evidence engagement with the local community.

**Current development work**

Together for Families are working with Young People Cornwall (YPC) and other voluntary sector providers who are working together to develop bids for various areas across Cornwall that meet the postcode criteria. Currently they are looking at spaces in Truro and are working with Truro City Council to identify spaces in the ward. They had already done a considerable amount of engagement with young people already over how this would support young people in Truro and how it could also serve as a county wide facility, building on recent developments with public transport initiatives.

**Points raised from the committee regarding youth provision across Cornwall**

- Informal meetings with portfolio member to integrate into our CAPS the progress where sharing good practice would be invaluable and a form of directory of youth provision services in our CAP areas.
- On our visiting of sites youth provision, the people who once attended these clubs etc are now the people who are trained to run these services.

**Better ways to contact the vulnerable:**

- That detached youth workers are so important and support of online youth workers as some children do not leave their rooms, and this is the only way of communication.
- Head start a directory as an APP as signposting is easier for vulnerable people.

**Links with local community school**

There is a drop in service for secondary schools and I have been concerned that we are not having regular contact to see if this provision is being utilised in our local comprehensive school, I have asked for closer communication and was brought up at the last children's and families briefing to try and reconnect the link with the school.



Saltash Waterside



I'd like to thank the maritime manager Christopher Jones for his support in the removal of a small open boat which has been abandoned at the site and also for the recovery of the attached debris from the site.

**End of report**

**Cornwall Councillor Lennox-Boyd**