

Local Members' Interest
N/A

## **Safe and Strong Communities Select Committee – 8 July 2016**

### **Youth and Community Service Update**

#### **Recommendation**

1. That the Committee scrutinises and makes recommendations in relation to the update on the Youth and Community Service.

#### **Report of Cllr Mark Sutton, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People**

#### **Summary**

2. In March 2014 Cabinet agreed a new approach to the delivery of youth services in Staffordshire. The new model focused on supporting voluntary and community groups to provide activities for young people allowing Staffordshire County Council to target investment towards vulnerable people, those requiring specialist supports and closer partnership working. There is now a range of voluntary and community groups across Staffordshire offering activities for young people and groups to support young people with Learning Difficulties and Disabilities have been set up in areas where provision was limited. More schools than before have signed up to deliver Duke of Edinburgh Awards, and the National Citizen Service scheme is now provided via a range of partners. The funding provided in each district has been used to support the development of a variety of activities and groups.
3. The review has now been implemented in full, with provisions made to deliver all outstanding arrangements and ensure that monitoring continues into the future. Working with partners such as the Staffordshire Council of Voluntary Youth Services (SCVYS), the role of Staffordshire County Council (SCC) is to facilitate development of alternative youth provision through strengthening local communities, while ensuring that those such as young people with disabilities or learning difficulties are not adversely impacted.
4. A number of updates to the Safe and Strong Communities Select Committee have given information on the adoption of the new approach.
5. This paper provides current detail across a range of aspects related to the Youth and Community Service review. As agreed by the Committee on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2015, this is the final update.

#### **Report**

#### **Background**

6. This project has been presented to and discussed with the Safe and Strong Communities Select Committee on a number of occasions since the decision on 9

September 2013 to undertake an engagement exercise to develop a new approach to achieving excellence for young people.

7. At the March 2014 Select Committee meeting, and approved in recommendations at the Cabinet meeting of the same month, it was agreed that we would return to this Select Committee in Autumn 2014. This was confirmed at the full County Council meeting in May 2014. On 6 November 2014 an update was presented to this Select Committee, which was limited in its information as a result of the slower than previously anticipated progress of implementation, and a request for further information to be presented was made.
8. In January 2015, after Open Access provision had ceased to operate, an update was presented. This gave information where available and in particular updated on what had happened with the property portfolio. It also discussed SCVYS's work to track the take-up of alternative provision, as well as giving an update on Duke of Edinburgh and participation.
9. It was agreed at the July 2015 meeting that a final update would be provided in 12 months' time to provide assurance that young people have continued to engage with alternative youth provision, and that risks identified as part of the 2014 Cabinet decision have been fully mitigated in the implementation of the review.

### **Youth and Community Service**

10. As at 31st March 2015 all Youth Service colleagues had ceased service with the County Council by way of redundancy or had been redeployed to other areas of the organisation. This resulted from extensive Trade Union consultation and was achieved without incidence of industrial action.
11. To fulfil our legal obligations within the collective consultation process, opportunities were explored in order to avoid and/or mitigate redundancy where possible. This resulted in 30% of those colleagues registered, being successfully redeployed to alternative roles, and also provided opportunity and practical support to a number of colleagues wishing to establish themselves as independent enterprises within the external youth provision market.
12. Larger numbers of youth service colleagues also took advantage of a wider redeployment offer that included development workshops on topics such as: self-employment; social enterprise models; self-marketing; CV writing and interview skills; coaching skills and job search techniques.
13. Savings of £3.307m have been delivered by the start of 16/17, this is ahead of schedule as the full savings were not anticipated to be released until 17/18. The savings have been realised early as a result of swift property disposal.
14. Staffordshire County Council commissions SCVYS to offer support to voluntary sector organisations that have a focus on youth provision. This support includes helping groups to develop and expand their groups of volunteers, and to develop new activities. It also covers supporting fledgling new groups to get started, as well as generally helping SCVYS members to manage their 'business' more effectively, for example through opening training opportunities. SCVYS also provides or facilitates training for member groups, including safeguarding, and will signpost members to Staffordshire

Safeguarding Children Board (SSCB) training. SCVYS membership requires all members to have an up to date child protection policy in place, and SCVYS, who represents the voluntary sector on the Safeguarding Children Board, also promotes and signposts to NSPCC Safe Network standards specifically designed to ensure the quality of safeguarding within the sector.

- 15. Clearly, the role of SCVYS is crucial to supporting the further development of a wide range of youth activity in the county. The SCVYS contract was broadened to reflect the move away from SCC provision, and in supporting those affected to find new activities. This contract has seen SCVYS engaged in additional activities with young people and groups. Paragraphs 16 to 44 provide further detail
- 16. Since April 2014, when the decision to implement the Youth and Community Service review was confirmed, membership of SCVYS has risen by 38 to 144 independent organisations, an increase of over 35%. (16<sup>th</sup> May 2016). 17 of these new member youth organisations have joined SCVYS as a direct result of the commissioning decision. SCVYS is supporting a further 26 organisations who have expressed an interest in becoming members and started their application process. In addition, the number of positive weekly activity sessions run by members has increased from 744 to 811, a rise of 67 (9%) local weekly activities available for children and young people.
- 17. SCVYS staff have worked with 10 Parish Councils, and a number of additional community stakeholders to support the start-up of new voluntary youth provision in Staffordshire. The most recent is brokering a relationship between Winshill Parish Council, Winshill Neighbourhood Community Centre and local youth work providers from our membership who are developing a youth project to fill the gap left by the local youth centre closure.
- 18. Participation across SCVYS membership (regular weekly attendance) increased by 27% from a total of 19,248 in April 2014 to 24,603 in September 2015. As of 16<sup>th</sup> May 2016, the regular participation figure had risen again (by 10%) to 27,175.
- 19. SCVYS' data as of 16<sup>th</sup> May 2016 shows that the workforce among SCVYS members stands at 8,355 volunteers. Volunteers have varied backgrounds, ages and interests, and fulfil a diverse range of roles. 992 (939 in 2015) are under the age of 18, there are 1,452 (1,293 in 2015) trustees, 1,332 (832 in 2015) occasional helpers and 4,579 (4,390 in 2015) adult volunteers. Paid staff roles within SCVYS members have also risen considerably.

<b>Year</b>	<b>Volunteers</b>	<b>Increase</b>	<b>No. of paid staff</b>	<b>Increase</b>
2013		-	94	-
2014	5,279	-	253	269%
2015	7,454	41%	440	74%
2016	8,355	12%	559	27%

Most of these are in part-time sessional work, whilst 101 are based in residential youth venues such as Beaudesert and Whitemoor Lakes.

- 20. As of 16<sup>th</sup> May 2016, SCVYS had granted over £60,000 in transitional support funding to over 45 different local groups. This fund, which SCVYS set aside to support the frontline groups in membership with any adverse impact they faced from the closure decision has

proved crucial in alleviating crises and building long term sustainability. Short term rent payments, training for staff and volunteers, start up grants for new groups, equipment and resources, etc. have been the most requested items for financial support. SCVYS will provide a final report on this fund in August 2016 as part of regular reporting to the Commissioner for Children's Wellbeing.

21. SCVYS visited 64 open access youth club sessions between October and December 2014, and sign-posted 836 young people (456 under 13s and 380 13-19s) to alternative local youth provision. SCVYS met with 131 paid staff and 52 volunteers from the Youth and Communities Service to offer support to anyone interested in setting up sustainable voluntary youth provision in the same locality. 41 volunteers have been placed, mainly in brand new groups set up as a direct result of the youth service closure.
22. SCVYS has continued to develop its own organisational capacity and member offer, including a GRANTfinder license which has already supported 28 member groups in their search for funding opportunities.
23. Working relationships and communication between SCVYS operational staff and District Commissioning Leads have been established and strengthened through this process across all districts. Project Manager, Commissioners, HR and Property have all attended SCVYS Team meetings at the relevant and appropriate points during the implementation plan. SCVYS' Chief Executive Officer attended almost all the Youth Project Board meetings, and reported on progress to that Board. He also attended 2 Scrutiny Committees to answer questions and demonstrate the mapping software to elected members. SCVYS has completed a number of interviews over the last 24 months with radio and TV stations interested in the implications of the commissioning decision, and defending the capability of the voluntary youth sector to respond appropriately.
24. Eligible young people can apply for the Staffordshire Travel Card via the SCVYS website, linking them to the Youth Box website, where all young people can also access additional information, advice and guidance on a range of issues. SCVYS is engaged with the Staffordshire Marketplace development, as well as with the Families First Local Support Team Directory which is being produced.
25. SCVYS completed an audit to ensure that appropriate funding is in place to support schools in offering free letting to voluntary youth organisations. 175 current beneficiary units responded out of 191 registered. 16 were no longer operational. The overwhelming finding from SCVYS is that SCC receives value for money from this funding pot, with most units getting far more than is paid for due to good relationships between group leaders and school leadership. The audit did reveal that some schools were being paid to host activities which no longer take place and SCVYS is working with SCC Finance team to protect and reallocate the identified funding (approximately £13,000) in an equitable and transparent manner. The ongoing management of this budget now rests with SCVYS, who liaise with the SCC Finance team to initiate termly payments.
26. SCC and SCVYS remain committed to mitigating the impact of the commissioning decision on young people, local communities and the voluntary youth sector as a whole, and also to successfully growing the voluntary youth sector. Almost 2 years on the ripples of impact continue to be felt, however communities are still responding as a need for further positive activities for young people is identified. 11 SCVYS member groups supported delivery of the revived SPACE scheme in the summer of 2015.

27. SCVYS will publish its 2015/2016 annual report in September, which will include an up to date picture alongside some analysis and interpretation. This report can be shared with Committee members if this is helpful.

### **Provision for those with Learning Difficulties or Disabilities (LDD)**

28. SCC confirmed its intention throughout this review to ensure that those with learning difficulties or disabilities (LDD) would not be adversely impacted. In areas where need is identified, commissioners are ensuring this is met. The table (appendix one) shows the range of groups across Staffordshire that are being accessed by vulnerable groups.
29. SCC and partners have also been working to support the development of alternative provision. During the staff consultation counter proposals were received, two of which were successful and both within the LDD field. These are now organisations based in Lichfield and in Stone, operating with the intention of ensuring that provision for young people with LDD remains available.
30. Liberty Staffordshire Community Interest Company has been established to provide opportunities for young people (aged 11 through to 25) with learning disabilities in Lichfield, Tamworth and Cannock. They have recruited approximately 27 volunteers, of which 70% are older members with learning difficulties or disability. The service is supported by five paid part-time staff. Each group provides age-appropriate activities, projects and opportunities to develop as individuals and members of the community, including support around confidence building, independent travel training and peer support networks. SCC provided set up funding for the first two years of Liberty's operation, falling by 50% in year 2, and with the aim of Liberty being self-sufficient by its third year.
31. During 2015/16 Liberty delivered 189 sessions across Lichfield and Tamworth and worked with 189 unique individuals. In Cannock 17 sessions were delivered to 489 attendees (not unique individuals). Two regular groups are running in Rugeley (11-18yrs and 18-25yrs) with an average attendance of both groups of 25 young people.
32. In Stone, the proposal for the delivery of Learning Difficulties and Disabilities provision is led by previous employees of the Youth and Community Service, and includes activities such as drama and football. SCVYS has supported the group (Walton Hall Youth Community Hub) throughout its development, most recently providing templates and advice on how to develop a robust business plan. 2 young people from the group attended the young leader training weekend and gained a qualification, and were subsequently nominated in the Les Simmons Impact Awards for their volunteering contribution.
33. Walton Hall Youth Community Hub (WHYCH) has been very successful in delivering activities to young people with LDD at Stone Community Hub. There are regular activities sessions for young people around art and craft and some really positive work for example 7 participants from the Senior youth group who have been identified as Not in Education, Employment or Training have started an NCFE entry level 3 employability skills course being delivered at Stone Youth and Community Centre. WHYCH works with many organisations for example Stafford and Rural Homes where young people have been working on the Allotment Project. Almost 50 young people have engaged between April 2015 and March 2016. This is a very young organisation that has really raised its profile this last year. After one successful engagement with a former Looked

After Child, the manager of Doxey House approached them to offer support to other young people at Doxey House.

34. There is also a group offering support for young people with learning difficulties or disabilities in Rugeley (CESS). SCVYS is providing advice, guidance and mentoring support to this new group which is starting to work with young people in Rugeley.

### **Duke of Edinburgh Award**

35. All open-access Duke of Edinburgh schemes which existed prior to the Youth and Communities Service review are being supported to continue by SCVYS. This includes various member groups including Cheslyn Hay Boy's Brigade, Staffordshire Scouts and Girl Guiding Staffordshire, as well as a new Community Interest Company (Staffordshire Adventure Services), set up by former youth service staff.
36. In addition, the vast majority of schools in the county have maintained their license and are continuing with Duke of Edinburgh delivery, including 5 who had not previously been involved with the scheme, bringing the total number of Direct Licenced Centres in Staffordshire to 47, an additional 3 schools are currently in the licencing process to become DLCs. A small number of schools ceased delivery since April 2015, though it is not believed that this is due to the cost of licensing. Regional officers from the Duke of Edinburgh programme are working to encourage all other schools in the county to explore delivery, with the aim of growing the total number, and also for schools already involved to expand their provision, for example to include Gold Award where they might not already.
37. The figures demonstrate that the total number of new applicants has increased. The number of awards has reduced but this is a consequence of the late start to the scheme, the completions will be later in the year (figures as at April 2016)

	<b>2011/12</b>	<b>2012/13</b>	<b>2013/14</b>	<b>2014/15</b>	<b>2015/16</b>
<b>New Entrants</b>	2277	1844	2147	1532	2529
<b>Awards Gained</b>	417	940	1216	1280	816

### **National Citizen Service**

38. National Citizen Service continues to be delivered and expanded under contract across the whole of Staffordshire via a range of providers including North Staffordshire YMCA, Burton Albion Community Trust (10 teams of 15 young people this summer), etc.

### **Participation Framework**

39. The new engagement model adopted involves local and county-wide events, alongside digital engagement programmes facilitated by Entrust. 3 county events have taken place, as well as 12 locality sessions; a 50% increase on the contracted 8 sessions. The former Leader's Advisory Board has now been redesigned and renamed "Youth in Charge". Attendance across all 15 sessions totalled 317, 236 of which were young people. Adults present included elected members at both County and District level, youth workers, parents and those facilitating the sessions. SCVYS current youth engagement database has 199 distinct recipients.

40. In May and June, 4 double district “preparation and training” sessions took place, to support young people who wish to participate in July’s Staffordshire Youth Debate around a number of important subjects such as mental health. This will take place in the Council Chamber, and is being planned in conjunction with Youth Emotional Support – Staffordshire and the CAMHS transformation programme. UpRising UK have been commissioned to run the training events. The preparation work in schools for a new UK Youth Parliament election process is planned for July through to December 2016 with online elections taking place in January- February 2017.
41. SCVYS also facilitated and organised 3 youth participation partnership meetings between September 2015 and March 2016, and a number of collaborative opportunities have resulted.
42. In the period immediately following the closure of SCC youth service the membership of YAK (Youth Action Council) was keen to continue as an independent youth club under the umbrella of the National Youth Clubs and were being supported by SCVYS to do so. In recent months it appears that the impetus has gone out of the group and we are not confident that the group is still in existence. Much of the work and engagement that YAK contributed to has been developed by the ‘Youth in Charge’ project which may also explain the loss of YAK as a distinct group.
43. A review of youth engagement was scheduled to take place in late June, following an experimental first year under the new operating model to clarify the priorities moving forwards.

### **Bremen Exchange**

44. SCVYS were commissioned to support and organise the summer exchange visit which ran from 12th-26th August 2015. This exchange was well organised and planned. SCVYS advertised the exchange opportunities to young people via youth organisations in the county. SCVYS recruited 10 young people from Staffordshire including two to act as mentors.
45. SCVYS have made some recommendations to improve the exchange visit in 2016 which have been discussed with Cllr Mark Sutton and they have commenced planning for the exchange visit in July 2016.
46. There is a need to hold serious discussions about the future of the exchange beyond 2016, due to a number of factors including issues with appropriate accommodation, available work at the German Cemetery, length of stay, etc.

### **Information, Advice & Guidance (IAG)**

47. Consultation with young people in early 2015 found that some young people do use websites for information and advice but the majority prefer face to face interaction. They stated they would however have a better online experience if they knew which websites to access, information was in one place and they knew what to trust. There was some awareness of the Youthbox brand so it was agreed to improve Youthbox and make it a trusted online source for young people in Staffordshire.

48. An agreement was made with Entrust in April 2015 as part of the existing IAG commission (no additional cost) to manage and develop the Youthbox website and social media channels (Facebook and Twitter).
49. However during 2015 there was progression of several other Staffordshire websites aimed at young people, raising the question whether Youthbox still serves a purpose as there is now duplication across the various websites. These websites include:
- a. CSE information and advice website for parents, professionals and young people covering topics such as keeping safe, healthy relationships, consent, warning signs. This was launched February 2016
  - b. Healthy Staffordshire Hub – new information and advice webpages, an online self assessment and phone service re healthy lifestyles will be available from April 2016 (the phone service is already live)
  - c. Upside website functionality was expanded June 2015. Barnardos is commissioned to deliver this website. The website's focus is young people's emotional wellbeing and mental health with downloadable factsheets providing information and support for teenagers and parents. Additional functions are 'ask a question', live chat, online counselling. The website has received positive feedback from young people regarding look and feel, language, content. The website hits for Q2 2015/16 = 4823, and the factsheets downloads for Q2 2015/16 = 2425
  - d. Bright Futures – this currently contains information and advice for post 16 learning and career options. This is being expanded to include school choice, and parent engagement in education and learning from primary age onwards. The audience for the website is parents but the content relating to post 16 options is also relevant to young people.
50. The content on the Youthbox website has been mapped against the other websites and there is significant overlap between the content and the websites above. Also the usage of Youthbox has reduced, possibly due to the reduced promotion since the closure of Youth and Community Services. There are 50% less unique visitors than this time less year (based on average figures of 2223 per month in 2014 and 1056 per month in 2015) and 20% reduction in visitors over last 6 months (based on average figures which showed a reduction from 1312 to 1056 over a 6 month period to the end of 2015).
51. It was agreed to migrate the relevant IAG for young people from Youthbox to a youth branded section on the Staffordshire Cares website and then close down the Youthbox website, this is scheduled to happen in May 2016. The content will focus on ensuring that young people receive the relevant local information relating to topics highlighted by insight and consultation with young people.
52. Staffordshire Cares was established in 2011 and is already a trusted source of information and advice for families in Staffordshire, with an infrastructure in place to support it. The content currently on Youthbox will be consolidated and where other websites have the appropriate expertise the pages would signpost appropriately to avoid duplication. The content on Staffordshire Cares will focus on ensuring that young people receive the relevant local information.



## Property Update

53. The table below summarises the position for each property in the county.
54. The factors taken into consideration in developing the solutions include community need, taking opportunities to address school curriculum/expansion needs, and community expressions of interest, with the aim of supporting communities where this is possible. There has been continual consideration and reference made to changes taking place through other Transformation Projects including Best Start and Libraries.
55. In terms of buildings made available to community groups, SCVYS have been promoting each opportunity widely, and have been significantly involved in supporting a number of the successful organisations.

	Property Proposal/Plan	Detail
1.	12 Centres on school sites transferred to the school host - addressing a number of issues for schools. These were between 31.12.14 and 31.03.15	<p><b>Barton:</b> (John Taylor Academy) School will use as a Teacher Training Venue.</p> <p><b>Blythe Bridge:</b> (Foundation) School will timetable as classrooms</p> <p><b>Chaselea:</b> This is already fully used by Short Stay School in the day for teaching.</p> <p><b>Cheadle:</b> (Academy) Sixth Form Vocational Centre</p> <p><b>Clough Hall:</b> To be demolished, as the school is being replaced as part of an EFA bid – Priority School Building Programme 1</p> <p><b>Gnosall:</b> As above, this is to be demolished as school being replaced as part of an EFA bid – Priority School Building Programme 1</p> <p><b>Hazel Slade :</b> Possible use as Early Years Base, but would need some restorative work to make it fit for purpose</p> <p><b>Nether Stowe:</b> Footprint of youth centre is required for future Basic Need development.</p> <p><b>Perton:</b> Will be used as a class base, replacing a very poor condition mobile classroom.</p> <p><b>Walton:</b> Will be used as the school’s Sixth Form Centre, which releases teaching space in main school building and addresses condition issues.</p> <p><b>Wheaton Aston:</b> Ongoing : Looking at options, as there is no identified need from a Pupil Number perspective. May need to be decommissioned.</p>

		<b>Winshill:</b> To be used as a classroom, addressing capacity issues and resulting in school not needing to lease premises off site.
2.	6 Centres are being managed by 3rd party organisations selected through a mini competition – open to those who expressed interest, SCVYS and VAST members and Voluntary Sector organisations. This process was due to complete by 31.03.15 however some leases are still requiring final sign off. Four as indicated are complete, with one being imminent	<p><b>Biddulph</b> - complete  <b>Burntwood</b>- complete  <b>Knutton Completion due May/June 2016</b>  <b>Minster Hall</b> - complete  <b>Rugeley</b> - complete  <b>Stone</b></p> <p>This process was progressed as a result of local/community interest in these 6 centres. If no successful organisation is secured for those yet to complete to the satisfaction of Strategic Property, we will move to an alternative option which could be a Sale.</p>
3.	Two Centres where SCC will terminate our lease agreement with the Landlord	<p><b>Holmcroft:</b> lease has been terminated.</p> <p><b>Littleton:</b> lease has been terminated.</p>
4.	Two Centres have leases in progress to 3 <sup>rd</sup> parties transferring responsibility for running costs and maintenance to them	<p><b>Audley/Halmerend:</b> lease is in progression for building and site. Currently not used but no sale value as site is landlocked.</p> <p><b>Bradwell:</b> lease is in hand to a current user who will take on management and costs and all current users.</p>
5.	Two Centres will be vacated by the Youth Service leaving space in SCC pooled/shared buildings: alternative occupants or uses arranged	<p><b>Balfour House – Cannock:</b> For sale on the open market.</p> <p><b>Grange-Burton:</b> vacated space is being used by Burton Albion Community Trust via a short lease arrangement at no cost to SCC. Complete</p>
6.	Two Centres will be vacated by Youth Service and are integral to the Library service building also under review: will therefore be included in their Transformation exercise	<p><b>Glascote-Tamworth</b></p> <p><b>Wombourne</b></p>
7.	2 Centres to be managed by user groups as a short term solution until Strategic Property	<b>Tamworth:</b> arrangements in place to manage centre locally at no cost to SCC. Covenant on site restricting use to youth activities. Medium term plans to develop the whole site for potential college

	solutions are in place:	use. Extension for a further two years is in progress.  <b>Wilnecote:</b> Building was vacated by 1 <sup>st</sup> January 2016. The building has been subject to an Asset of Community Value application. There was a period of moratorium until the end of October 2015. The bid was unsuccessful.
8.	Chesterton Vision	<b>Chesterton Vision:</b> Commitment that Centre will not close. Linked to Grant Conditions and original funding source  An organisation to take on the management of the Centre with effect from 01.09.15 via a Tenancy at Will. The lease is due to complete in June 2016 but is subject to approval from Cabinet Office relating to the Grant Conditions..
9.	2 centres to be offered for sale on the open market	<b>Brewood:</b> No cost to SCC with effect from 01.04.15 Potential Sale currently being considered  <b>Whittington:</b> Planning application being developed for residential development.
10.	1 Centre to be vacated by the Youth Service.	<b>Millward Hall-Leek:</b> Vacated by Youth Service at 31.03.15: no cost to SCC. For Sale on the open market.

## Localities Fund update

56. The Localities Fund is now spent or committed. Grants made to successful bidders have supported a mix of transitional projects, which deliver activities for young people alongside volunteer training to develop local capacity, and some ready-to-go projects which include both open access and programmes that are open to referred young people who might benefit.
57. Programmes which received funding include mental and physical health support, mentoring and coaching including peer support networks, life skills and leadership development, and gaining experience of a workplace. Programmes also offer support in transitioning from primary to secondary school, and support for those at risk of becoming not in employment, education or training (NEET), catering for a range of possible reasons. There are also some joint diversionary programmes which will work with Police Community Support Officers for those at risk of, or engaging in, anti-social behaviour.
58. The Localities fund supported Biddulph Youth and Community Zone in Staffordshire Moorlands. The group went on to secure lottery funding of £475,000 and won The Sentinel Community Group of the Year 2015.
59. The following table provides a summary update by district:

District or Borough	Successful bids	Total Successful Bid Value	Detail
East Staffordshire	11	£52,240	Young person's emotional wellbeing project in Uttoxeter, physical activity projects to improve health, community cohesion and a reduction in anti-social behaviour, a mobile sports cage for physical activity and engagement across Burton and Uttoxeter on a pop-up basis, a music and band project, cookery skills and kitchen safety, a boxing project across the district, two youth choirs and a photography and film making project in Burton.
Lichfield	15	£47,000	Successful bidders include positive mental health projects, peer coaching training, summer camps, survival and life skills development, sports and exercise, a project aimed at those in danger of becoming NEET or who need to build confidence, a project supporting hard-to-engage groups of young people, and a project working with Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) to offer diversionary activities for those engaging in ASB or on the fringes of doing so. The balance was spent on improvements to the local skate park in Burntwood to facilitate its transfer to Lichfield District Council.
Newcastle-under-Lyme	3 (+ an allocation to the commissioning prospectus group)	£55,000	Successful bidders include Loggerheads Parish Council who are looking to provide youth activities in Loggerheads and Ashley, and funding for a Detached Youth Project in Kidsgrove. The additional money that was available through the locality fund has been aligned and committed to both diversionary and holiday play scheme projects through the Newcastle Commissioning prospectus and the Newcastle Joint Operations Group. These contracts have been monitored through the local commissioner in partnership with Newcastle Borough Council commissioners' group.
South Staffordshire	9	£41,279	Successful bids have included provision of arts and sports activity, health and wellbeing and community action projects, outdoor survival and life skills, and the provision of youth café activity. One project around emotional wellbeing has attracted 150 young people in Huntingdon (an area of deprivation in South Staffordshire).

Stafford	11	£41,480	In Stafford, successful bids have included providing drama sessions for young people with learning disabilities, after school drama therapy, sport sessions and street dance opportunities, and projects supporting local volunteering and entrepreneurialism.
Staffordshire Moorlands	12	£47,960	Successful bidders included a group that took over the management of a youth centre, development of some rural provision with SCVYS, targeted arts and music provision and support to engage young people, with learning difficulties to access local offers including DoE.
Tamworth	9	£42,560	Successful bidders included those offering projects around football sessions and including coaching opportunities, free street dance activities, a Peer Wellbeing Champion Pilot in schools supporting mental and emotional wellbeing, and Community Together CIC, a community interest company in Tamworth offering a weekly youth and community café which aims to engage with 80 additional young people per year (additional to the 8 already identified to work on the project). Youth Fund Celebration Event held on 9 <sup>th</sup> June at which providers will present to elected members and local partners project deliverables and how the projects will continue beyond the contract period.
Cannock Chase	11	£46,465	After a successful bidding process, funds were deliberately awarded to a range of groups in Cannock, Hednesford, Norton Canes and Rugeley to ensure all communities benefited from investment. The Hednesford project responded to the needs of targeted issues in partnership with the police and local businesses to tackle anti-social behaviour. Projects also included LDD provision in Cannock with Liberty CiC and Rugeley with Community Engagement & Support Services CiC. Universal projects consisted of outdoor activities at Chasewater and Birches Valley which worked in partnership with schools to identify vulnerable young people and the remainder were focused around healthy eating, summer activities and sports.

## Monitoring

60. A small monitoring group was been established, made up of Commissioners involved with the project, Cabinet members and project management. This group will track the impact of the changes made to provision of activities for young people, opportunities for participation, Duke of Edinburgh and LDD provision will be monitored in the future. The

group met in January 2016 and May 2016 to monitor the impact of the changes and take any actions required.

### **Link to Strategic Plan**

61. In August 2013, Staffordshire County Council agreed three priority outcomes to build a better Staffordshire. These priorities are that the people of Staffordshire will:
- a. Be able to access more good jobs and feel the benefits of economic growth;
  - b. Be healthier and more independent; and
  - c. Feel safer, happier and more supported in and by their community.
62. Improving the lives of young people is a vital part of achieving these priority outcomes. The Council has a vision that all young people in Staffordshire can achieve their full potential and will prosper, be healthy and happy, and live safely and supported within their communities.

### **Equalities and Legal Implications**

63. The Equality Act 2010 requires public bodies to comply with the 'Public Sector Equality Duty'. This duty requires public authorities, in the exercise of their functions, to have due regard to the need to:
- a. Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Act.
  - b. Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a relevant protected characteristic and people who do not share it.
  - c. Foster good relations between people who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it.
64. While there is no explicit legal requirement under the public sector equality duty to consult or engage with people with different protected characteristics, the public sector equality duty requires public authorities to have an adequate evidence base for their decision-making, and engagement can assist with developing that evidence base. Engaging with stakeholders and employees will help public authorities to base their policies on evidence, rather than on assumptions.
65. Local authorities are under a number of duties in relation to young people. This includes the duty to ensure, so far as reasonably practicable, that young people have access to sufficient educational and recreational leisure-time activities (positive activities) for the improvement of their wellbeing and personal and social development, and in particular, local authorities must address the needs of young people at greatest risk of negative outcomes to increase their participation in appropriate 'positive activities'.
66. In addition, there are duties to promote the effective participation of all 16 and 17 year olds in education and training as well as securing sufficient and suitable education and training provision for all 16-18 year olds (or aged up to 25 for those subject to a Learning Difficulty Assessment or with an Education, Health and Care Plan) and to make available to young people aged 19 and below support that will encourage, enable or assist them to participate in education and training, particularly vulnerable young people.

## **Link to other Overview and Scrutiny Activity**

67. As discussed in the Background section, the Youth and Community Service project has been to this Select Committee on several occasions throughout its development.
68. However, there is also a wider link to much of the work in which the County Council and Scrutiny is currently engaged. In seeking to deliver better outcomes through a new locality-based approach, and in which communities and the voluntary sector play a bigger role, this work forms part of a wider programme, as the authority looks at how our new strategic direction applies to each area of our work.

## **Contact Officer**

Michael Harrison, Commissioner for Safety  
Telephone: 01785 278163  
Email: michael.harrison@staffordshire.gov.uk