



SHROPSHIRE HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

Report

Meeting Date	13 th February 2025					
Title of report	Shropshire Youth Strategy					
This report is for (You will have been advised which applies)	Discussion and agreement of recommendations	x	Approval of recommendation s (With discussion by exception)		Information only (No recommendations)	
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Which Joint Health & Wellbeing Strategy priorities does this report address? Please tick all that apply	Children & Young People	x	Joined up working			x
	Mental Health	x	Improving Population Health			x
	Healthy Weight & Physical Activity	x	Working with and building strong and vibrant communities			x
	Workforce		Reduce inequalities (see below)			x
What inequalities does this report address?	Social inequalities Economic inequality Education inequality Health inequality Cultural inequality Gender inequality					

Report content - Please expand content under these headings or attach your report ensuring the three headings are included.

1. Executive Summary

The Youth Strategy aims to create a comprehensive Youth Offer for young people in Shropshire, prioritizing their wellbeing and helping them reach their full potential. The strategy is driven by the vision to provide opportunities and safe spaces for young people, ensuring their voices are heard and included in decision-making processes.

2. Recommendations

1. Create a Local Youth Partnership

Establish a cross-sector organization to develop and sustain youth work provision.

Collaborate with Youth Work Providers, the wider Youth Sector, community and voluntary sector, Town and Parish Councils, businesses, and young people.

Ensure the partnership is youth-led, inclusive, respectful, and focused on quality, safety, and wellbeing.

2. Enhance Communication and Outreach

Create a website and social media presence to advertise the local youth offer.

Promote the training offer via the Shropshire Community and Safeguarding Partnership to the Voluntary and Community Sector.

3. Support Local Strategies

Align the Youth Strategy with other local strategies, such as the Early Help Strategy and the Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

Develop a joint commissioning plan that brings together police, health, local authority, Town and Parish Councils, and housing.

4. Focus on Safe Spaces and Activities

Provide safe environments for young people to socialize and engage in activities that promote personal growth and development.

Address the concerns of young people regarding safety, crime, and anti-social behaviour.

5. Address Social and Mental Health Needs

Recognize the impact of social media and the need for a balance between face-to-face and digital youth work.

Provide accessible clubs and activities that appeal to all young people, especially those with social, emotional, and mental health needs.

3. Report

Background and Context

- Since 2011, Shropshire has seen a reduction in youth services.
- New guidance from the Department of Culture, Media & Sport (DCMS) in 2023 emphasizes the statutory duty to improve young people's wellbeing and personal development.
- The strategy addresses the changing landscape for young people, including the impact of social media and the need for more physical and social spaces.

Key Findings from Surveys

- Young people desire more places to go, outdoor facilities, and spaces to meet friends.
- Concerns include boredom, isolation, safety, and crime.
- A significant number of young people do not leave their homes during free time, leading to social and mental health issues.

Youth Work and Curriculum

- Youth work focuses on personal, social, and educational development, helping young people gain a voice and place in society.
- The curriculum framework supports understanding youth work practice and provides an educational reference for stakeholders.

Alignment with the Shropshire Plan

- The Youth Strategy aligns with the Shropshire Plan's priorities: Healthy People, Healthy Environment, Healthy Economy, and Healthy Organization.
- Youth work contributes to tackling inequalities, early intervention, partnerships, self-responsibility, climate change, safer communities, and skills and employment.

Strategic Priorities

1. Create a Local Youth Partnership. Establish a cross-sector organisation to develop and sustain youth work provision.
2. Build the Workforce**: Strengthen the voluntary sector and ensure youth workers are well-trained and resources are targeted effectively.
3. Youth Voice and Participation**: Ensure young people are central to decision-making, fostering civic engagement and inclusivity.

Ambitions for the Next Three Years

- Establish a Youth Partnership Board.
- Develop a robust Youth Offer Plan.
- Create a participation structure for diverse youth involvement.
- Enhance communication through a website and social media presence.

Supporting Strategies

The Youth Strategy is supported by other local strategies, including the Early Help Strategy, Health & Wellbeing Strategy and ICB Joint Forward Plan.

This report summary encapsulates the main points and goals of the Youth Strategy, highlighting the commitment to improving the lives of young people in Shropshire.

Risk assessment and opportunities appraisal

(NB This will include the following: Risk Management, Human Rights, Equalities, Community, Environmental consequences and other Consultation)

ESHIA to be completed and submitted with information to EMT and Cabinet.

Financial implications

(Any financial implications of note)

There are no finances allocated to delivering this work.

Climate Change Appraisal as applicable

Where else has the paper been presented?

System Partnership Boards

ShIPP Neighbourhood working & Hub Subgroup, HWBB

Voluntary Sector

SYA who provide infrastructure support to Voluntary and community Youth Sector

Other

Education, Early Help, Public Health Partnerships

List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)

Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder)

Cllr Kirstie Hurst-Knight, Portfolio Holder for Children & Education

Appendices

Appendix A - Shropshire Youth Work Position Statement 2024

Appendix B - Youth Strategy 2025 to 2027

Appendix C - Youth Support Team Survey Report 2024