

CYO Report to the Salisbury Area Board

12th November 2015

There is a legal requirement for Local Authorities to provide positive activities for young people. The guidance is set out in section 507B section 6 of the 1996 Education Act and it states:

The legislation creates new legal requirements that place young people at the heart of decision making regarding positive activities provision available to them.

The legislation forms part of a body of reforms going back to the government's green paper 'Youth Matters' and 'Next Steps'.

The new duty requires:

Sufficient 'educational opportunities' and' facilities 'which are for the improvement their wellbeing, and

Sufficient 'leisure based' opportunities and facilities for their wellbeing

The Community Led Model

Wiltshire underwent a major review in 2013- 2014 and has redefined how it delivers its statutory duty to provide positive activities and youth work. The model chosen was a community based one, with young people informing and shaping the outcomes of the funds delegated by the Council to the Area Boards. The allocation of the amount of funding in the budget is based on the number of 13-19 year olds within the Community Area, with additional weighting allocated for areas where there are high levels of deprivation. In Salisbury there are two out of the three most deprived Wards in the whole of Wiltshire.

The National framework also clearly states in paragraph 32 under the Needs Analysis section:

' In determining the ambitions for an accessible local offer it will be vital that the local authority and its partners address the needs of groups of young people at greatest risk of negative outcomes and whose engagement is often limited.

One of the first responsibilities of the CYO was to scope the Local Youth Network (LYN). There was a successful launch on the 6th December where Sir Al Aynsley Green addressed an audience of over 60 attendees from the voluntary and statutory sector. It has been essential to engage schools, youth organisations and community groups to build up a core of

participating young people within the LYN together with adults who have experience of, responsibility for, or advocacy on behalf of young people.

The Salisbury LYN was set up in December 2014 and is now made up of ten young people and five adults, as well as the CYO and CEM who constitute the group and meet every five to six weeks . The group actively engage in the process of assessing all applications and debate issues which are relevant and may have an impact on young people's lives. The LYN would not be able to be an effective voice for young people within the Community without young people being involved in decision making at the very centre.

Members of the LYN recently received training from 'Learn to Lead', a national training provider. When asked 'why are you here?' the most frequent response from the ten young people was that they wanted to improve things for young people to do in their community, to make a difference and to help the Council use its resources wisely.

The Role of the CYO

The CYO role contains several elements which function to underpin the LYN and to ensure safeguarding and the compliance requirements for Wiltshire Council are all met by the organisations and groups who receive grants. In addition to this, it has been important for the CYO to provide opportunities to raise awareness of policies and issues relevant to organisations involved in the delivery of youth activities. The wider application of the role is to actively promote and encourage the development of new provision to broaden the youth offer that is vibrant, exciting and inclusive

To date the CYO has organised workshops and seminars on:

- Common Assessment Framework
- Child Sexual Exploitation
- Making a Grant Application
- Introduction to RunAClub

Youth Grants

Since the LYN was established there have been two new projects supported by a Youth Grant. The first is the offer of DoE Award at Bronze level for students at Exeter House School, and the second relates to the provision of resources for the Basketball club at Bishops Wordsworth School.

The Positive Activities Offer needs to skilfully combine an open door approach to a range of activities, events, programmes and courses for all young people , including those who face potential barriers to enable them to overcome them in order to participate.

It is really important to address the needs of the vulnerable young people within our communities as it is a key aspect of the legislation.

The Local Youth Offer

Salisbury is a cultural arts hub in its own right and there are over 22 weekly opportunities for young people to engage in arts based activities. Schools are the no 1 provider of numerous after school clubs too.

The Arts Centre runs nine activities each week including film making, dance (three sessions), pottery, song writing, sewing, a reviewing group called Upstarts and a monthly open mic session.

The Playhouse is a beacon for drama and Stage 65 enjoys a reputation beyond Salisbury. There are two drama and performing arts groups run from the Playhouse and an additional outreach project for young people with additional needs at Exeter House School.

The Stagecoach Drama Company runs groups from SWGS on a Saturday morning.

The UNIT contributes to the arts offer through participation in arts and crafts and reviews

The sound emporium provides an opportunity to get involved in music by learning an instrument, singing or playing in a band.

The library offers a platform to display art through the Young Gallery.

There is also **SAYM** and a **jazz band** as well as **local choirs**

Sports based positive activities are also offered across the whole of the Salisbury Community Area and there are over 25 regular, weekly sporting activities taking place. These are provided by local clubs, schools, organisations and the Leisure Centre. Examples include:

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| ■ Netball | ■ Judo | ■ Kick boxing [Twekondo] |
| ■ Triathlon. | ■ Basketball | ■ Football |
| ■ Canoeing | ■ Swimming | ■ Kayaking |
| ■ Karate | ■ Cheer leading | ■ Rugby |
| ■ eXtreme sports | ■ Squash | ■ Boxing |
| ■ Tennis | ■ Athletics | ■ Cricket |
| ■ Fencing | ■ Hockey | ■ Water polo. |

There are also open sessions for young people to attend and take part in a range activities, or just to socialise, at The Sound Emporium, The Unit, The Shak, St Francis Youth Club, The Friary drop-in, Bemerton Heath Neighbourhood Centre and Monday evenings at the Methodist Church Hall in the City

Uniformed organisations contribute to the youth activities offer across all locations in the community area and 2000 young people are participating in the scouting movement including young people with additional needs .There are 7 explorer scout groups, a leaders group, army cadets ,sea scouts, girl guides, and St Johns ambulance

The Churches in Salisbury play their part in addressing the well-being of young people and some provide open youth groups, as in the case of The Friary, Immanuel, St Francis and Harnham Free Church. Rise 61 work with many individuals on Bemerton Heath to support young people to make informed choices and to enable them to build capacity from within themselves

The Bridge offers pastoral support and mentoring as well as chaplaincy in schools across the Community Area.

Churches also support children and young people within their own congregations by offering bible study, support and activities programmes as well as opportunities to attend residential activities. St. Pauls runs three groups for different ages. St Osmunds , Elim, Salvation Army and City Church also run their own children and young people's groups .

The guidance in the National Framework for Positive Activities states:

Local authorities should also seek to secure a strong contribution from voluntary and community sector organisations, faith groups and inter-faith groups. These Partners can make a distinctive contribution to the local offer of provision and based in part on their ability to be flexible and responsive to need, engage with young people and communities, and access resources [including volunteers and premises]

The role of church based youth work is not new and dates back to the very origins of what we have now come to know as youth work. In fact church sponsored youth work dates back to the late nineteenth century city missions in the east end of London supported by educational institutions such as Cambridge and Oxford Universities.

The reductions in state funded youth activities over successive years and the drive to develop more resilient young people has meant a growing reliance and need to work in partnership with organisations like the churches, utilising the skills in each sector as a way forward.

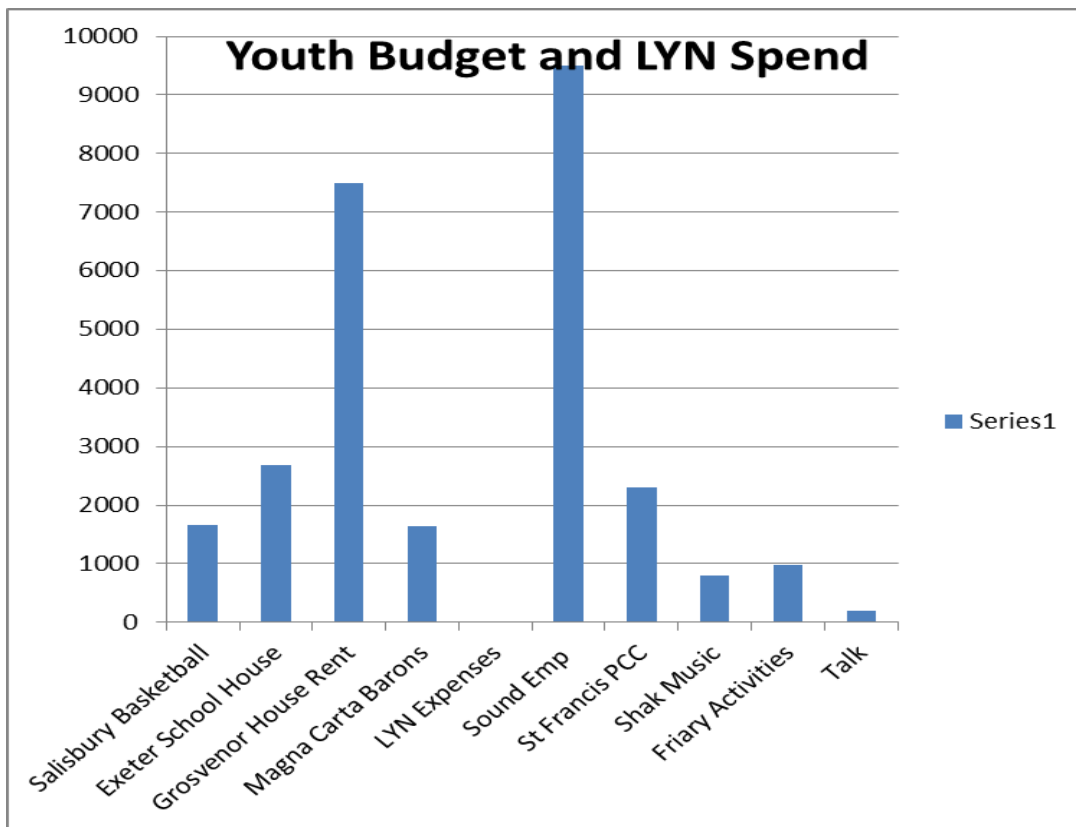
The Budget

The available spend in 2014-15 and 15-16 includes additional support from the locally held funds of the two youth centres which ceased operating in September 2014.

Both the bar graph and pie charts (below) show distribution of grants to organisations which have received funds from the youth budget and the LYN. The reason why there is a distinction is that the agreement to fund the TSE and the rent at Grosvenor House was made before the LYN became operational. The consequence of that decision has reduced the

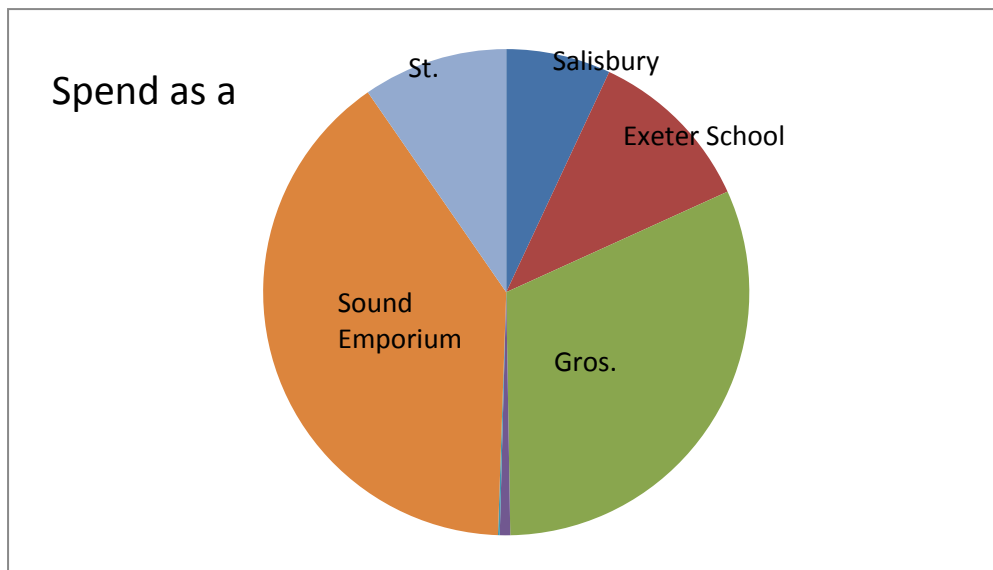
available spend in the current budget. There have also been other funds allocated outside the LYN.

As the total amount is based on numbers of young people and indices of deprivation the LYN is mindful that we will need to have more oversight of the budget to plan for the future more effectively and to ensure the spending is reaching its target population. And, if the budget is to be used to improve outcomes directly to young people, there is also a need to look closely at how the LYN can build local capacity. The value of funding small community based local youth groups is they add value by bringing in volunteers and also add to the skills which stay within the community.



In some cases there may be a need for larger expenditure to draw on the resources of bigger organisations but that will always have to be weighed up by the LYN and members because large organisations frequently have significant overhead costs, staffing and associated dis-economies of scale which may make their costs to the LYN difficult to justify. It was encouraging to support a proposal for young people by young people to raise awareness around the issue of voting.

It is part of the role of the LYN and all partner organisations to promote the availability of funding to develop new and exciting projects that contribute to building capacity within local communities. A pragmatic approach is needed in balancing available spends in the budget with local need and desired outcomes.



Conclusion

The ambition of the LYN is to grow in its role and to be confident in articulating the need for positive activities across all groups of young people, particularly those who are often overlooked. This will include young people who have perceived and or real barriers to their engagement in positive activities

The 10 young people in the LYN took part in a workshop over half term which showed how they can be part of the solution by seeing themselves as commissioners. This exercise confirmed that young people can be very effectively engaged in the decision making process as resources are allocated for youth activities. The group is already assessing applications and making recommendations, as they are learning new skills in communication and civic participation.

In looking at the responses from the survey which went to schools, UTC, the hospital, school and college, the LYN can build up an accurate picture of what young people require, their needs and the gaps in current provision. And, by reviewing the data in the Joint Strategic Assessment which looks at health and wellbeing, the LYN can identify gaps in both opportunities and facilities and work closely with its partners and the Salisbury Area Board in addressing them. In this way, we can develop a strategy which incorporates both universal and targeted approaches in allocating resources