

## **Wiltshire Council**

### **Children's Select Committee**

**6 January 2025**

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#### **Executive Update to the Youth Provision and Area Board Youth Funding Task Group**

##### **Purpose of report**

1. To update the committee on the development of the Wiltshire Youth Framework and progress on the recommendations made by the Youth Provision and Area Board Youth Funding Task Group.

##### **Background**

1. On 21 September 2023 the Children's Select Committee endorsed the Final Report of the Youth Provision and Area Board Youth Funding Task Group. The Committee resolved to refer the following Task Group's recommendations to the relevant Cabinet member for response at the Committee's next meeting on 31 October 2023.
2. In January 2024 the Executive delivered an initial response to the 9 recommendations and advised that a progress update would be provided in late 2024. A written briefing of the action taken against each recommendation was provided in November 2024, with agreement to attend the January 2025 meeting to provide a more comprehensive update.
3. This report is accompanied by the draft Wiltshire Youth Framework, which responds to recommendation 1 from the OS Task Group. Additional updates to recommendations 2, 4 and 6 can be found within this report and will be presented to the committee.

##### **Main considerations for the committee**

1. The Wiltshire Youth Framework sits within the partnership Family Help Strategy (2022-2027) and the collective commitment in Wiltshire to its principles. It addresses how Wiltshire Council is delivering its duty under s507b of the Education Act (1996). The responsibility of which is owned in Wiltshire by the Director of Children's Services (DCS), however, the Communities Directorate take a leading role in its delivery.
2. The framework looks at how partners work collaboratively to provide educational and recreational leisure-time activities, that support the development and wellbeing of young people aged 13 – 19 years (up to 25 years with special educational needs and disability, SEND) outside of the school environment.
3. The Wiltshire Youth Framework has been developed in a partnership and consultative manner. Using the National Youth Agency (NYA) and Department

of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) guidance as the guiding principles, lead officers from the Communities and Children's Services have engaged widely to develop the evidence base and vision statements.

4. A number of consultation discussions have been held with key groups, including the FACT Steering Group, Wiltshire and Swindon Youth Work Network, Wiltshire Youth Partnership and Wiltshire Youth Council. The document has had additional contributions from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, Families and Children's teams and Leisure, Culture and Communities. Additionally, a representative working group of contributors from Voluntary and Community Sector Youth providers have been key to the final development of the framework.
5. The framework sets out the scope, an overarching aim, the role of local partners and 3 high-level vision statements that set the future focus. An operational delivery plan with SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, Timeframe) objectives will be developed following the adoption of this framework, that will set out the detail of how each vision statement will be delivered and monitored. This will be completed by April 2025, with the delivery plan jointly owned by Wiltshire Council and local partners. Progress to this delivery plan will be reported back to Children's Select on an annual basis.
6. Appendix A immediately follows the framework and provides the evidence of current delivery within Wiltshire against the NYA toolkit headings. It showcases the existing excellent work taking place within Wiltshire by a wide range of partners and identifies areas that require further focus.
7. In relation to recommendations 2 and 4 of the OS Task Group and in respect of the updated DCMS guidance, it is proposed that there are two amendments to the Area Board grant funding criteria as follows:
  - a. "Area Boards will prioritise funding to youth projects that provide recreational or educational leisure time activities outside of hours spent in school and formal education. Applications cannot be considered for projects which form part of a school curriculum or statutory provision, however projects delivered during school hours may be considered if their purpose is to enable young people to better engage with and enjoy leisure time activities out of school. Further guidance on recreational and leisure time activities can be found here. Any application for youth funding to deliver a project within an educational establishment will be subject to Grant Assessment Panel review".
  - b. In addition, the current wording of 'applications are for one-off funding and not recurring costs', will be removed from the criteria. This will enable successful youth projects that meet the needs of young people to apply in consecutive years.
8. In relation to recommendation 6 of the OS Task Group, a XX year funding agreement has been reached between Wiltshire Council and the Wiltshire Youth Partnership. This is additional funding investment into the Voluntary and Community Sector Youth in Wiltshire.

**David Redfern, Director of Leisure Culture and Communities**

**Darryl Freeman, Corporate Director, Children and Education**

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Report author: Rhys Schell, Head of Community Engagement and Partnerships

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