

SIDMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of the meeting of the Youth Provision Committee
held in the Council Chamber,
Woolcombe House, Woolcombe Lane, Sidmouth
on Friday 10 June 2025 at 10am

Present: Councillors:
Hilary Nelson
Francetta Bridle
Bernie Davis (Vice Chair)
Paul Dodds
Chris Lockyear
Rachel Perram (Chair)

Apologies Councillors:
Ian Barlow
Stuart Hughes
John Nicholson

Also Present: Lucy Whittaker, Sidmouth Town Council
Di Byrne, Sidmouth Town Council
Duncan Cherrett, Young Devon
Charlotte Westlake, Young Devon
Christopher Holland, Town Clerk

The meeting started at 10.00 am and finished at 11.15 am.

6 Notes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of the Youth Provision Committee held on Tuesday 20 May 2025 were accepted as a true record.

7 Declarations of interest

Cllr Rachel Perram (Chair)	Daughter works for Young Devon and Sidmouth International School.
----------------------------	---

8 Matters of Urgency and Report

Duncan and Charlotte from Young Devon presented the Q1 and Q4 reports, giving a synopsis of events.

The Juniors had moved from the Scout Hut to Primley Church Hall which enabled easier access to the MUGA, skate park and outdoor space.

The collaboration with the River Sid Catchment Group and their Skills group sessions was a great success and their work has been displayed on the billboard at the Ham Car Park. Young Devon was set to take over the mentoring at Sidmouth College from Action East Devon working for WHAT. With Charlotte targeting females, whilst Jonny continues to support mainly the boys.

Mental Health Youth Worker Update

Jonny was delivering 1:1 support 1 day a week in Sidmouth College, focusing on early intervention and support of emotional wellbeing and resilience. The College gave great feedback saying those students have increased confidence and decreased incidents of dysregulation.

9 Long Park

Discussions on social media raised concerns from residents that the football ground had become less accessible, due to it being unavailable during football matches. Members noted that there had been no actual change in periods of availability, since the public had always had access other than on match days. As public perception was that the area was less accessible, an alternative and already available recreation space was Long Park. However, it was no longer used for football training and the grass was not currently mowed as regularly in the past. Members noted that Sidmouth Junior Vikings and Raiders were short of space. Long Park could be mowed shorter and facilitate football practise and be a useful space for the public to use once more.

RESOLVED:

Town Clerk to liaise with the football club and the Town Maintenance Contractor to investigate shorter cutting and marking out of a multi-use pitch at Long Park.

10 Skate Park

Members discussed the ongoing issues of vandalism and littering at the skate park. There were also reports of broken glass and ongoing evidence of drugs, smoking and other anti-social behaviour. Police had increased their visits, but Members wanted to trial CCTV as a further deterrent. This may also help to reduce vandalism at the Long Park WC facilities.

RESOLVED:

Members proposed purchasing CCTV for the skate park and for this to go to full Council. Cllr Nelson would contact the Police and ask for a referral to gain an Assertive Outreach Project to send street-based youth volunteers to the area.

11 PART 'B'

Youth Services Provision 2025/6

Members discussed Young Devon's withdrawal from their tender to offer Youth Services Provision for 2025/26 period. The Chair presented a model for future service provision to the Committee for discussion.

Negotiations with future providers were proposed and it was agreed that the Council should request that the organisations develop a package of activities with costings for the Council to review in a similar way to a tender document.

A specification of what is required as a Youth service would be formulated and governed by Sidmouth Town Council alongside consideration of branding, website domain, risk assessment and budgets.

The Committee noted that liaisons with Sidmouth International School was underway, trialling an open access session for all ages on Wednesday 25 June 2025.

12

Next Meetings

25 June Planning Committee

07 July Council

14 July Environment Committee

.....
CHAIR OF THE YOUTH PROVISION COMMITTEE