

SIDMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Youth Provision Committee, held at the Council Chamber, Woolcombe House, Sidmouth, on Tuesday 19 May 2026 at 10.00am

Councillors Present: Paul Dodds (Chair)
Ian Barlow
Stuart Hughes
Chris Lockyear
Hilary Nelson
John Nicholson
Rachel Perram

Apologies: Francetta Bridle (Vice Chair)
Bernie Davis

The meeting started at 10:00am and finished at 12:30pm

1 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Youth Provision Committee held on Tuesday 3 February 2026 were signed as a true and accurate record.

2 Declarations of Interest

Name	Type	Action Taken	Details of Interest
Cllr Rachel Perram	Personal	Remained in the Council Chamber and took part during voting and discussion	Daughter formerly employed by Sidmouth International School.

3 Matters of Urgency or Report from the Chair

No matters of urgency were reported.

4 Exclusion of the Public

RESOLVED: that the classification given to the documents to be submitted to the Council, be confirmed, and that the reports relating to exempt information, be dealt with under Part B

5 Service Review - Open Access Sessions

The Committee received a report on the Open Access Sessions at Sidmouth International School covering September 2025 to March 2026. The Project Officer and Cllr Dodds updated Members on negotiations for further sessions and on strengthening links between the Council and the School. A new contract was proposed to clarify responsibilities relating to safeguarding, staffing, and programme delivery. Parents had continued to receive weekly updates on progress towards restarting Youth Club sessions.

RESOLVED: That:

- 1) the update on Open Access Sessions at Sidmouth International School be noted.
- 2) the Project Officer and Chair of the Youth Provision Committee continue to negotiate a further six-month contract with Sidmouth International School for the provision of open access sessions.

6 Mental Health Youth Worker Project

The Committee received an update on the Mental Health Youth Worker Project, which had transferred from Young Devon to Action East Devon in the New Year. The service was reported to be operating successfully and providing valued support to participants and Sidmouth College. The Q4 report for January-March 2026 had not yet been received.

7 Headlight Sidmouth Project

Judith O'Neill of Action East Devon had provided a written update stating that the Headlight Sidmouth service, supporting young people aged 11–18 with mental health difficulties, had been delayed until September 2026 for operational reasons.

8 Parental Minds

The Committee received a written report from Parental Minds on support provided to caregivers and families in the Sid Valley through Sid Valley Help 2025/26. Sidmouth Town Council had contributed £8,000 towards the project, funding 87 hours of service. The service provided practical guidance and emotional support to families managing children's mental health and wellbeing challenges.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

9 Feedback from Third Parties

Wellbeing and Health Action Team

The Committee had received a written presentation from the WHAT Group.

RESOLVED: That the presentation of the WHAT Group be noted.

10 Sidmouth College Student Council

Cllr Dodds updated Members on plans to invite the Sidmouth College Student Council to the Youth Provision Committee meeting in November 2026 to provide their perspectives and feedback.

RESOLVED: That an invitation be extended to the Sidmouth College Student Council to attend the Youth Provision Committee meeting on Tuesday 17 November 2026.

11 Residents' Petition

The Committee received a written report on the petition of residents presented to Full Council on 2 March 2026 much of which contained suggestions regarding youth service provision.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

12 Projects

Youth @ Sidmouth

The Project Officer updated the Committee on development of the Youth@Sidmouth website and Youth Directory content.

RESOLVED: That the Committee continues to manage the Get Involved Grant (GIG) and working with Sidmouth College in preparation for the project relaunch.

13 Get Involved Grants (GIG)

Cllr Dodds outlined a strategy to increase uptake of the Get Involved Grant (GIG) scheme and proposed a new online application process for the 2026/27 academic year, as detailed in the accompanying flow chart. Members discussed promoting the scheme directly to pupils aged eight and over, including distribution of leaflets in schools and increased engagement with pupils and parents through social media. It was noted that Sidmouth College had launched a Facebook page which could be used to advertise the scheme. Cllr Dodds also intended to meet with the College and Governors to explore further promotional opportunities.

Members suggested setting up information stalls at Sidmouth primary and secondary schools to raise awareness of the scheme. The possibility of approaching local gyms, including LED, to support funded summer memberships for young people was also discussed.

A proposal was made to hold a competition on 23 June 2026, offering cash prizes for social media content promoting clubs participating in the scheme.

RESOLVED: That Sidmouth Town Council allocate £200 towards competition prizes as part of the GIG promotional process.

PART 'B'

14 Exclusion of the Public and Press

RESOLVED: That under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 the public (including the press) be excluded from the meeting due to the confidential nature of its contents.

PART 'B'

The Committee reaffirmed the discussion and aims held in the Part B meeting of the Youth Provision Committee on 20th May 2025.

Sidmouth Town Council aimed to work with partner organisations to support young people in the Sid Valley and ensure they had access to a network of activities and opportunities that was:

- Accessible by a wide range of young people;
- Informed by the voice of young people;
- Fun and engaging to significant numbers of young people;
- Robust and sustainable, financially and structurally;
- Good value for money.

Provision of youth services, as well as support for education and children's services was the statutory responsibility of Devon County Council. Sidmouth Town Council has neither the financial resources nor expertise to replace those services.

Sidmouth Town Council would work as effectively as possible within the broader framework of statutory and non-statutory provision for young people, concentrating on low level intervention and strengths-based generalist support for young people.

This may include directly commissioning services or facilitating young people to access services run by third parties.

Next Meetings

- 1 June: Council
- 3 June: Planning Committee
- 15 June: Environment Committee
- 17 June: Tourism & Economy Committee

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CHAIR OF THE YOUTH PROVISION COMMITTEE