



SIDMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

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12 August 2026

To: All Members of the Youth Provision Committee
(Cllrs: Ian Barlow, Francetta Bridle, Bernie Davis, Paul Dodds, Stuart Hughes, Chris Lockyear, Hilary Nelson, John Nicholson, Rachel Perram)

For Information:
Other Members of the Council
Town Clerk

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Meeting of the Youth Provision Committee
Tuesday 18 August 2026 at 10am**

You are called upon to attend the above meeting to be held in the Council Chamber, Woolcombe House, Woolcombe Lane, Sidmouth. It is proposed that the matters set out on the agenda below will be considered and resolution or resolutions passed as the Town Council considers appropriate.

The Chair of the Committee has the right and discretion to control questions to avoid disruption, repetition and to make best use of the meeting time. Individual contributions will be limited to a maximum period of three minutes.

Yours faithfully,

Christopher E Holland
Town Clerk

A G E N D A

	Page/s
1 Apologies	
To receive any apologies for absence.	
2 Minutes	
a) To confirm the minutes of the Youth Provision Committee meeting held on Tuesday 19 May 2026.	4-7
b) To confirm the minutes of the Extraordinary meeting of the Committee held on Tuesday 14 July 2026.	8-9

- 3 **Declarations of Interest**
To receive any Members’ declarations of interest in respect of items on the agenda.
Note: You must also declare the nature of any personal or prejudicial interests in an item whenever it becomes apparent that you have an interest in the business being considered.
- 4 **Matters of Urgency and Report**
To consider any items that in the opinion of the Chair should be dealt with as matters of urgency because of special circumstances. (Note: such circumstances need to be recorded in the minutes)
- 5 **Exclusion of the Public**
To agree any items to be dealt with after the public (including the press) have been excluded. There is one item which the Clerk recommends should be dealt with in this way.
- 6 **Service Review - Open Access Sessions**
 - To receive a verbal report on Open Access Sessions at Sidmouth International School.
- 7 **Mental Health Youth Worker Project** **Report to follow**
 - To receive an update on the Mental Health Youth Worker Project
 - To receive the Q4 Report (25/26) and Q1 (26/27) from Action East Devon.
- 8 **Headlight Sidmouth Project** **Report to follow**
 - To receive a written update from Action East Devon on the setting up of the Headlight Sidmouth Project
- 9 **Parental Minds** **Attached to the email**
 - To note a written report from Parental Minds on their support for caregivers and families in the Sid Valley.
- 10 **Youth Provision services** **10-13**
 - To agree a statement of core activities for Sidmouth Town Council commissioned Youth Provision services for the period September 2026-October 2027 and future mechanisms for implementing a project plan.
- 12 **Food and Socialisation Project**
 - To receive an update from The Chair.
- 13 **Projects**
Youth @ Sidmouth
 - To receive an update from the Projects and Service Delivery Officer on the Y@S website development and Youth Directory
Get Involved Grants (GIG)
 - To receive an update from the Projects and Service Delivery Officer.

Forthcoming Council and Working Group meetings:

Monday 7 September: Council

Wednesday 9 September: Planning Committee

Wednesday 23 September: Tourism and Economy

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

SIDMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Youth Provision Committee, held at the Council Chamber, Woolcombe House, Sidmouth, on Tuesday 14 July 2026 at 9.00am

Councillors Present: Paul Dodds (Chair)
Ian Barlow
Chris Lockyear
Hilary Nelson (acting Vice Chair)
John Nicholson

Apologies: Francetta Bridle
Stuart Hughes

The meeting started at 9:00am and finished at 9:50am

1 Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were reported.

2 Matters of Urgency or Report from the Chair

No matters of urgency were reported.

3 School Holiday Activities and Packed Lunch Project

The Committee considered a proposal to establish a one-off school holiday packed lunch scheme for vulnerable children in Sidmouth, funded from the Youth Provision Project Budget, to address the shortfall in support following the withdrawal of the national holiday food voucher scheme for summer 2026. Members were advised that some local schools had not been informed of the replacement Crisis and Resilience Fund application process, resulting in eligible families being unaware of the support available.

Cllrs Dodds and Nelson updated Members on the partnership project, which would provide weekly packed lunch kits and activities for up to 50 vulnerable children in Sidmouth during the summer holidays. The maximum estimated cost of the scheme was £3,150.00

RESOLVED:

- 1) That up to £3,150.00 be allocated from the Youth Provision Project Budget to fund the one-off Summer Holiday Lunch Box Scheme.
- 2) That the Chair and Cllr Dodds contact East Devon District Council and Devon County Council to request that local schools be urgently informed of the Crisis and Resilience Fund application process, enabling eligible families to access available support.

4 Update on Ongoing Youth Provision Projects

The Committee received an update from Cllr Dodds on ongoing Youth Provision projects, including the Get Involved Grants (GiG) Scheme, the Youth Club and partnership working with Sidmouth College. Members were informed that recent visits to Sidmouth College had been successful, the student social media competition had been well received, and the GiG Scheme had been promoted at a parents' evening. It was noted that GiG information leaflets had been distributed in both printed and electronic formats and would also be provided to the local Police to distribute to families who may benefit from the scheme.

Cllr Dodds also advised that he had invited PSCO Jane Starkey to attend a session at Sidmouth International School (SIS) to re-assure SIS of what to do in the event of a tricky situation or anti-social behaviour.

RESOLVED:

That the update be noted.

Next Meetings

- 22 July: Planning Committee
- 3 July: Council
- 12 August Planning Committee

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CHAIR OF THE YOUTH PROVISION COMMITTEE

Sidmouth Town Council Youth Provision Committee

DRAFT/Statement of Core Activities and Future Working to October 2027

Core Activities – Providing CYP with a safe space to be with their friends

The CYP report identified having “a safe place to be with friends” as the highest priority for Sidmouth’s CYP with 80% identifying it as important to them. Previous provision with YD was not meeting that need. Current provision is considerably more popular, and accords with CYP feedback as to structure of sessions and location.

Mechanisms - Youth Club Provision at Sidmouth International School; occasional ad hoc events, e.g. the successful Christmas cinema event.

Progress to date:

New 6 month provision for 11-14YO, commenced in late June 2026 and will run until late December 2026 (as authorised by the Committee on 19/5/26.)

Feedback in July 26 has indicated that YP are happy with the relaxed offering at the SIS sessions and do not require any particular formal activities at the present time. However, youth leaders (Brendan White and Team) will keep this under review, and introduce additional activities if desired by the CYP attending. Pizza night is popular as a way to encourage increased engagement, as a treat in the summer or back to school.

Future Actions:

Feedback on SIS sessions to be provided for meetings on 18/8/26, 6/10/26 and 10/11/26. These should include numbers of attendees per session and costs of the service, together with any behavioural/safeguarding/other concerns as per our contract.

Consideration to be given to whether an additional contract, for say 12 months, should be entered into from 1/1/27. Delegated authority to enter into any such contract to be given to the Town Clerk in consultation with the Chair of YP and Chair of Council, at the meeting on 10/11/26.

Members asked (3/2/26) that consideration be given to providing an additional session for CYP in Years 5&6 on a different day. This could be progressed with sessions starting in late September. Any proposal to be presented to the Committee on 18/8/26, for sign off.

Several existing members are now older than 14. They should be asked what provision/support they would like in future, including possible provision for an older age group or volunteering opportunities.

Develop a plan of activities to be delivered in holiday periods, particularly with regard to the summer holiday 2027. Because this would have to be fully costed for budgetary purposes, we would need a draft plan prior to consideration of the budget in January 2027. This should aim to deliver at least one activity each holiday and half terms with a more comprehensive offering during the summer holiday period.

Core Activities - Connecting CYP with local activity providers and overcoming barriers to attendance, particularly around knowledge and cost of engagement

The CYP report identified low level anxiety (e.g. “I wouldn’t know anyone there”), lack of knowledge of what was on offer and the cost of engaging with activities as the key barriers to engagement with the rich network of clubs and societies providing activities for CYP in the Sid Valley and wider local area.

Mechanisms: Youth Directory, Activities Fair, Connections with Clubs and Societies, Get Involved Grant Scheme; Social Media (Tik Tok and Instagram).

Progress to date:

Y@S Youth Directory set up and is regularly updated.

Get Involved Grant Scheme set up and information distributed to parents, schools and the community policing team. Grant take up to date has been extremely limited, but actions taken to improve awareness in July 2026.

Activities Fair was popular, but the last event took place in March 2025.

Future Actions:

Examine what further action is required to update the online directory.

Develop social media channels with content driven by and representing young people.

Review numbers accessing the online directory and whether additional comms are required. Suggest 6/10/26 meeting for this.

Plan Activities Fair for Feb/March 27 – suggest plans presented to meeting on 6/10/26.

Link with Club “Open Days” or additional events and assist in publicising these, particularly to less engaged CYP. Provision of a regular schedule of events to engage YP with clubs and societies.

Recognise that not all CYP may wish to engage with f2f activities. Explore and publicise online options available, e.g. SPACE virtual youth club for SEND and gaming?

Review GIG take up and effectiveness (only 2 applicants to date). How many CYP are being reached. Consider in 6/10/26 meeting to enable consideration to feed into full budget planning.

Consider delivery of GIG in another way, e.g. through partnership with local activity providers such as LED?

Core activities – supporting CYP and Families experiencing mental health and other issues, through partnership with external providers.

This is an area which frequently causes debate in Committee. Our stated position is that while we will step in to do what we can in crisis situations, we recognise that the Town Council does not have the expertise, structural support or human resources to replace statutory offerings and responsibilities, which lie mainly with DCC. There is also a danger, with STC stepping in, that we are considered by the public to be responsible for perceived failures/inadequacies which are, in fact, the responsibility of other bodies, including DCC and the NHS.

Mechanisms:

- Mental Health Youth Worker Project at Sidmouth College, now delivered through Action East Devon
- Headlight Peer Support Group delivered through Action East Devon (due to go live in September 2026)
- Town Council's support for the Parental Minds project, currently given through the TC's special funding to Sid Valley Help.
- One off funding for families at risk of food poverty through the Packed Lunch and Activity initiative, delivered through Primley Church and Sidmouth Food Bank, commenced late July 26 and running for 6 weeks over the summer holiday.

Future Actions

Ask for MHYW reports for meeting on 18/8/26. Reports for Q4 25/6 and Q1 26/7 awaited.

Ask for update on Headlight Peer Support project for meeting on 18/8/26. TC only agreed to fund this for the initial summer holiday period, with assurances given that other sources of funding would be found in future, so updates/reassurances on future financial planning would be appreciated.

SVH has moved away from supporting CYP, so Parental Minds should be contacted to inform them about the process for submitting a grant application, if they wish to do so. Also to liaise via SVH for a report for the meeting of 18/8/26.

Receive an end of project report from the Packed Lunch activity at our meeting on 6/10/26. Have conversations about developing an ongoing funding strategy should future provision be necessary in the future.

Continue to ask DCC for comprehensive information that can be accessed easily by residents, to tell them what support is available through DCC-led services, and EDDC benefits team. Provide a support "directory" or information page.

Consider a communications plan that delineates statutory responsibilities clearly.

Core Activities – Hearing the voice of local CYP

Mechanisms – liaising with Sidmouth College’s Student Council. Referencing CYP report in key decisions. Additional surveys/consultations with CYP

Progress to date:

YP Committee resolved to ask SCSC to attend its meeting on 10/11/26 to present a report.

CYP “Sidmouth Now” report continues to inform YP Committee decisions.

Future Actions:

Contact Louise Davy (responsible for SCSC) early in the academic year to invite representatives to attend. Liaise on what form of report would be most helpful.

Consider more “meet the Councillor sessions”, including possible surgery for CYP.

Additional Activities – including development

One off ad hoc activities such as cinema sessions/art workshops etc. One workshop (Steve McKraken) already approved in principle. Possible use of Market Square building for these activities.

YP aspirations, including for a Youth Café, received in the Sidmouth NOW report.

Future Actions:

Big Ticket items to be presented to YP Committee at meetings on 18/8/26, 6/10/26 and 10/11/26. We need to consider who is going to have the capacity to make any additional activities happen.

Consider what opportunities exist for providing skills-based community sessions, and is this what CYP want?

Feedback from the residents’ petition of 1/3/26 indicates that some CYP and families would like to see additional activities in the North of Town. Can anything be done to facilitate this?

Consider the benefits of producing a programme of YP activities, in advance, for each quarter, including holiday activities.

Give delegated authority to the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair of the YP Committee, to authorise expenditure up to a certain limit, for ad hoc activities throughout the year, from the projects budget.