SIDMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

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12 November 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
Wednesday 18 November 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**
To confirm the minutes of the Youth Provision Committee meeting held on Tuesday 18 August 2026. **4-6**

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 **Youth Consultation**

The council to receive a verbal report from Sidmouth College Student Council on their concerns, priorities and aspirations.

7 **Request for support**

To receive a request for support from the college for enhanced youth facilities.

8 **Youth Provision Management and Development Plan** **Report attached to email**

Colleagues are invited to comment on the Management and development plan. This is a single point of reference document incorporating previously agreed terms, ambitions, priorities and details of external service providers. It also includes a schedule of Youth Provision activities to be discussed separately.

9 **Schedule of Youth Provision activities** **Report attached to email**

Members are asked to consider the proposed schedule of activities. This is to give the chair, members and officers a visual reminder of forthcoming events.

10 **Service Review - Open Access Sessions**

To receive a verbal report on Open Access Sessions at Sidmouth International School.

11 **Mental Health Youth Worker Project** **Report to follow**

To receive an update on the Mental Health Youth Worker Project.

To receive a Report from Action East Devon.

12 **Headlight Sidmouth Project** **7-8 Quarterly report attached to email**

To receive a written update from Action East Devon on the setting up of the Headlight Sidmouth Project.

13 **Parental Minds** **Report to follow**

To note a written report from Parental Minds on their support for caregivers and families in the Sid Valley.

14 **Food and Socialisation Project**
To receive an update.

15 **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:

Wednesday 25 November: Planning Committee
Monday 7 December: Council
Wednesday 9 December: Tourism and Economy
Monday 14 December: Environment Committee

SIDMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of the Meeting of the Youth Provision Committee, held at the Council Chamber, Woolcombe House, Sidmouth, on Tuesday 18 August 2026 at 10.00am

Councillors Present: Paul Dodds (Chair)
Francetta Bridle (Vice Chair)
Ian Barlow
Chris Lockyear
Hilary Nelson
John Nicholson
Rachel Perram

Apologies: Stuart Hughes

The meeting started at 10:00am and finished at 11:35am

19 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Youth Provision Committee held on Tuesday 19 May and Tuesday 14 July 2026 were signed as a true and accurate record.

20 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 employed by Sidmouth International School.

21 Matters of Urgency or Report from the Chair

The Chair reported he had recently visited the Skatepark in Sidmouth and found a significant amount of broken glass and litter. Members were disappointed to hear this. The Chair suggested he approached local groups to ask them to manage specific areas of Sidmouth and in return, they could potentially receive a small amount of funding for their group.

RESOLVED that: The Chair will approach Sidmouth Vikings AFC to ask them to manage parts of the local area in exchange for some small funding for their group.

22 Service Review - Open Access Sessions

The Committee received a report on the Open Access Sessions at Sidmouth International School. The Project Officer updated Members that the sessions were running well with numbers increasing each week and positive feedback had been received from the young people attending the sessions. The introduction of the second Open Access Session at Sidmouth International School is being discussed with the hope to begin later this year. The Chair and Members also discussed increasing the age limit of the Open Access Sessions from 11-14 to 11-15 as this would mean retaining the young people that had been attending in the higher age bracket. It was also discussed about trialing some new activities for the young people in the valley.

RESOLVED: That:

1) the update on Open Access Sessions at Sidmouth International School be noted.

2) the Chair of the Youth Provision Committee and Project Officer implement the second Open Access Session with Sidmouth International School as well as trailing some new activities in the future.

3) the Open Access Sessions be open to 11–15-year-olds.

23 Mental Health Youth Worker Project

The Committee received the Q4 report for January-March 2026 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 Q1 report for April-July 2026 had not yet been received.

RESOLVED: That

1) the report be noted.
2) Action East Devon be invited to the meeting on 6th October 2026 to discuss how this project can increase the amount of young people seen.

24 Headlight Sidmouth Project

Action East Devon had provided a written update stating that the Headlight Sidmouth service, supporting young people aged 11–18 with mental health difficulties, was on track to open on 21st September 2026 and that referrals were coming in. Members noted mention of a transition project. As this was not part of the original proposal put forward by Action East Devon, the Town Council's grant funding could not be used for this purpose.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted. The Clerk to write to AED to confirm the details of their project funding and clarify for what purposes the Town Council's grant can be used.

25 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. The service provided practical guidance and emotional support to families managing children's mental health and wellbeing challenges. Members were made aware that Sid Valley Help could not provide funding for the 'Parental Minds' project next year so they would need to apply for a grant through our standard grant scheme.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted and that a representative of Parental Minds be invited to attend a subsequent meeting of the Youth Provision Committee

26 Youth Provision Services

Members were asked to consider a statement of core activities for Sidmouth Town Council commissioned Youth Provision services for September 26-October 27. The statement included a list of actions previously agreed by the Committee but not yet brought to completion. Members discussed the draft statements and decided that a clear summary would be helpful. The statement of intent agreed at the meeting on 19th May 2026 was also referenced.

RESOLVED: That the statement of core activities for Sidmouth Town Council Commissioned Youth Provision services be noted and discussed further with the Chair of Youth Provision, Chair and Vice Chair of Council and Town Clerk to create a priority list and a summary statement.

27 Food and Socialisation Project

Councillor Dodds updated Members on the food and socialisation project. After a recent visit, it was reported the project was a success with an average of 30 children and families attending and staying for up to 3 hours at a time. During these sessions, families were engaging with other families as well as having the opportunity to meet with the finance resilience team if required. The feedback was that the sessions were well ran with a good atmosphere and an excellent resource for the town.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

28 Projects

Youth @ Sidmouth

The Project Officer updated the Committee on the development of the Youth@Sidmouth website and reported that it was almost ready to launch. Training had been provided on how to update the website, and feedback would be sought from young people at the next Open Access Session.

Get Involved Grants (GIG)

Councillor Dodds updated Members on the Get Involved Grant (GIG). Two grants had already been paid and two more were in progress. Uptake had been reasonably slow; however, Councillor Dodds was hopeful that interest would increase once the information had been shared more widely.

Next Meetings

- 7 September: Full Council
- 9 September: Planning Committee
- 23 September: Tourism and Economy Committee
- 28 September: Environment Committee

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CHAIR OF THE YOUTH PROVISION COMMITTEE

Summary of Discussion between SYC & Action East Devon

12th Nov 2026

Present

Paul Dodds – Chair of Sidmouth Town Council Youth Provision Committee

Di Byrne – Projects Officer and YPC support

Judith O'Neill – Trustee and Director of Action East Devon

Molly Mayfield – Charity manager & link between Trustees, Staff, Volunteers and practitioners

Key Outcomes

- **Town Council support** for current youth services was strongly expressed, with a request for clear, quantifiable evidence of impact to clarify funding to members.
- **Action East Devon** will provide a budget breakdown and a summary of success metrics before the next Youth Provision Committee meeting on the 18th.
- **New collaboration opportunities** were identified, including promoting the town council's "Get Involved" grant to Headlight participants and exploring future summer holiday programming.

Decisions & Agreements

- **Budget reporting:** Action East Devon will provide a breakdown of how the £10,000 grant is spent, including staffing and resource costs.
- **Impact evidence:** The charity will share data from other Headlight services to demonstrate quantifiable improvements in young people's well-being, as the Sidmouth group is currently too small for robust local data.
- **Grant promotion:** Action East Devon will share information about the Town Council's "Get Involved" grant via their networks and social media.
- **Future engagement:** The town council is open to funding one-off summer holiday activities or workshops that deliver mindfulness and resilience through engaging activities.

Service Updates

- **Johnny Ridley's school-based service: Funded by STC**
    - Operates every Wednesday during term time at Sidmouth College, supporting 6–7 boys at a time with a waiting list.
    - Uses activity-based engagement (e.g., boxing, football, potential fire pit/forest school) to break down barriers and open conversations.
    - Typical engagement is 6–8 sessions, though this can be extended based on need.
    - Funding is currently expected to run through March 2027.

- **Headlight service: Funded by STC**
    - Fortnightly peer support group for ages 13–18, running on Monday evenings at Twyford House.
    - Includes optional weekly one-to-one mentoring sessions with a wellbeing worker.
    - Focuses on coping strategies for anxiety, self-harm, bullying, and home issues to prevent crisis-level mental health needs.
    - 12 referrals have been received since September, with 2 members currently in the group and 2 more being assessed.
- **Thrive pilot: Not funded by STC**
    - An eight-week after-school program for Year 7 and 8 students at Sidmouth College, starting in the spring term.
    - Targets students struggling to attend school, focusing on resilience, coping strategies, and self-confidence.

Pending Confirmation

- **Funding beyond 2027:** While there is a broad understanding that Johnny's service may continue into 2026–27 and beyond, this depends on future budget processes and priorities.
- **Member visit:** A potential open invitation for town council members to visit a less sensitive activity may be arranged in 6–10 months, once the group's confidence is more established.
- **Summer programming:** The town council is awaiting proposals for holiday-based activities that could be funded.

Open Questions

- **Quantifiable impact:** The town council needs clear statements and data showing how the services improve young people's lives to justify continued funding.
- **Service growth:** The charity aims to build a manageable waiting list in Sidmouth, similar to the Axminster model, as a sign of increased awareness and demand.
- **Integration with other youth offers:** There is an opportunity to better link Action East Devon's work with the town's wider youth provision, such as the "Get Involved" grant and the youth services directory.

Action Items

- **Molly:** Resend the quarterly report covering July–September to the town council.
- **Molly:** Provide a budget breakdown of the £10,000 grant expenditure.
- **Molly:** Share data/outcomes from other Headlight services to demonstrate impact.
- **Di:** Send the "Get Involved" grant information and the new youth services website link to the team for circulation.
- **Action East Devon:** Provide three clear statements of what a successful 12-month period looks like for the service before the next committee meeting.