

SIDMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Youth Provision Committee, held at the Council Chamber, Woolcombe House, Sidmouth, on Tuesday 3 February 2026 at 10.00am

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

Apologies: Francetta Bridle

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

29 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Youth Provision Committee held on Thursday 25 November 2025 were signed as a true and accurate record.

30 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 has in the past been employed by Sidmouth International School, the contractor operating on behalf of the Council contractor to deliver open access sessions
Cllr Stuart Hughes	Personal	Remained in the Council Chamber and took part during voting and discussion	Director of Stowford Community Centre

31 Matters of Urgency or Report from the Chair

No matters of urgency reported.

32 Anti-Social Behaviour

Members received an update from Devon and Cornwall Police regarding recent incidents of anti-social behaviour. The Police reported that an initial incident at Connaught Gardens had resulted in damage and had been captured on video. The incident involved a local 14-year-old and other young people, primarily from outside the local area. Restorative justice options were being considered, including an apology and a potential contribution towards repairs or damage.

A further gathering at Connaught Gardens in the previous week resulted in no damage, and the young people dispersed upon police arrival.

It was reported that anti-social behaviour had been concentrated primarily in Connaught Gardens and the Howarth Close area.

The Police advised that a number of individual cases had been addressed, including the carrying out of interviews with younger children where safeguarding concerns were identified. In some cases, charges had been deferred pending further monitoring and referrals to appropriate support services, and several young people were spoken to and given advice.

The Police confirmed that visits were being made to local shops and garages selling alcohol to ensure that none were selling to underage young people.

The Police outlined a range of preventative measures being considered, including targeted CCTV in identified problem areas, increased involvement of Social Services where appropriate, engagement with parents and families, the use of positive adult role models, and, in certain cases, consideration of residential school placements.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) The update be noted.
- 2) Police be provided with information regarding the Get Involved Grant (GIG) to share with families where appropriate.
- 3) The Committee supported Police engagement with Sidmouth College to explain the consequences and wider impacts of anti-social behaviour.

33 Outreach Services

Members considered the report from SPACE and discussed its findings in relation to recent anti-social behaviour.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) The report be noted.
- 2) Councillor Denise Bickley be asked to provide information regarding the youth services currently delivered by Devon County Council within the local area.

34 Open Access Sessions

a) The Chair reported that Open Access Sessions continued to operate successfully, with average attendance of approximately 28 young people per week. Behavioural expectations and procedures were reported to be effective. It was noted that former Manstone Youth Centre attendees had begun attending and that further promotion, including a leaflet drop in the Stowford area, could be beneficial.

b) Open Access Sessions Trial – Years 5 and 6

Members discussed the possibility of trial sessions for younger age groups, including involvement of existing attendees in supporting delivery.

RESOLVED: That

Discussions to progress a trial be supported.

c) Radway Cinema – Christmas Film

Members noted the success of the Christmas film screening and discussed the potential for additional screenings during school holidays.

d) Half-Term and Easter Activities

Members considered a proposal from local artist Steve McCrchan to deliver an art session for up to 12 young people during half-term at a cost of £350 including materials, subject to appropriate supervision arrangements.

RESOLVED: That

A trial session be approved.

e) Long Park and Skate Park Maintenance

Members discussed ongoing issues relating to litter and broken glass in these areas. The Chair would follow up litter picking contract arrangements with the Clerk.

35 Get Involved Grant (GIG)

Members noted that Sidmouth College remained supportive of the scheme. Cllr Dodds would look to promote the GIG at a Sidmouth College Assembly.

RESOLVED: That

Councillor Dodds to oversee the design and production of a GIG leaflet, including contact details and an application form to be endorsed by the College and forwarded to participating clubs and all students at Sidmouth College.

36 Budget and Mental Health Provision

a) Members considered the Youth Provision Budget breakdown totalling £56,000.

RESOLVED: That

The Youth Provision Budget breakdown be approved.

b) Members were advised that Action East Devon had offered to take on the Mental Health Youth Worker role previously delivered by Young Devon.

RESOLVED: That

£10,000 from the Youth Provision Budget be allocated to the Mental Health Youth Worker project and that the existing contract transfer from Young Devon to Action East Devon.

37 Headlight contractor

Members considered the report from Action East Devon regarding the proposed Headlight Sidmouth service to support young people aged 11–18 experiencing mental health difficulties and to address gaps in accessible, out-of-school mental health provision in the Sid Valley.

RESOLVED: That:

A grant of £8,700 be approved and the service be trialled for one year.

38 Battle of the Bands and Band Practice

Members received an update from Councillor Hughes regarding the proposed Stowford Battle of the Bands and the use of the hall for rehearsals.

RESOLVED: That:

A meeting be arranged between the Chair, representatives of Stowford Community Centre and the Town Clerk to discuss arrangements.

39 Future Committee Meeting Dates:

This agenda item was not covered in the time available and would be discussed at a later meeting.

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CHAIR OF THE YOUTH PROVISION COMMITTEE