

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 Intenatinal 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