

SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL WORKING TOGETHER IN SHROPSHIRE

Background to Rural Youth Activities Grant Opportunity

The opportunity

Shropshire Council would like to hear from local organisations or individuals interested in providing youth provision for 10-19 year olds (24 years old for individuals with learning difficulties) across Shropshire. Organisations/individuals who provide youth activities or are looking to be active in the area are encouraged to apply.

Applicants should have a record of providing inclusive youth activities that provide better outcomes for young people.

The successful applicants will be required to have the correct safeguarding and health and safety policies, and insurances in place prior to starting provision. We expect that providers will follow safeguarding practice as directed by the Shropshire Safeguarding Children Board (SSCB). We also expect that providers will participate in relevant safeguarding training. For more information on the SSCB visit its web site at: <http://www.safeguardingshropshireschildren.org.uk/>

Activity providers with an interest in / experience of providing activities for young people will need to evidence their readiness to provide appropriate, outcomes-oriented support in a safe environment.

Funding to support youth activity is available for the period April 2018 to March 2019.

Background

As a local authority, Shropshire Council has a duty to secure, so far as reasonably practicable, equality of access for all young people to the positive, preventative and early help they need to improve their well-being.

We must also take steps to gain the views of young people and to take them into account in making decisions about services and activities for them.

Our aim is to ensure that as many young people as possible, can access a wide range of activities after school, at weekends and in school holidays. These activities are known collectively as Youth Activities and their purpose is to support young people's well-being, development of personal and social education and preparation for adulthood.

Youth Activities are part of Shropshire's Early Help Offer for young people.

A county-wide infrastructure support partner, the Shropshire Youth Association in partnership with Energize provides capacity building support to existing and new activity providers by, for example, helping them get started, providing training for leaders and young people, advice with recruiting volunteers, etc. Affiliated youth

groups can also benefit from insurance, equipment loans, mini-bus hire, and the development of policies

The provision of youth activities will contribute to the following outcome areas in the Shropshire's Children, Young People and Families Plan 2014:

1. Ensuring all Children and Young People are safe and well looked after in a supportive environment
2. Narrowing the achievement gap in education and work
3. Ensuring emotional wellbeing of Children and Young People by focusing on prevention and early intervention
4. Keeping more Children and Young People healthy and reducing health inequalities

Area of benefit:

Grants are available in the following local areas;

- Bridgnorth, Worfield, Alveley and Claverley
- Wem and Shawbury
- Craven Arms and Rural
- Bishop's Castle, Chirbury, Worthen and Clun
- Ellesmere
- Longden, Ford, Rea Valley and Loton incl Pontesbury and Minsterley
- Tern and Severn Valley
- St Oswald and Llanymynech
- Strettondale and Burnell
- Highley and Brown Clee
- Cleobury and Rural
- Much Wenlock and Shipton and Broseley and Rural

What can the funding be used for:

After a review of local needs evidence and consultation with young people and local stakeholders the Local Joint Committee has made the following recommendation for youth provision:

- To provide a small grants scheme to support youth activity in the LJC area for those aged 10 – 19 years or up to 24 years for those with learning difficulties. This funding is intended to enhance existing voluntary sector organisations by supporting additional activities
- Activities will respond to the special requirements of a predominantly rural area and will provide better outcomes for young people

Funding

The overall funding pot available is £33,000

Please note that the council is always looking for best value for money.

Next steps

Deadline for applications	20th May 2018
Award confirmed to provider	by Mid June 2018
Grant activity completed	by March 2019

All applications will be evaluated against key criteria outlined above and views will be sought from your respective Local Joint Committee.

A successful application will lead to a grant award with terms and conditions qualifying the activities, the expected number of service users, the aims and outcomes of the provision. The grant will also include provisions for the safety of all children and a requirement for the provider to provide monitoring information that allows us to evaluate the performance of the service. The details of this will depend on the nature of the service and will be agreed by the council officer and the provider.

Further information, requesting and submitting and application form

For clarification of the requirements, to request or submit an application form, please contact the Community enablement team via communityenablement@shropshire.gov.uk or 01743253077