

Sevenoaks Town Council
Minutes of the Meeting of the Youth Services Working Group
Held on 15th January 2025 at the Town Council Offices

Meeting Commenced: 7.00 p.m.

Meeting Concluded: 8.08 p.m.

Present:

Cllr Chloe Gustard (Chair)	Present	Cllr Dr Merilyn Canet	Present
Cllr Catherine Daniell (Vice-Chair, Deputy-Leader)	Apologies	Cllr Gareth Willis	Present
Co-opted members			
Sevenoaks Youth Council: Harry King Madeleine Politzer	Apologies Apologies	Sevenoaks District Council: Maxine Quinton	Apologies
Kent County Council: Vacant	–	West Kent Communities: Richard Dowling	Present
Sevenoaks Area Youth Trust: Peter Robinson	Apologies	National Trust: Amy Sabine	Present

Substitute		For
Cllr Lise Michaelides	Present	Cllr Catherine Daniell (Vice-Chair, Deputy-Leader)

In attendance: The Town Clerk, House in the Basement Youth Café Manager and Youth Committee Clerk.

- 271. Apologies for Absence:** Received and accepted as noted above.
- 272. Requests for Dispensations:** There were no requests for dispensations.
- 273. Declarations of Interest:** There were no declarations of interest.
- 274. Minutes of Youth Services Committee held on 11th November 2024**
It was agreed to receive and accept the minutes as a true record.
- 275. Minutes of Sevenoaks Youth Council meeting held on 13th November 2024**
It was agreed to receive and accept the minutes as a true record
- 276. Grant Reports**
The Committee received and noted that the balance of the 2024/25 Youth Outreach budget was £3,588.68.

RESOLVED: To RECOMMEND to the Community and Wellbeing Committee that a grant application request be awarded under the General Power of Competence (Localism Act 2011 Sections 1-8 refers) as follows:

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Grant Ref No	Organisation Name & Charity Reg	Purpose of award	Grant Application	Grant approved
48	Sevenoaks Unit of the Sea Cadet Corps 1113642	Essential repairs and maintenance to boats	£2,500	£1,250
6	Sevenoaks Three Arts Festival 1031815	Hire of the venue including high-quality piano for Sevenoaks Arts Festival competition and Cup Winners' Concert.	£600	£600
23	Kent Youth Jazz Orchestra	Towards costs of Youth Jazz Workshop & Short concert in June. Free of charge to the Young Musicians	£500	£500
Total awarded				£2,350

277. Skateness Proposal

The Working Group heard from Daren Mountain who reported that at each of the events that Samasara Sport hosted at Greatness Skate Park all the spaces available had completely gone before the events were held. It was noted that in the past these events were free for young people to attend.

The Working Group proposed that the sessions could be held at the Skate Park on the condition that two spaces be held in reserve for any Young Person on referral and payment from West Kent Housing. If these spaces have not been claimed within an acceptable amount of time, then the space can be offered at the operator's discretion.

RESOLVED: To contact the operator and request on the condition that they provide two spaces for young people who have been referred to West Kent Housing. If these spaces have not been claimed within an acceptable amount of time, then the space can be offered at the operator's discretion.

278. House in the Basement Youth Café (HitB)

278.1 Manager's Report

Daren Mountain, Manager of House in the Basement reported that they have seen record numbers of young people in House in the Basement over November and December since 2014. It was noted that House in the Basement had continued to work alongside Kenwood Trust to provide sessions to help inform choices.

Cllr Michaelides reported that more young people have been attending some of the food banks in Sevenoaks during School time. It was noted that the number of young people who are NEET has increased. Daren noted that

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House in the Basement was still holding the “Moving Forward” project for young people Not in Education, Employment or Training.

278.2 Finance Cost Centre Reports, October-November 2024

The Finance Cost Centre reports for the House in the Basement Youth Café for October-November 2024 were received and noted.

279. Reports from Co-opted Partners

The following reports from Co-opted Partners were noted:

(I) Sevenoaks District Council, Community Safety

Although Maxine Quinton was unable to attend this meeting, she had forwarded a report from the District Council Community Safety about events in Sevenoaks Town.

“As you will be aware the Christmas Light Switching on event was very successful.

However, after the event had finished three girls, known to our Police colleagues instigated an incident that caused two of them to be arrested and then de-arrested but taken home to their parents by our Police colleagues. These individuals are being monitored by our Child Centred Policing Team. They have been served with Acceptable Behaviour Agreements.

Other than this incident Sevenoaks Town has been very quiet for ASB incidents over the Christmas and New Year period.”

(II) West Kent Youth Services (WKYS)

Richard Dowling reported that the Christmas Lights event went well engaging with over 300 young people creating a marshmallow snowperson over the course of the event.

Richard reported that unfortunately due to a high number of Youth Grant applications, they have been unsuccessful in receiving a grant from Children in Need this year to cover the running costs of supplying the Young Adventures Club across the Sevenoaks District. Richard explained that they will be trying to keep the Young Adventures going for as long as they possibly can to give as much notice to all those involved in the running and those who attend the Young Adventures.

(III) Sevenoaks Area Youth Trust (SAYT)

Although Peter Robinson was unable to attend it was noted that SAYT have started to use the Basketball courts on the MUGA at the Bat & Ball Centre. These sessions take place every Tuesday from 6 pm - 8 pm.

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(IV) National Trust- Knole

Amy Sabine reported that Knole had a number of Work Experience and Duke of Edinburgh students over the course of 2024. To this end, Amy noted that the National Trust is planning to use Knole as a Case study for Youth Provision in the future. It was also noted that moving forward they had arranged for a company to help with neurodivergent training.

280. Press Release

RESOLVED: To recommend a press release be issued upon the agreement of the grant applications following the Community and Wellbeing Committee meeting on the 3rd of February 2025.

To issue a press release regarding the Skateness sessions.

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting.

Signed Dated
Chair