

## **Youth Provision – Report of the Children and Young People’s Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board**

### **Report to Cabinet on 5 December 2023**

#### **Background**

1. The Children and Young People’s Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board met on 23 October 2023 to consider an update on youth provision.
2. The Cabinet Member for Children’s Services, Councillor Bye, the Head of Learning Academy, Rachel Setter, and the Team Leader Education, TDA, Samantha Poston, provided an update on youth provision in Torbay and the improvements to the Acorn Centre funded through the Youth Improvement Fund and responded to the following questions:
  - Were the Acorn Centre improvements likely to end up with an overspend on the approved budget as a result of increased costs.
  - What was the youth provision in Brixham.
  - When were the Council funded youth clubs going to start running.
  - Does the Council work with the Police and Youth Justice Service to identify young people who were in need of youth support.
  - Would schools be contributing towards the costs of the Youth Worker post.
  - Does Sound Communities follow up work with the Boom Box etc.
  - How many young carers were there in Torquay and does the Council help to get them over to Paignton.
  - How many children were reached through the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme and what was the reason for a decrease in numbers from last Summer. Action: it was agreed that a written response would be provided to this and that the Board would be kept updated on the HAF Programme.
  - What was the ‘no logos, no ego’s’ approach.
  - Were all schools on board with the Youth Parliament.
  - Where was the Youth Hub website.
  - What had been scaled back for the Youth Improvement Fund.
  - What consideration had been given to apprentices to offer suitable employment and training opportunities within the Council for young people.
3. Members supported the proposed increase of the Parkfield/Medical Tuition Service site from next year to help provide increase youth provision in Paignton.

4. Councillor Nicolaou outlined the work that he was doing with the Boom Box mobile DJ unit and the work of Sound Communities in engaging with young people and helping them to identify other activities to put their time to in order to reduce their involvement in crime and disorder.
5. Tanny Stobart provided a brief overview of work Play Torbay was engaged with in the Kings Ash Ward and agreed to provide a written update to all Members to keep them informed of this work.
6. The Sub-Board reflected and debated the information provided to them, both in writing and orally and formed the following recommendation to the Cabinet. On being put to the vote, the motion was declared carried unanimously.
7. That the Cabinet be recommended:
  1. that priority be given to setting up a mentoring group or safe space for young men in Torbay;
  2. that priority be given in the Kings Ash Ward to work with the community and voluntary sector and other agencies to help families and young people to reduce anti-social behaviour; and
  3. that Ward Councillors be kept informed of the activities taking place within their Wards to support young people and to reduce anti-social behaviour so that they can help communicate this.