

# CULLOMPTON FIVE YEAR YOUTH STRATEGY



## Empowering Cullompton's Young People



**2019 to 2024**

**(Approved by Council 22 August 2019)**

## **Introduction**

The delivery of a Youth Strategy for Cullompton is being overseen and coordinated by the Cullompton Town Council (CTC) through the Youth Service Working Group (YSWG).

The YSWG has set up a working group comprising of the CTC, young people and interested parties and organisations who work with and represent young people. We recognise that the complexity of issues that young people face requires specialist input and multi-agency collaboration. Appendix One, shows the list of all partners involved.

The Town Council recognises the importance of having a youth provision in the town and has allocated funding for this for the financial year 2019/20. This allows for a youth club to run for two nights a week and for 30 hours of outreach work spread across the year. Whilst this is important, we also know that this provision will only capture a small portion of the Cullompton youth, and that partnership work is required to ensure that the needs of the majority of young people are also met.

The document explores how organisations and communities in Cullompton can help make growing up in the parish as good an experience as it can be and can help young people achieve their ambitions by providing support and challenge along the way. It should be seen as a first stage in developing an effective Youth Strategy for Cullompton.

## **Vision**

We want Cullompton to recognise that the children and young people of today are the future generations of Cullompton. We want them to know that they have a voice in the town, that their opinion counts and is valued. We want to connect with the young people in a meaningful and empowering way. Young people will be at the heart of Cullompton's strategic decision making.

We believe young people have the right to be nurtured, feel safe, be active, healthy, encouraged to achieve, be respected and responsible. We believe they should have access to activities that develop them not only socially and emotionally but also to develop their creativity, life and work skills.

The Cullompton Youth Strategy will embrace all young people regardless of need or issue. The views of Cullompton's young people will be at the centre of the proposed objectives.

The focus of the strategy will be, in the first instance, on young people aged 11-18, to include key transition points from primary to secondary schooling and from education to work and further training

The strategy will cover the parish of Cullompton, recognising that facilities in Cullompton are frequently used by young people from surrounding parts of the Culm Valley district and even further afield.

Further focus will be placed on what young people do outside of the time they spend in formal education (schools, college etc), taking into account their leisure time and

services they may need for support with specific concerns such as housing, mental health, drug and alcohol misuse and risky behaviour.

The Working Group acknowledges the potential for increased partnership work with Sixth Form Colleges, Universities and others to make the best use of facilities which could benefit young people.

The objectives proposed have been written with the intention to engage, connect and empower our young people.

## **Priority Actions**

The objectives identified in the strategy have resulted from discussions with the young people of Cullompton, providers of youth provisions and the working group partnership.

### **Objective One:**

*A voice for young people in the town and beyond.*

Young people have stated they have a desire to be given a more meaningful voice in decisions made in Cullompton that affect may them. These range from decisions about the environment and transport to being involved in designing their own youth projects to contributing to wider discussions about how resources are utilised, and new investments are made in the town. See [Appendix Two](#) for discussions around how we currently communicate with young people and how we could improve on this, taken from the working group partnership's first meeting.

*How could we achieve this?*

- Local forums involve young people in their communities
- Young people contributing to town-wide strategies for environment, transport, sport, recreation, arts, culture and community development
- Cullompton young people make a strong contribution to Culm Valley-wide youth voice forums
- Public bodies can show how young people's views have influenced policy and strategy decisions
- Inter-generational links to feel valued by the community
- Active Youth Council
- Clearer communication channels with young people
- Shared resource centre
- Encouraged to participate actively in community groups

### **Objective Two:**

*Access to activities*

Young people want to be able to access more opportunities outside of school or college. The working group partnership identified that many sports, arts, music, youth clubs and other activities exist within the Cullompton area, see [Appendix Three](#). However, with increased costs some of these activities are inaccessible to

some young people. Access to these provisions and the qualified staff within the organisations can support and inspire young people to reach their full potential.

*How could we achieve this?*

- A youth centre and safe spaces for young people to go to meet their friends, get involved in new activities and get support from experienced youth workers
- More affordable music, arts and sports events and venues for young people
- More young people-led initiatives to provide local places to go and things to do
- Increased availability of 'pop-up' premises for short term youth facilities
- Partnership arrangements in place that enable Cullompton's young people to benefit from specialist sports and arts facilities owned by others
- Information about things to do and places to go in Cullompton is regularly updated and made accessible to young people
- After school and school holiday provision for 11yrs +
- Access to or sign post to employability skills and careers advice
- Access to information on funding for activities for the under privileged

### **Objective Three:**

*Protection from bullying and violence*

Young people feel this is an important issue. Bullying can happen in a variety of ways and anywhere; schools, colleges, communities, clubs, on the streets and more increasingly online. Young people are often victims of violence, sometimes by their peers and sometimes from adults, and while in general the young people felt safe in their community, many have anxieties about experiencing bullying in the town. We hope the objectives below will enable Cullompton to take action to protect young people from a culture of bullying and violence. See [Appendix Four](#) outlining what issues we feel our young people are currently facing – notes taken from the working group partnership's first meeting.

*How could we achieve this?*

- Multi-agency campaign that involves young people in order to eliminate bullying in schools, youth projects, sports and cultural organisations
- Education programme for young people delivered through schools, colleges and youth projects to highlight ways of reducing the risks of on-line bullying
- Zero tolerance of bullying behaviour in public forums
- Young people have a 'safe' vehicle for reporting bullying and violence
- Young people are encouraged to report episodes of bullying and violence
- Engaging an active and visible group of youth pastors in the community

### **Objective Four:**

*Support young people's mental health*

Mental Health concerns, nationally, among young people are on the increase and the young people in Cullompton are no exception to this rising trend. Organisations that work with young people have identified concerns about mental health being a high priority for intervention.

*How could we achieve this?*

- A multi-agency strategy for supporting young people's mental health in Cullompton, informed by the views of young people
- Accessible early help for young people experiencing mental health concerns including counselling and peer group support
- Support for families of young people with mental health issues, to enable them to be able to help the young person themselves
- Engage with volunteer school pastors
- Young people feel comfortable and safe talking about their mental health issues
- Young people know where to go for help and support for mental health issues
- Peer mentoring scheme

**Objective Five:**

*An environment with young people in mind*

In general, young people appreciate the environment in Cullompton. There are concerns about congested traffic and pollution, poor transport infrastructure into neighbouring towns and cities and it is felt that parks and green spaces could be better planned with young people in mind.

*How could we achieve this?*

- Young people to be included in Masterplan consultations
- Young people are consulted and engaged in environment and transport planning
- Bus fares and timetables are determined taking into account accessibility for young people
- Cullompton's parks and town centre are more welcoming to young people, with safe spaces, better lighting and places where young people can sit and talk to friends
- Free WIFI access built in to the creation of young people-friendly spaces
- Access to National Citizens Service (NCS) programmes during the holidays

**Objective Six:**

*A young people-friendly economy*

Access to education for life skills that include, for instance, knowledge and understanding of managing their financial situation and cooking; access to advice about career options that matches their skills and interests; opportunities for experience in different work settings; opportunities to build their confidence in team working situations, communication, problem solving, creativity, entrepreneurship and leadership.

*How could we achieve this?*

- Consistent approach to careers advice and stronger links between higher and further education institutions and organisations working with young people
- Stronger relationships between organisations that support young people and local potential employers leading to new work opportunities for young people in the town, neighbouring towns and the city

- More volunteering and project work opportunities that help young people develop the life skills they need
- Specific programmes and materials on financial management aimed at young people delivered through schools, colleges and youth projects

*What happens next?*

The draft report was prepared by the YSWG and the working group for endorsement by Cullompton Town Council. It is hoped the Town Council will adopt the objectives in the strategy and work collaboratively with both the young people and supporting organisations.

When the strategy is agreed and adopted the next steps will be to put in place an action plan to enable the objectives are achieved. The action plan will outline the action, timescales and responsible parties.

The YSWG and collaborators will continue to meet in order to monitor and review the progress of the action plan.

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## APPENDIX ONE

Liza Oxford Booth (Chairman)	<i>Cullompton Town Council</i>
Kate Haslett	<i>Cullompton Town Council</i>
Martin Smith	<i>Cullompton Town Council</i>
Andy Shiack	<i>Trustee, John Tallack Centre</i>
Carole Jolliffe	<i>Mid Devon Leisure (Sports Centre)</i>
Amelie Tucker	<i>Cullompton Community College</i>
Ben Feasey	<i>Young Devon</i>
Elaine Manktelow	<i>Secretary – Cullompton Street Pastors</i>
Alice Dodd	<i>Brownies / Guides - District Commissioner</i>
Dan Maynard	<i>St Andrew's Church Youth Worker</i>
Huw Hides	<i>YMCA Dulverton Group</i>
Duncan Cherrett	<i>Young Devon</i>
Emma Ingledew	<i>Young Devon / IHeart</i>
Callum Archer	<i>Libraries Unlimited (Hayridge)</i>
Deb Whiteway	<i>Cullompton Rugby Club</i>
Harriette Letton	<i>Cullompton Community College</i>
Robin Nankivell	<i>Cullompton Community College</i>
Lisa Fribbens	<i>Cullompton Community College</i>
Rev Glen Graham	<i>Cullompton Baptist Church</i>
Dominic Bennett	<i>Trustee, John Tallack Centre, Youth Worker</i>
Damien Erangey	<i>YMCA Dulverton</i>

## APPENDIX TWO

*How do we currently communicate with our young people and in what ways could we improve on this?*

<b><i>How do we currently communicate with our young people</i></b>	<b><i>In what ways could we improve on this?</i></b>
<p>Resources available:            Youth club – Mon &amp; Thurs, Young Devon            St Andrew’s Church Youth Club – Fri &amp; Sun            Sports Hall and clubs            Lunchtime club at school            School pastors – Mon – Fri (After school available)            Small group mentoring            Library – Youth?            Social media – phones, messaging apps            School visits / club visits            Rugby club FB page and all other groups social media pages            A general talk            Promoting to parents in environments like pub / church / library /gym / leisure centre</p>	<p>Creating safe social media Space            Mentoring network            Arts / crafts / music?            Off Facebook / Instagram etc.            Youth consultations – survey monkey, QR Codes            Listening and acting            Involve CCC            Offer courses (free such as State Talk or toned down version for young people and or taster session)            Drop in coffee shop            Don’t have a bad tone of voice</p>
<b><i>How do we currently communicate with our young people</i></b>	<b><i>In what ways could we improve on this?</i></b>
<p>School email out            Newsletter            Drop in Session</p>	

## APPENDIX THREE

*What provisions and opportunities does Cullompton currently offer the young people?*

- Two youth clubs:  
J T Centre on Monday and Thursday and St Andrew's Church on Friday and Sunday
- RFU:  
5-19 years  
Young Leaders Programme
- Cricket
- Football
- Sports centre:
  - Teen gym (workout) / Parent and Teen
  - Concessionary membership
  - Club booking options
  - Family activities e.g. racquet sports
- Gymnastics
- Trampolining
- Skate park
- Library Services:
  - Books
  - Computers
  - Safe area
  - Young volunteers
  - Work experience
- Coding club – Hayridge. Saturday morning 6? 7-13years
- Lego building club (6/7-13 years)
- Guides / Scouts / Cubs / Rainbows / Brownies / Rangers
- Army Cadets
- Majorettes / Cheer leading
- School pastors
- Hockey club
- Boxing club
- Duke of Edinburgh
- Ten Tors
- NCS (16&17 year olds only)
- Youth Council – CCC?
- Street dance?
- Basketball?
- Tae Kwondo
- Karate
- Judo

## APPENDIX FOUR

*What issues and challenges do we think our young people are facing?*

- Being a teen
- Mental health
- School stress
  - teacher relationships
  - Exam
  - Bullying
  - Peer pressure
- Body image / self image
- Racism (different cultures and knowledge around that / division)
- Cully, transport, isolation? And cost
- Job opportunity
- Training / education
- Bullying online
- Families
- Young carers
- Care leavers and children in care
- Anxiety
- Learning difficulties
- Disabilities
- Substances
- Sex } CSE
- Relationships } Grooming
- Public perception of teens
- Family (breakdown?)
- Life skills – cooking / conflict etc.
- Lack of aspiration?
- Role models?
- Apathy
- Finances
- County Lines
- Prevent
- Not know if you can go to certain places / centres. Perceived barriers and fear of unknown. Support to attend in needed.
- Gender and sexuality
- Teen pregnancy
- Poverty
- Affordable housing and homelessness
- Not having a voice or value
- Understanding core values and beliefs (knowing who we truly are)