



Minutes of the Youth Sub-Committee held on Tuesday, July 14, 2026 at 13:30 at Manor Office, North Street, Credition, EX17 2BT

Present: Cllrs Liz Brookes-Hocking, Steve Huxtable and Guy Cochran
In Attendance: Cath Kelly, Lead Youth Worker
Minute Taker: Rachel Avery, Town Clerk

MINUTES

1 ELECTION OF CHAIR 2026/27

Decision: Cllr Brookes-Hocking was elected Chair for 2026/27. (Proposed by Cllr Huxtable)

2 ELECTION OF DEPUTY CHAIR 2026/27

Decision: Cllr Cochran was elected Deputy Chair for 2026/27. (Proposed by Cllr Huxtable)

3 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Cllr Brookes-Hocking opened the meeting and members introduced themselves.

4 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

No members of the public were present, and no public questions had been submitted for the meeting.

Members were also advised that a recent Freedom of Information request had already received a response. It was **noted** that some of the queries overlapped with material being published through the agenda papers for this meeting.

5 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

5.1 TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST AND DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS (DPI'S) IN RESPECT OF ITEMS ON THIS AGENDA

There were no declarations of interest.

5.2 TO CONSIDER ANY DISPENSATION REQUESTS (REQUESTS SHOULD BE MADE TO THE TOWN CLERK PRIOR TO THE MEETING)

No dispensation requests had been received.

6 CLIMATE EMERGENCY

Members **noted** that decisions would be taken with the climate emergency at the forefront of decision and policy making.

7 CHAIR'S AND CLERK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

8 ORDER OF BUSINESS

There were no changes to the order of business.

9 YOUTH COMMITTEE MINUTES

Decision: It was **resolved** to **approve** the minutes of the meeting held on 05 May 2026, subject to the correction to minute 75 confirming that the action plan was ambitious.
(Proposed by Cllr Huxtable)

10 YOUTH WORK STATISTICS 2025/26

The Lead Youth Worker explained that the statistics combined week-by-week attendance for regular activities with figures from one-off events. She distinguished between those two approaches by referring to events such as Christmas in Crediton, where attendance could only be estimated, and contrasted that with ongoing sessions where direct attendance counts were available. She also clarified that QE figures were excluded because staff were present for only 30 minutes at a time and often had brief interactions with many young people. The published statistics focused on those who spent time with the service.

She outlined plans from September to track individual attendance patterns across each term, rather than simply counting attendances. This would show how often young people attend, helping distinguish between repeat visitors and wider participation, while also providing information requested by funders and helping the team understand why some young people do not return.

In response to questions, the Lead Youth Worker said the service could use membership data to show where attendees live and, once attendance is tracked individually, analyse patterns by locality and gender. This would help identify factors affecting attendance, such as travel from surrounding villages. She noted that only a small number of young people currently travel from outside Crediton, with most attendees walking to the service.

It was highlighted that attendance was often influenced by factors beyond the service's control. While around 10 of 15 regular attendees might come every week, others attended more intermittently due to changing circumstances, such as parental work patterns. She also highlighted recurring factors, including the QE production at Barnfield and Year 9 option evenings, which can significantly reduce attendance.

Members discussed the limitations of the current annual total. The Lead Youth Worker noted that the reported figure of 927 attendances did not reflect a full, uninterrupted year of activity, as the service lost a month during a venue move and a further three girls' group sessions due to booking difficulties. Members therefore expected attendance to increase if provision runs without similar disruption next year. They welcomed the overall level of participation and agreed that more detailed attendance data would provide a clearer picture of reach, regularity and retention.

11 YOUTH WORK ACTION PLAN 2026/27

The Lead Youth Worker introduced a proposed amendment to the 2026/27 Youth Work Action Plan, explaining that it was a practical adjustment rather than a change in direction. She said attendance at the girls' groups had been difficult to sustain, particularly on

Thursdays, with some young people choosing other activities instead. She also highlighted the disruption caused by operating from three different venues during the year, including the leisure centre and the Arts Centre.

It was highlighted that the Arts Centre had offered benefits, particularly its kitchen, which supported successful cooking sessions. However, she felt it was less suited to youth work because it had a more adult atmosphere and was unfamiliar to many young people, some of whom struggled to find the venue. Combined with the loss of external funding and a subsequent drop in attendance, this led the service to conclude that the after-school group should relocate.

She reported that the library had proved a more effective venue. Its central location, familiarity and flexible layout made it well suited to youth work, and staff had been able to create informal seating areas and accommodate the pool table. The library had also provided additional resources, including Lego and table tennis equipment. Building on this partnership, the service plans to launch a Wednesday after-school session for young people in Years 6 to 8 from September.

Members responded positively to the revised approach, recognising that using a shared community venue was more practical than maintaining a dedicated youth facility for one evening a week, despite some limitations. They suggested simple measures, such as directional signage, to maintain links with the Arts Centre, and Cath Kelly confirmed that partnership activities there, including drumming and workshops, would continue.

The Lead Youth Worker confirmed that she would provide an interim update, prior the December 2026, on how the new arrangements were working.

Decision: It was **resolved** to **approve** the amendment to the 2026/27 Youth Work Action Plan. (Proposed by Cllr Brookes-Hocking)

12 GRANT INCOME 2026/27

Members received an update on grant income secured so far in the current financial year since April. Cath Kelly highlighted that the position was already looking positive.

During discussion, members noted additional funding not included in the written summary. The Lead Youth Worker reported that the Community Alcohol Project had awarded £700.00 for the current financial year, while a further £1,000.00 had been received from Places to Go. Combined with other grants, external funding was estimated to be approaching £5,000.00. Members welcomed the progress and noted the growing recognition and support for the wider benefits of youth work.

13 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was **noted** as Tuesday 29 September 2026 at 13.30.

During the discussion, it was also clarified that the September meeting would not be able to proceed unless Full Council appointed at least 1 additional member to the sub-committee.

14 PART II

Members were asked whether they were content to move into Part II business, and agreement was given before the meeting moved on to confidential matters.

Decision: It was **resolved** to **approve** the exclusion of the public and press were from the meeting under section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960.
(Proposed by Cllr Brookes-Hocking)

15 SAFEGUARDING UPDATE

There was no update.

16 REPORTS PACK

Signed

Dated.....