



**CREDITON
TOWN COUNCIL**



Strategic Plan 2024-2027



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Foreword

Crediton Town Council (CTC) created Crediton Youth Service (CYS) in 2021, supporting young people aged 10-18.

We are setting out clear objectives for 2024 to 2027. We want to create strong and meaningful networks to enable young people to enjoy their town, thrive during their formative years and become well-rounded, active members of our community.

This youth strategy is the first for CTC, firmly demonstrating that young people are of importance to Crediton and we value them.

Essential to this strategy is a continued and evolving network of statutory and voluntary organisations, with these stakeholders working together to support, guide and develop our young people into adulthood.

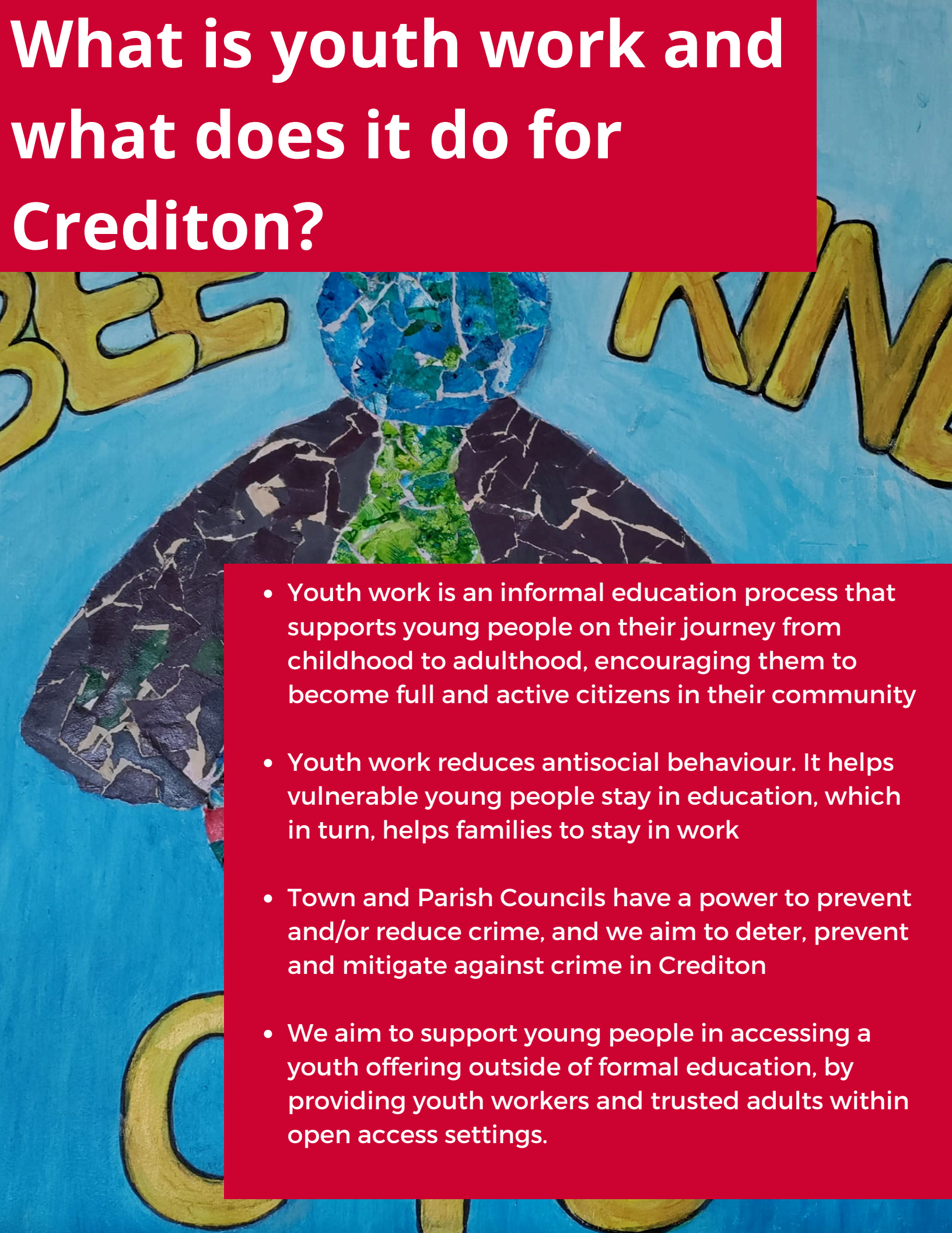


Background



- Crediton is Mid Devon's third largest town with a population of 8,100 (Census 2021)
- There are an estimated 891 young people in Crediton, approximately 11% of the town's population
- National disinvestment in youth services provided by Local Authorities has seen a decline in provision in Crediton, with the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector filling 'gaps' where possible
- Crediton Town Council created a youth service in 2021, seeking a non-secular, open access provision for young people in the town
- Engagement with young people is integral in the development of services, and within the wider town.

What is youth work and what does it do for Crediton?

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- Youth work is an informal education process that supports young people on their journey from childhood to adulthood, encouraging them to become full and active citizens in their community
 - Youth work reduces antisocial behaviour. It helps vulnerable young people stay in education, which in turn, helps families to stay in work
 - Town and Parish Councils have a power to prevent and/or reduce crime, and we aim to deter, prevent and mitigate against crime in Crediton
 - We aim to support young people in accessing a youth offering outside of formal education, by providing youth workers and trusted adults within open access settings.

What do youth workers do?



Youth workers:

- Build relationships with young people
- Support young people to take responsibility for their actions
- Encourage young people to give back to the community and become active citizens through reparations and volunteering
- Encourage young people to recognise their choices, to be aspirational and to have hope for their future
- Work with parents, families and other statutory and voluntary providers for the benefit of young people and the community.

Youth Survey - December 2023

We undertook a youth survey to understand more about what people thought of the current youth provision in Crediton and where there were gaps.

Of 162 responses, 49% were young people between the ages of 10-18 and 52% of respondents lived in Crediton.

What is being done well?

Good range of sports clubs (football, rugby, cricket)

Good range of organised 'uniformed' groups (scouts, guides)

Good range of art, theatre and music groups

Range of youth services such as church-based youth clubs and CYS

Welcoming cafes for young people in the town

Where are the gaps?

Specialist provision such as LGBTQIA+, SEN, young carers, female only groups and youth cafe

Access to live music

Youth day trips in school holidays

Youth Festival

Job opportunities and work experience

CYS response to Youth Survey

You said....so we are
doing...



You said there needs to be more provision for young people with SEN

We are starting a QUIET CLUB, a tailored youth club session for SEN, neuro-diverse and those who want a quieter space

You said there are not enough female-only spaces for young people

We are starting a new GIRLS CLUB, which will be fun, creative and boost confidence

You said you needed more information and advice as parents and carers

We are preparing this and bringing together resources. Keep an eye on our website and socials for information

You raised concerns over the skate park and public open spaces

We are working with Mid Devon District Council to ensure your thoughts are heard

You said there needed to be more volunteering and employment opportunities for young people

CYS employs peer mentors and offers volunteering, but we are working with partners to identify more opportunity

The look of youth work delivery in Crediton - 2021 - 2024

CYS reaches approximately 500 different young people per year, who fall into 3 different categories:

- Intensive reach
- Regular contacts – youth club/detached/projects run by CYS
- Occasional contacts - one off events such as Celebration of Youth and Christmas In Crediton).

CYS has provided:

- Senior Youth Club sessions
- Outdoor Youth Club
- Quiet club / art club
- Detached Youth Work
- Intervention work
- School outreach
- Project work
- Partnership working
- Safeguarding.



Objectives

CYS encourages the involvement of young people from all sections of the community, offering an equal opportunity to join in with youth provision and town activities regardless of gender, religious and ethnic background, disability, or sexual preference (or any other factor that may result in discrimination and prejudice).

Our objectives are:



1) To provide youth activities, projects and opportunities in Crediton

2) To foster and develop increased learning and development opportunities for young people by encouraging and supporting them to contribute, steer initiatives and lead their own youth-led projects




3) To work in partnership with the wider community, health and education organisations and other relevant groups that align with our aims and objectives

4) To generate a sense of responsibility and ownership in young people through social action and to develop their citizenship and involvement in their communities



Objective 1

To provide youth activities, projects and opportunities in Crediton

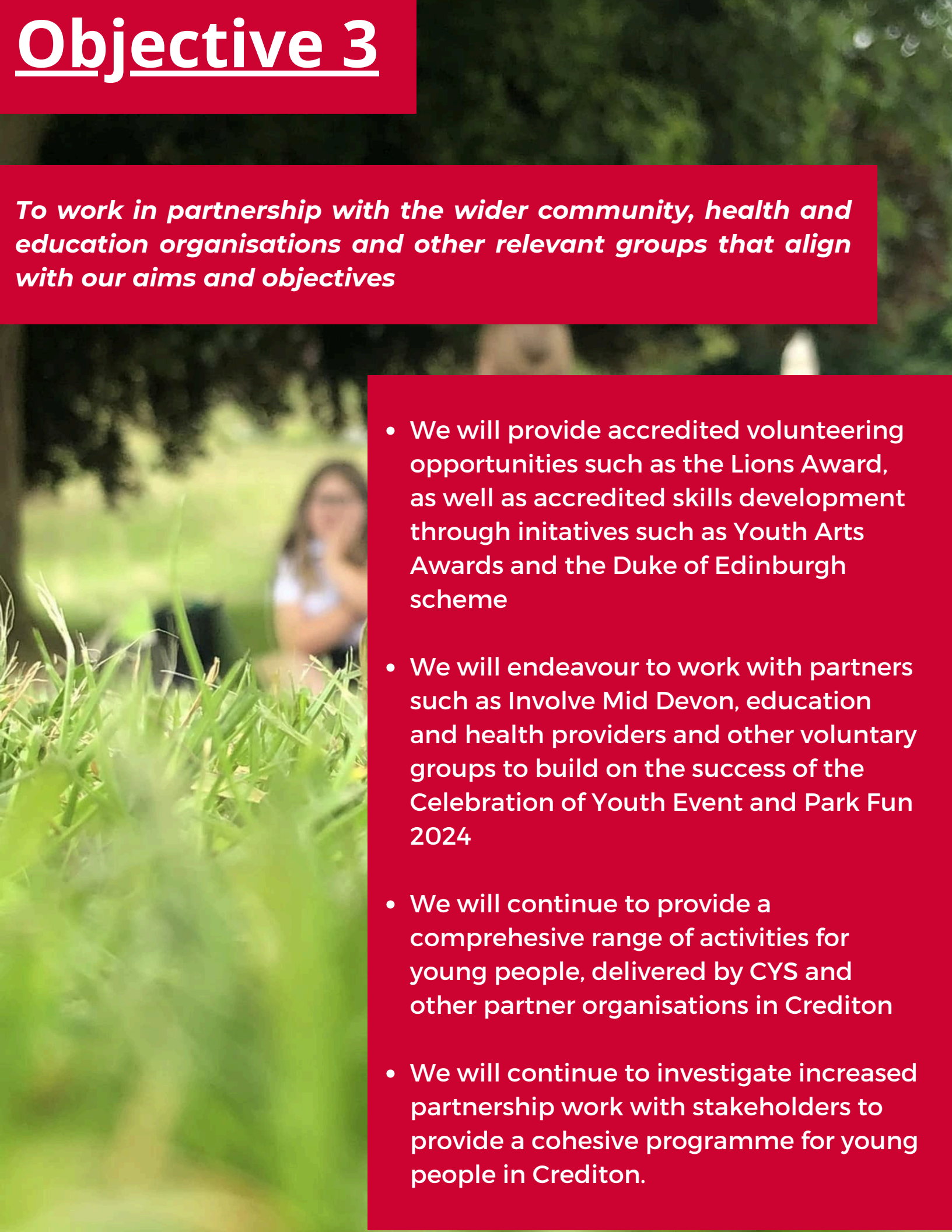
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- A young man with dark hair, wearing a dark blue and white patterned long-sleeved shirt, is captured in a side profile, focused on playing table tennis. He is holding a red paddle and is in the middle of a stroke, with his arm extended towards the center of the table. The table is a vibrant blue with white lines. The background is a light-colored, textured stone wall. The scene is outdoors, with some foliage visible on the left side. The lighting suggests it might be late afternoon or early morning, with a warm glow on the left.
- We will diversify our reach to young people through a flexible programme of activities and projects
 - We will actively encourage young people (and adults) to become involved in the delivery of youth work
 - We will enable the Lead Youth Worker to improve structures, systems, access to funding and investigate alternative delivery models.

Objective 2

To foster and develop increased learning and development opportunities for young people by encouraging and supporting them to contribute, steer initiatives and lead their own youth-led projects



- We will aim to provide opportunities for volunteering, work experience and internships to support employability and increase life skills
- We will deliver specialist provision such as our existing Outdoor Club, Quiet Club and development of project nights. These will be led by the needs and interests of young people, to incorporate a range of life skills, as well as boosting confidence and self-esteem.

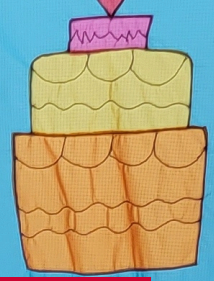


Objective 3

To work in partnership with the wider community, health and education organisations and other relevant groups that align with our aims and objectives

- We will provide accredited volunteering opportunities such as the Lions Award, as well as accredited skills development through initiatives such as Youth Arts Awards and the Duke of Edinburgh scheme
- We will endeavour to work with partners such as Involve Mid Devon, education and health providers and other voluntary groups to build on the success of the Celebration of Youth Event and Park Fun 2024
- We will continue to provide a comprehensive range of activities for young people, delivered by CYS and other partner organisations in Crediton
- We will continue to investigate increased partnership work with stakeholders to provide a cohesive programme for young people in Crediton.

Objective 4



To generate a sense of responsibility and ownership in young people through social action and to develop their citizenship and involvement in their communities



- We will continue to actively participate in community events such as Christmas in Crediton and the Big Green Fair
- We will work with young people in Crediton, identified by either CTC or other stakeholders, to work on initiatives that are important to them and have a positive impact on the wider community
- To support and advocate for young people in Crediton, when communicating with stakeholders
- We will investigate the creation of a youth council.

Measuring our progress

Using the National Youth Work Curriculum as a framework, our youth workers to identify how their interventions and activities can be used to support the personal, social and political development of young people.



Image: Four cornerstones of youth work (National Youth Agency)

We will use qualitative and quantitative data to measure the success of our objectives.

An Action Plan will be published to set goals for each council year (May - April).

CYS will continue to contribute reports and information through existing CTC communications, such as the Annual Report.

CTC's Youth Service Sub-Committee and Oversight Committee will undertake regular reviews, usually termly, to assess delivery outputs against the Action Plan.