

Copy of email sent to Cath McEvoy

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Dear Cath

For what seems like a long period of time the Youth Service provision in Prudhoe has been in a state of flux. In January 2017 we had the announcement of the sale of The East Centre Building, this was then halted but uncertainty continued as it became apparent that Youth Sessions paid for by Prudhoe Town Council had not taken place and therefore grant funding committed for this would not be claimed.

Councillors recently met with Ashley Brown the Senior Practitioner for this area and although appreciate that a review is taking place and the situation remains uncertain, they were surprised with the news that West Northumberland Youth Service would not be applying for Grant Aid from Prudhoe Town Council for the financial year 2018-19.

The Grant Aid paid each year equates to £20,000 and along with funding from Prudhoe Youth Charity Shop it pays for detached sessions on a Thursday and Friday night, a junior session/week, a youth forum, 10 hours dedicated youth work and a number of additional provisions; boxing club, summer holiday work and the motor project, etc.

The full council received the report of the meeting with Ashley Brown at their last Ordinary Meeting (29th November 2017); I have included the draft minute below.

As you can read the action agreed was to contact a senior representative in the hope that the Town Council can understand what the future of youth service provision in Prudhoe may look like and find out why our funding is not welcome.

We are experiencing a high level of anti-social behaviour and vandalism at the moment so this is very high on the Council's agenda.

The Council looks forward to hearing from you and would welcome any comments you wish to make or information you are able to provide.

Kind regards, Sarah Eden

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It was **AGREED** to receive the report of the Youth Service meeting, held on 15th November 2017

Cllr Eileen Burt stated that the Town Council need to take action in respect of the youth service offer and instead of waiting for West Northumberland Youth Service to decide what they are able to offer and therefore apply for grant aid for, that the Council should take this to a higher level.

Cllr Jennifer McGee expressed disappointment that it now appeared that West Northumberland Youth Service did not want the financial support of the Town Council and that this was surprising as she believed they need all the money they can get.

Cllr Russ Greig stated that governance and accountability were of prime importance for the Town Council and for the Youth Service and although a number of questions were asked of the September Newsletter, nothing has been received and nothing again in October. Cllr Russ Greig agreed with Cllr Eileen Burt that the Town Council should escalate questions to a higher level.

Cllr Glenn Simpson commented that funding streams are harder to achieve and with the public sector looking so bleak it was difficult to understand why West Northumberland Youth Service did not wish to apply for Grant Aid from the Town Council to support activities in Prudhoe. Cllr Glenn Simpson added that he would not rule out a third-party provider.

Cllr Angie Scott stated that if West Northumberland Youth Service were not interested in seeking funding from the Town Council, then that funding could be used to bring an alternative provider to provide services much needed in the town, or to create Prudhoe Youth Initiative. Cllr Angie Scott concluded that presently the young people of Prudhoe are being failed.

Cllr Gerry Price explained that the feasibility study of Prudhoe East Centre was not yet complete and may offer solutions. Cllr Eileen Burt reminded Cllr Gerry Price and the meeting that the feasibility study related to the Prudhoe East Building, not the Youth Service.