

**NCC Youth Service Provision in Prudhoe  
Report of meeting with Senior members of County Council  
held on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2017 at County Hall**

**Present:** Cath McEvoy (NCC Executive Director of Children's Services), Sharron Pearson (NCC Senior Manager Specialist Services) and Councillor Wayne Daley (Deputy Leader and Children's Services)

Cllr Gerry Price, Cllr Russ Greig, Sarah Eden

Cath McEvoy introduced everyone and invited Councillors to express their concerns that had resulted in the meeting today.

Cllr Gerry Price outlined that the main point of concern to Prudhoe Town Council was that West Northumberland Youth Service had withdrawn from the council's grant aid process and would not be applying for funding; this followed over 20 years of support of £20,000+ each year.

Cllr Gerry Price asked if there was something happening that the council was not aware of as well as pointing out that the quantity and quality of activities available was a concern to the council and members were not assured that they were getting the best value for the youth of Prudhoe.

Cllr Gerry Price questioned what the future held and whether there was a role for the Town Council, adding that there was currently escalating concerns about antisocial behaviour but that the council felt stuck in limbo.

Cllr Russ Greig stated that there was great frustration that the money set aside for youth service activities in the current year are unspent and set against the rise in antisocial behaviour it leaves everyone open to criticism. Cllr Russ Greig stated that it was not asking too much to expect positive outcomes and answers to questions in view of the money invested.

Councillor Wayne Daley acknowledged an earlier meeting in October with County Cllr Gordon Stewart and other members, where projects similar to Corbridge Youth Initiative (CYI) and Hexham Youth Initiative (HYI) were discussed alongside a project started by Cllr Daley at Wallsend. Cllr Wayne Daley was interested in what Prudhoe Town Council thought of these youth providers. Sarah Eden responded that this meeting was not formally reported to the Town Council so feedback could not be given. Cllr Gerry Price confirmed that the meeting had been arranged by County Cllr Gordon Stewart and that he had attended the meeting as invited but it was not his place to make a report of the meeting, however, Cllrs were aware of both CYI and HYI.

Cath McEvoy indicated that all of the questions raised via the 'Freedom of Information' request had been responded to 2 weeks previously. Cllr Russ Greig stated that he had not received a response.

Sharron Pearson made clear that the youth service provision in Prudhoe had come up against a series of challenges all of which have resulted in the service being less than it should be and that moving forward they wanted to be clear of what could be provided before asking for any funding. This would not be clear until after the review, but Sharron Pearson stated that if funding was available from the Town Council at a later date then they would of course be keen to apply.

**NCC Youth Service Provision in Prudhoe  
Report of meeting with Senior members of County Council  
held on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2017 at County Hall**

Cath McEvoy asked at what stage the feasibility study was at. Cllr Gerry Price indicated that there was a question of the asset transfer of the building but that the parties had different interests. Prudhoe Community Partnership was coming from a business point of view and Prudhoe Town Council from a community point of view. Sarah Eden confirmed that the results of the feasibility study would be formally received by the Town Council on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2018 and a decision was needed or Prudhoe Community Partnership was likely to proceed without the Town Council.

Cath McEvoy explained that the Youth Service is dealing with many challenges and they know that youth provision will be targeted where it is needed most, those in greater need throughout Northumberland. Cath McEvoy highlighted that there have been changes in management but this is now stable and a review will be presented that outlines the service delivery model moving forward, but it would most definitely be targeted where needed most.

Sarah Eden asked if the Town Council should be looking elsewhere for a basic youth club provision, if NCC Youth Service would be ensuring higher level targeted intervention.

Sharron Pearson stated that it was possible to grow a community based youth provision. Cllr Gerry Price responded that the town was aware of Corbridge Youth Initiative and Hexham Youth Initiative but that the Town Council did not wish to manage a youth service.

Cath McEvoy responded that towns and villages are best placed to know what their young people need and that it may not require the Town Council to manage it if there was someone out there with an interest, or a charity.

Cllr Wayne Daley added that with a charity based youth provision they could look at delivering other things from other venues and support would be available to achieve that.

Cllr Russ Greig asked if Prudhoe Youth Initiative was not achieved, would NCC Youth Service still be able to provide targeted youth provision. Cath McEvoy responded that they could not facilitate the East being open every night.

Cath McEvoy was interested in the findings of the feasibility study; Cllr Gerry Price suggested that they ask if this information could be shared. Cath McEvoy also noted that there would be a health and safety inspection of the East Centre very soon and the outcome would be made known.

Sarah Eden asked about the availability of Youth Service at The East to young people with different needs (question from Cllr Angie Scott). Sharron Pearson advised that the Happy Faces group had recently been established. When advised that the group did not meet at the East and had been refused the opportunity to hold sessions there, Sharron Pearson advised that she was not aware of this and would look into it.

It was AGREED that it would be appropriate to meet again in January when the result of the review of the Youth Service is known and the direction of travel in relation The East feasibility study.