

Public Questions

Questions from Cllr Ray Nowak, Chair of Portland Town Council, to the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People in relation to Youth Services

Questions

Given the recent more favourable adjustment to RSG for Dorset this year will Council now re-consider the position taken re Youth Service provision across the County to allow a bit more time for the transition of the Youth Service to be led by community groups?

Also can a special case be made for Portland, given that its one of the highest areas of social deprivation in the Country as well as the County but given the deadline to vacate the excellent building at Royal Manor IPACA this makes it even more difficult to muster a community led proposal to provide a local Youth Service ?

Answers

The RSG settlement does not mean that there is additional funding available to the county council – just that the immediate impact of the savings is reduced. There have been expressions of interest registered in all the youth centres which are available to be transferred to community use, and local groups are making good progress in developing business plans. DCC officers are providing information, advice and support to this process. The Council is aiming to deal sympathetically and flexibly with groups developing business cases, however we have an overall deadline of 1 September when the new targeted youth service will go live, and our current youth centres will be transferred to local communities.

The children's zone approach to data is identifying the level of need on Portland very clearly, and identifies individual young people who may be in need of early help. Resources in the new targeted youth service will be allocated to areas on the basis of this identified need.

There are a range of voluntary sector and faith organisations who are supporting young people on Portland, and a range of public buildings in use for this purpose. A meeting has been arranged for 3 March to bring all these groups together to look at a co-ordinated approach to providing places to go and things to do. IPACA is an important partner in this, and their commitment to community use of their facilities is an important contribution to this picture. The deadline to vacate the Royal Manor campus has been known for some time now, and we are confident that there will be a comprehensive offer to young people on the island comprising targeted youth work and a range of things to do and places to go.

Public Statements

Statement from John Granthamin relation to Options for the Future of Local Government in Dorset

14 months ago I asked this Council – through the Deputy Leader then - that DCC spend £50,000 through Ernst/Young, whose work for Leicestershire CC and South Oxfordshire had apparently shown possible 'Unitary' savings over £50m p.a. He declined, urging progress on Tripartite arrangements - this has indeed been happening.

Whatever the future holds, my 2015 experience in leading a petition to change WDDC to a 'Committees' system has brought me into conversation with perhaps 3,000 to 4,000 West Dorset residents from Lyme to Sherborne. I'd simply like to **share** this experience, at this most fluid time,...findings, not a recommendation.