



**Report to Prudhoe Town Council meeting
on Wednesday 11th December 2019**

APPLICATION FOR FUNDING 2020 -21

Summary

At the October Town Council meeting, councillors received the six month report on detached youth work funded by the Council and approved in principle further funding for 2020-21 subject to due consideration during the budget setting process. This report provides further information in support of that application and answers questions raised by councillors.

Progress this year so far

In the first six months detached youth workers from Children North East ran 38 sessions and made contact with 170 different young people. They also ran holiday trips funded by 42 Days of Summer, held sessions at PCHS and participated in HighFest. Please see the report submitted to PTC in October for further details. We note your request for more outcomes and 'flavour' in future reports.

In September, the Council agreed that one of the weekly sessions could be moved indoors in view of winter weather and in order to work with a consistent group of young people now attending detached sessions.

Not everything has gone smoothly, including the incident at Miners Lamp where a young person was turned away as being too young, but overall we are impressed by the youth workers and pleased with CNE's performance. We believe they have brought a new, fresh element to the youth work services in the town.

In addition to the detached work, we have organised a meeting for all the youth organisations in the town, with a second meeting taking place in January, and have participated in Tynedale Youth Forum. We are involved in plans to redevelop East Centre as a potential long term home, shared with others, for Prudhoe Youth Project.

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We have secured funding from Prudhoe Workshop Trust (the youth charity shop) for a third session to provide sexual health and mental health advice. We are applying for funding for a fourth session for a weekly forest school session provided by Stomping Grounds at Dukes Hagg woods, which will provide a different kind of activity for young people. We have applied to Lottery Reaching Communities Fund for a full time worker, though this application is 'on hold' pending the Lottery's review of funding youth work in Northumberland.

Request for Funding

In the report to the Council's meeting in October, we asked for renewed funding for detached youth work of £20,000 for 2020-21 although by this time, the youth workers were already providing one detached session and one indoor session as had been agreed with the Council.

If the Council would prefer to just fund detached sessions, we can go back to the original provision. However we would prefer to have the flexibility to run detached or indoor sessions depending on the time of year and the needs of the young people. We anticipate that the location and form of sessions may change further between now and March 2021 and would rather respond to opportunities, requests and needs if possible.

So Prudhoe Youth Project ideally requests funding for two sessions a week, held either on the streets or in a centre as seems most appropriate.

Answers to questions raised:

1 Age Group: Activities are provided for the 12 – 18 age group and may not be appropriate for younger children. The youth workers have been asked to use discretion in individual cases but must have some cut off point for the sessions to be effective. We would be only too pleased to run a junior session for 8 – 12 year olds if funding can be found.

2 Locations The current intention is to provide sessions as follows:

Tuesdays: Activity session at Methodist Church Hall – chosen for central location and better space for activities. The session would not have any religious conations and the Church has kindly offered to take down Christian posters for our session. The Methodists own youth club, previously held on a Friday, has been disbanded.

Wednesdays: Advice and information session at Miners Lamp Café open to all without appointment but with space for individual consultations on sexual health and mental health issues as requested by young people.

Friday: Detached work where there is contact with a regular group of young boys. Locations include Riverside, PCHS, Front St, Miners Lamp and The Pipe.

3 Reporting: PYP will continue to submit reports quarterly as previously agreed and is aware that councillors have requested more information about activities, conversations and outcomes in future.

4 Sustainability : Hexham Town Council has funded Hexham Youth Initiative for many years and we hope that, if PYP proves its worth, the Council will consider similar long term support. It is really important to us as your support helps us to draw in other funds: this year hopefully doubling your investment and next year, if the Lottery application is successful, trebling your investment to benefit young people in Prudhoe.

Trustees would be happy to answer any other questions from councillors, if possible forwarded to us in advance.

Rachel Noble

PYP Chair of trustees

4th December 2019