

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES

7 February 2017

Report of the Strategic Director for Children's Services

Tupton Youth Provision

1. Purpose of Report

To seek Cabinet Member approval to relocate youth provision in Tupton and to declare Tupton Youth Centre as surplus to the operational requirements of Children's Services.

2. Information and Analysis

Tupton Youth Centre is leased from Tupton Parish Council for the provision of youth activities. Since the Multi-Agency Team (MAT) moved into the premises during 2011 the building has been increasingly used for administration and office-based work, and the Parish Council raised that this was in breach of the original agreement, which stated youth activities should be the primary use of the building.

The MAT has since relocated to Clay Cross in order to ensure that the Council was not in breach of the lease, as well as centralising all workers. This has reduced travelling time for the MAT workers and ensured that the MAT is co-located with the social care team with the eventual aim of the entire MAT being located into that building.

Following the relocation of the MAT, 3 sessions of targeted youth provision per week have been delivered from the Youth Centre. This work is targeted group work open to young people who are on the MAT workers' case load.

There is a Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) adjacent to the Youth Centre, which was funded through a grant from Sports England. The MUGA is accessible when the Youth Centre is closed.

2.1 Future Proposals

It is proposed to relocate the targeted group work from the Youth Centre to Clay Cross Youth Suite and to declare the building surplus to Children's Services' operational requirements.

Clay Cross Youth Suite is equally accessible for the young people who attend the sessions and would mean that all services were delivered from one site, thus saving additional travelling times for workers.

Clay Cross Youth Suite is based in the same building as Derbyshire Adult Community Education Services (DACES). Relocating provision to this base would increase the young people's access to DACES provision and ensure that they were aware of this provision for the future.

Provisional discussions with Tupton Parish Council have indicated that they would be happy to accept a surrender of the lease on the building so that they would be able to lease to other voluntary organisations that would be able to support youth provision in the community. This would mean a potential increase in access to youth activities for young people in the community. It would also create opportunity for increased partnership working between the voluntary and statutory sectors.

Relocation of youth activities would mean that the MAT were no longer responsible for building management issues relating to the Youth Centre, thus enabling capacity for more focused work with vulnerable young people.

The MUGA would remain as an open provision for young people in the community.

Young people have been involved in discussions around the relocation of provision to Clay Cross Youth Suite and consulted on how this can be best used to meet their needs. Relocating provision has been identified as a strategic need in order to centralise provision and young people have not cited any objections to this.

3. Financial Considerations

The current cost to Children's Services for running the building is approximately £13,400 per annum.

Relocating the provision of youth services would enable the MAT to make greater use of its youth work resources as everything would be centralised in one base.

Once declared surplus to operational requirements, the property will pass to the Corporate Landlord to manage. Children's Services will be responsible for the funding of the property for 18 months. If the building is empty and mothballed, the funding required is likely to be 20% of the current running costs.

It is estimated that, due to the relocation of youth provision to Clay Cross Youth, and declaring the property surplus to requirements, a saving of £13,400 could be achieved.

Cleaning and caretaking has recently been reduced and is being filled on a temporary basis, meaning these arrangements can be easily terminated without accruing additional costs.

Due to the elapsed time since the original funding from Sports England (17 years), Sports England has confirmed there will be no funding claw back in the event of the property being used in contravention of the original grant terms once it is no longer under the Council's control for the remainder of the grant period.

4. Legal Considerations

The Director of Legal Services will serve the relevant notice on the landlord of the Youth Centre in order to bring the lease to an end upon receipt of instructions from the Director of Property.

5. Human Resources Considerations

Property Services are responsible for the cleaning and caretaking of Tupton Youth Centre. The established cleaner / caretaker has recently resigned from her post and Property Services have put in place some reduced, temporary arrangements amounting to three hours per week.

6. Transport Considerations

Clay Cross Youth Suite is situated in the centre of Clay Cross and is easily accessible by public transport to enable young people to access the centre independently.

7. Property Considerations

The relocation of youth provision would mean that the building currently used by the youth provision at the Youth Centre, is surplus to the operational requirements of Children's Services.

On the assumption that the property is declared surplus to the requirements of Children's Services, Corporate Landlord will assess the

Council's strategic need for the property to meet the wider objectives of the Council.

Should the property be deemed surplus to the requirements of the Authority, the annual running costs of approximately £13,400 per annum will be saved and the Corporate Landlord will seek approval to declare the building surplus and the required notice will be served to terminate the lease.

8. Social Value Considerations

Relocating youth provision to Clay Cross would enable Tupton Parish Council to increase use of the building to other voluntary organisations. This would enable the Parish Council to generate more income for the building to be a more sustainable community asset.

The potential to develop more youth activities work by the voluntary sector would increase young people's access to youth activities.

9. Other Considerations

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered – prevention of crime and disorder, equality of opportunity, health and environmental considerations.

10. Key Decision?

No

11. Call-in

Is it required that the Call-in period be waived in respect of the decisions being proposed within this report? No

12. Background Papers

Available from Bish Sharif, Head of Service - Services for Teenagers.

13. Strategic Director's Recommendations

That the Cabinet Member approves:-

- the relocation of youth provision in Tupton; and
- that Tupton Youth Centre be declared surplus to the operational requirements of the Children's Services department.

Jane Parfremment
Strategic Director for Children's Services