

Tuesday, 10 March 2026

Meeting of Sevenoaks Youth Council
18th March 2026 at 6.00 pm
Harry Garret Hall,
Bat & Ball Community Centre,
Crampton's Road,
Sevenoaks,
TN14 5DN

Youth Council Members:

Aahana Verma	George Kelly	Pendar Ahmadvazir
Aalim Saeed-Tirmizi	Harry King	Penelope Muccino
Adelina Suslikova	Henry Thomas	Penelope Rowbotham
Aditya Srinivasan	Ines Wang Neto	Poppy-Grace Dixon-Lyon
Aidan Hirst	Ishwar Sharma	Reuben Foulkes
Alex Jin	Jasper Barnes	Rhea Engineer
Ali Esad Kutuloglu	John Ng	Riddley McDermott
Alice Warren	Joshua Maddox Aquino	Riley Ferguson
Alicia Ho	Joshua Maretlane	Russell Street
Allegra Delli Rocioli	Julien Beck	Ryan Zhaeentan
Angelos Maroulis	Karam Kandhari	Sarah Pardasany, Social Media Officer
Arina Evtushenko	Katie Lo	Sayeeshya Boysen
Aryana Mahdavi Ardestani, Chair	Kisali Wijesekara	Shinki Yu
Audrina Chan	Lily Court	
Ayan Motwani	Lizzie Hunt, Treasurer	Shiv Lamba
Benjamin	Lukas Abromavicius, Vice Chair	Simi Akintoye
Caspar Tillieux	Mackenzie Willis	Sofia Vittoria Moschini
Catherine Barden de Leon	Mark Bielikov	Sophia Yu
Charlotte Bagoee	Mark Bielikov	Sophie Sheridan
Chelsey Dai	Max Oser	Summer Chen
Clement Isong	Max Rowland	Susanna Local
Cynthia Chen	Maximilian David	Taani Shukla
Cyrus Tillieux	Megan Philips	Thomas Heregods
Dhriti Pasumarty	Milly Anscomb	Vihaan Sharma
Ethan Cook	Mirabel Poulson	Vyom Bhandari
Eva Wang, Social Media Officer	Franz Lahura-Sturm	
Finn Chadwick	Naima Karki	

AGENDA

1	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE To receive and note apologies for absence.
2	MINUTES OF THE YOUTH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 11th FEBRUARY 2026 To receive and adopt the minutes of the Youth Council meeting held on Wednesday, 11 th February 2026.
3	FINANCE REPORT To note the budget for 2025/26
4	KOOTH MENTAL HEALTH To receive a presentation from Kooth Mental Health.
5	MENTAL HEALTH REPORT 1) To receive and note the Youth Council Mental Health Report 2) To note that there is now a Mental Health and Well-being page on both the Youth Council and House in the Basement Websites to signpost young people to places where they can find help and support, including apps, online support and local support groups. House in the Basement: https://houseinthebasement.weebly.com/wellbeing-resources.html Youth Council: https://sevenoaksyouthcouncil.weebly.com/wellbeing.html 3) To note that Sevenoaks Town Council has created a list of Sevenoaks-based sports and activity groups on the Town Council Website: www.sevenoakstown.gov.uk/Health_and_Wellness_52319.aspx
6	HOUSE IN THE BASEMENT (HiTB) YOUTH CAFE To receive and consider the House in the Basement Managers' report:
7	CLIMATE FAIR To discuss if the Youth Council would like to have a stall at the Climate fair on Saturday, 2 nd May 2026 and what they would like to do. In previous years, the Youth Council have made Bracelets from wooden beads saying "Stay Green" and Youth Council information cards printed on seed paper.
8	THE VINE PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER To receive and note the attached report, and to discuss whether the Public Spaces Protection Order for the Vine should be renewed for another two years.
9	STC YOUTH SERVICES SOCIAL VALUE REPORT (2024-2026)

To receive and note the Social Value report on the Youth Services that the Town Council currently provides across the town.

10

UPCOMING EVENTS

To note, the following events are scheduled to take place:

Event Title	Date of Event	Time	Location
Great British Spring Clean	27 March 2026	10.30 am	Pontoise Close TN13 3ES
		2 pm	Millpond Wood TN14 5AF
Vegan market	4 April 2026	10.30 am - 4 pm	The Vine Gardens
Open Mic Night	24 April 2026	5.30 pm- 7.30 pm	House in the Basement Youth Cafe
Climate Fair	2 May 2026	10 am - 4 pm	The Vine Gardens
Rock Painting for South and Southeast in Bloom	3 May 2026	12.30 pm -2 pm	The Vine Gardens
Professor Slugs House of Bugs Theatre show		2 pm - 4 pm	
Health and Well-Being Fair	30 May 2026	9.30 am- 4 pm	The Vine Gardens
Sevenoaks Business Show	5 June 2026	10 am- 2 pm	Bat & Ball Centre TN14 5DN
Open Mic Night	26 June 2026	5.30 pm- 7.30 pm	House in the Basement Youth Cafe
Art on the Vine	27 June 2026	10 am	The Vine Gardens
Family Fun Day	4 August 2026	10.30 am- 1.30 pm	Greatness Recreation Ground
Street Food Festival	29 August 2026	10 am- 4 pm	The Vine Gardens

Date of next meeting:

To be confirmed at the Annual Council Meeting on Monday, 11th May 2026.

Sevenoaks Town Council
Minutes of the meeting of the Youth Council held on Wednesday 11 February 2026
in the Council Chamber, Town Council Offices, TN13 3QG

Meeting commenced: 18:00

Meeting Concluded: 18:55

Youth Council Members Present:

Aahana Verma	Apologies	Kisali Wijesekara	Present
Aalim Saeed-Tirmizi	Present	Lily Court	Present
Adelina Suslikova	Present	Lizzie Hunt, Treasurer	Present
Aditya Srinivasan		Lukas Abromavicius, Vice Chair	Present
Aidan Hirst		Mackenzie Willis	Present
Alex Jin		Mark Bielikov	Apologies
Ali Esad Kutuloglu	Present	Max Oser	
Alice Warren	Present	Max Rowland	
Alicia Ho	Present	Maximilian David	
Allegra Delli Rocioli	Apologies	Megan Philips	Present
Angelos Maroulis	Present	Milly Anscorb	
Arina Evtushenko	Present	Franz Lahura-Sturm	
Aryana Mahdavi Ardestani, Chair	Present	Mirabel Poulson	Present
Audrina Chan	Present	Morgan Ingerfield	
Ayan Motwani		Naima Karki	Apologies
Benjamin	Present	Pendar Ahmadvazir	
Caspar Tillieux	Present	Penelope Muccino	Present
Catherine Barden de Leon	Present	Penelope Rowbotham	
Charlotte Bagoee	Present	Poppy-Grace Dixon-Lyon	Apologies
Chelsey Dai		Reuben Foulkes	
Clement Isong		Rhea Engineer	
Cynthia Chen	Present	Riddley McDermott	Present
Cyrus Tillieux	Present	Riley Ferguson	Present
Dhriti Pasumarty		Russell Street	Present
Ethan Cook	Present	Ryan Zhaeentan	
Eva Wang	Apologies	Sarah Pardasany, Social Media Officer	Apologies
Finn Chadwick	Present	Sayeesha Boysen	
George Kelly		Shinki Yu	Present
Harry King		Shiv Lamba	Present
Henry Thomas		Simi Akintoye	Apologies
Ines Wang Neto		Sofia Vittoria Moschini	Present
Ishwar Sharma	Present	Sophia Yu	
Jasper Barnes	Present	Sophie Sheridan	Present
John Ng	Apologies	Summer Chen	Present
Joshua Maddox Aquino		Susanna Local	Apologies
Joshua Maretlane		Taani Shukla	
Julien Beck	Present	Thomas Heregods	
Karam Kandhari	Apologies	Vihaan Sharma	Present
Katie Lo		Vyom Bhandari	

In attendance: Linda Larter, MBE- CEO & Town Clerk of Sevenoaks Town Council, Alison Futtit- Senior Committee Clerk, Daren Mountain- Manager of House in the Basement Youth Café.

Sevenoaks Town Council
Minutes of the meeting of the Youth Council held on Wednesday 11 February 2026
in the Council Chamber, Town Council Offices, TN13 3QG

1 - APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence, as shown above, were received and accepted.

2 - MINUTES OF THE YOUTH COUNCIL HELD ON 26TH NOVEMBER 2025

The Minutes of the Youth Council Annual General Meeting held on the 26th of November 2025 were agreed as a true record.

3 - MESSAGE FROM LAURA TROTT, MP FOR SEVENOAKS

The Youth Council received a recorded message from Laura Trott Member of Parliament for Sevenoaks:

[Laura Trott MP Message to Sevenoaks Youth Council Feb 2026](#)

She expressed her delight that youth councillors were taking a role in the local area, trying to improve it and make it better, and feeding back to the Town Council what they would like to see changed. She commented on the amazing community in Sevenoaks and that for the youth councillors to be part of it was really important because that could make change, make a difference.

Laura Trott MP invited the Youth Council to visit her at the Houses of Parliament to learn more about the role of an MP. It is hoped a group visit will be arranged later in the year.

4 - FINANCE REPORT

It was noted that the balance of the Youth Council budget for 2025/26 was £1,101.70.

Youth Councillors suggested undertaking some fundraising to increase the budget, perhaps a cake sale, own clothes day or a sustainable second-hand sale.

5 - HOUSE IN THE BASEMENT (HiTB) YOUTH CAFE

Daren Mountain, Manager of House in the Basement, presented his report which included a review of attendance and the wide range of activities during the year. It was noted that during January 2026 more young people had attended the Youth Café than since it first opened 13 years ago.

Daren thanked members of the Youth Council who had attended as volunteers to provide support with homework.

6 - RECOMMENDATIONS ON DEVELOPING HOUSE IN THE BASEMENT YOUTH CAFE (HiTB) FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

The Youth Council made the following suggestions:

- that Youth Councillors help to promote HitB as they felt that a lot of young people were not aware of it, focussing on social media and word of mouth but also to have posters for schools and a flyer to hand out if required

Sevenoaks Town Council
Minutes of the meeting of the Youth Council held on Wednesday 11 February 2026
in the Council Chamber, Town Council Offices, TN13 3QG

- that anyone available to help with subject tuition on weekdays contact Daren, there was a show of hands of youth councillors willing to volunteer for one hour a week
- It was agreed to send out a post on the YC WhatsApp Group
- It was suggested that the view of HitB was as a hang out space, and that maybe promoting the study support would attract people
- It was noted that there might need to be separate spaces or times for hanging out and studying
- The possibility of providing online tuition sessions via Zoom was raised

7 - NOTES FROM WORKSHOP HELD DURING THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Youth Council received the notes from the workshop held at the previous meeting to share youth councillors' ideas on:

- the greatest need for young people right now
- what they would like to see in Sevenoaks if money and practical issues were no problem
- topics they would like to focus on over the next two years
- what they would like to achieve in their two years as youth councillors.

Youth Councillors discussed ways to move forwards in some of the areas:

Transport

- To try to influence Kent County Council (KCC), by campaigning on specific issues and meeting with KCC.

Social Media

- Youth Council social media could be used to promote HitB and other organisations, and to advise of campaigns
- Youth Councillors noted the government was considering whether to introduce a social media ban for under 16s
- People to be encouraged to follow Instagram
- Social media to be used to raise the profile of the Youth Council and what it was doing, and what's happening in Sevenoaks.

Mental Health

- Use social media to raise awareness and share resources available
- To arrange a series of community events with specific themes, e.g. mindfulness
- It was felt that outdoor activities, in Knole Park for example, might be more attractive to some people
- An inclusive charity football match in the summer was suggested

Sevenoaks Town Council
Minutes of the meeting of the Youth Council held on Wednesday 11 February 2026
in the Council Chamber, Town Council Offices, TN13 3QG

- A mental health focused event should make the most of spaces available – e.g. HitB, Bat & Ball Centre, Knole Park and West Kent Mind
- To work together with other schools
- There was discussion of whether people experiencing mental health challenges would attend an event or would prefer the anonymity of reaching out via social media
- The idea of developing an App, as a safe platform for communication, was raised. It was noted that this would have to meet safeguarding guidelines.
- It was also noted that resources did already exist and researching and signposting to these would perhaps be more beneficial
- youth councillors emphasised the importance of sharing information with their schools and friendship groups perhaps through school assemblies and school social media accounts
- Publicity material needed to be produced that would engage people

The Town Clerk advised that there were courses available for peer mental health training: If youth councillors were interested this could be arranged

She also advised that a mental health organisation had given a presentation to the previous Youth Council and suggested it would be useful to repeat this.

Youth Councillors commented that whilst many of them had raised their concerns about youth mental health, it was important to identify need. The Town Clerk informed them of the Mental Health Survey undertaken during the previous Youth Council's term of office and it was agreed that it would be useful for this to be considered at the next meeting.

PRIORITY: From the discussion the key priority that emerged was to promote awareness of mental health resources and how to access, and to consider how the Youth Council could be an intermediary to get word out to other young people.

Events

A Health and Wellbeing Fair was being held at Vine Gardens on 30th May: the Youth Council was invited to have a stand there, although it was a Bank Holiday weekend and this might affect people's availability.

Sustainability

- Shops could be asked to reduce their plastic waste
- The Plastic Free Sevenoaks Pledge from a few years ago could be rejuvenated (information on the campaign to be circulated to youth councillors)

Sevenoaks Town Council
Minutes of the meeting of the Youth Council held on Wednesday 11 February 2026
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- It was noted that some shops and businesses had signed up to provide free water bottle refills, youth councillors were unaware of this
- It was understood that an App was available showing refill points around the country
- Youth Councillors suggested that water fountains be included on maps and signposted in town

There being no further business the Chair closed the Meeting.

Signed
Chair

Dated

Agenda Item **Sevenoaks Town Council**
3A Youth Council General Income and
 7555/43

2025/26

		Expenditure Income		Committed
		£	£	£
Carried Forward from 2024/25:	1,850.37			
2025/26 Budget allocated:	<u>500.00</u>			
Total 01/04/25 starting balance:	<u>2,350.37</u>		£2,350.37	£ -
Skatepark Event		£ 750.00		
Restringing of Guitars				£100.00
DJ Beginners Kit		£ 148.67		
Donation towards coach cost to Broadstairs		£ 250.00		
		<u>£ 1,148.67</u>	<u>£2,350.37</u>	<u>£100.00</u>
	Available Funds	<u>£ 1,101.70</u>		
		<u>£ 1,101.70</u>		

Agenda Item **Sevenoaks Town Council**
3B Youth Council **Charity** Income and
 7555/43

2025/26

		Expenditure Income	
		£	£
Starting Balance:	01/04/2025		£ -
Budget allocated:	0.00		£0.00
Cake Sale			£ 18.00
		<u>£ -</u>	<u>£18.00</u>
	Available Funds	<u>£ 18.00</u>	
		<u>£ 18.00</u>	



Sevenoaks Youth Council



MENTAL HEALTH SURVEY REPORT

Sevenoaks Youth Council Mental Health Survey Report

Introduction

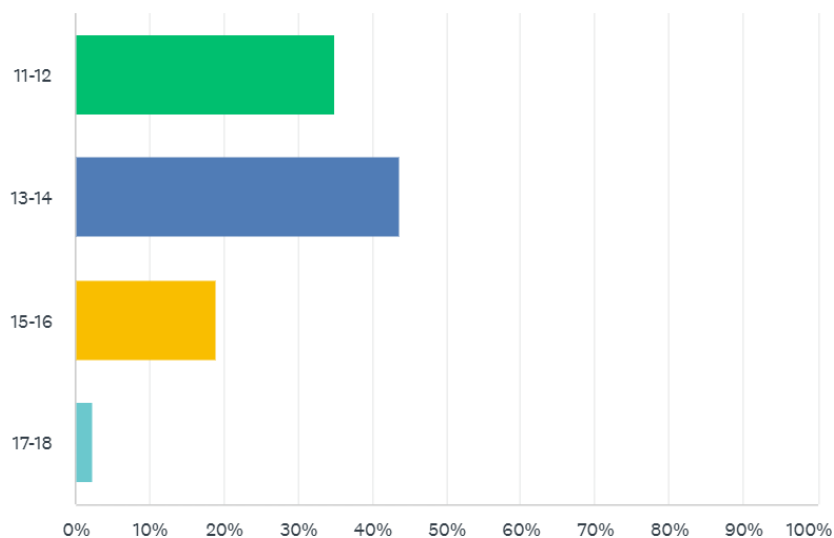
On September 9, 2024, the Sevenoaks Youth Council created and launched its Mental Health Survey targeting young people aged 11–18. This was distributed through local schools and youth organisations in the Sevenoaks town area, accompanied by posters signposting available support. The survey was designed to capture authentic, anonymous feedback about mental health from young people. It ran for two months, closing on November 13, 2024, having received 250 responses.

The largest age groups were 13–14 years (43.78%) and 11–12 years (34.94%), with smaller percentages for the older age brackets.

- **Response Count:** 250 responses (with minor variations across questions).
- **Age Distribution:**
 - 11–12 years: 34.94%
 - 13–14 years: 43.78%
 - 15–16 years: 18.88%
 - 17–18 years: 2.41%

Note: Some questions had slight variations in response numbers due to skipped items.

(Question 1) Age:



Questions 2 and 5 have been left out of this survey due to a data issue. These questions asked young people to rate their feelings on a scale from 1 to 5. However, the collected data was recorded on a scale from 1 to 100, with extreme variations. Some responses were also entered manually, making the data unreliable. As a result, these questions were not included. The questions were:

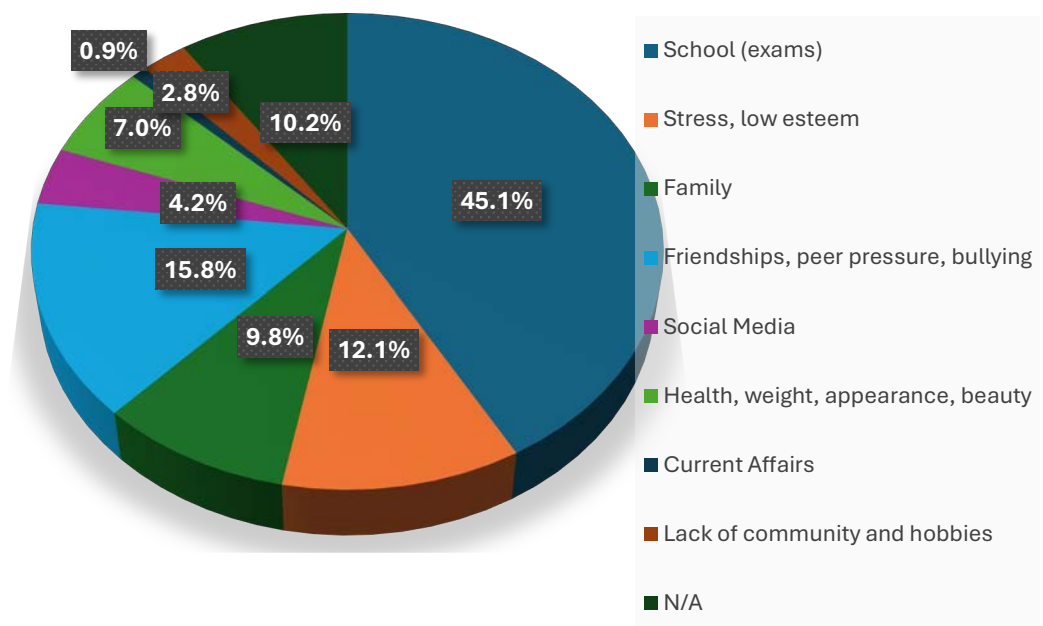
Sevenoaks Youth Council Mental Health Survey Report

- (Question 2) On a scale of 1 to 5, how would you rate your mental wellbeing currently? (1 being very poor and 5 being excellent)
- (Question 5) On a scale of 1 to 5 how stressed are you generally? (1 being not stressed at all and 5 being extremely stressed)

(Question 3) What are some factors that negatively impact your mental health?

A total of 215 young people responded to what they felt negatively impacted their mental health, while 35 skipped the question. Analysis of open-ended responses revealed several key themes:

- **School-Related Stress:**
45.1% mentioned school as a primary stressor citing factors such as exams and overall academic workload, and homework.
- **Stress and Self-Image:**
12.1% highlighted issues related to stress, anxiety, and self-esteem (including concerns about how others perceive them, mindset issues, and self-criticism), with 7% of respondents outlining that their health, weight, weight, appearance, and beauty as affecting their mental health.
- **Uncertainty:**
10.2% of responses indicated that they did not know.
- **Additional Factors:**
Other responses pointed to bullying, friendships and Peer pressure (15.8%), Family (9.8%), and negative experiences with social media (4.2%).



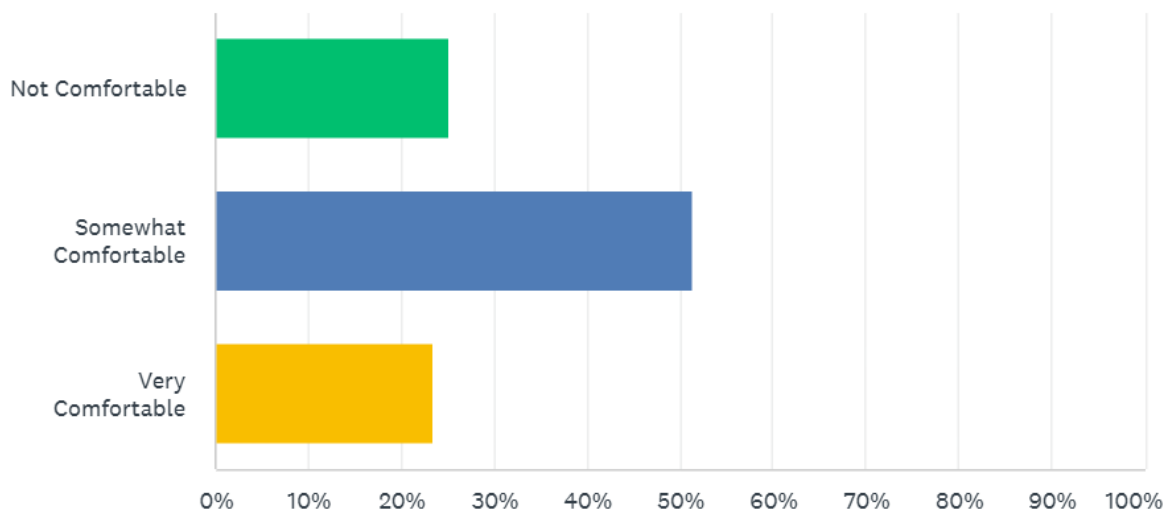
Sevenoaks Youth Council Mental Health Survey Report

(Question 4) How comfortable are you talking about youth Mental Health?

247 respondents (with three skipping) shared how comfortable they feel talking about their mental health:

- **Very Comfortable:** 23.48% (58 respondents)
- **Somewhat Comfortable:** 51.42% (127 respondents)
- **Not Comfortable:** 25.10% (62 respondents)

While more than 70% of young people reported feeling at least somewhat comfortable discussing mental health, nearly one in four remain reluctant to do so.

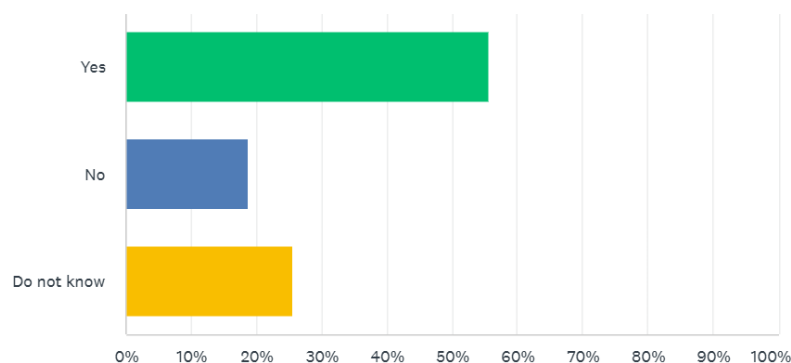


(Question 6) Do you feel you have a good school-life balance?

When asked about their school-life balance (with 246 responses):

- **Yes (Good Balance):** 61.90% (143 respondents)
- **No:** 6.93% (16 respondents)
- **Do Not Know:** 27.27% (63 respondents)

Although a majority believe they maintain a healthy balance, nearly one-third of respondents are either uncertain or feel that their balance could be improved.



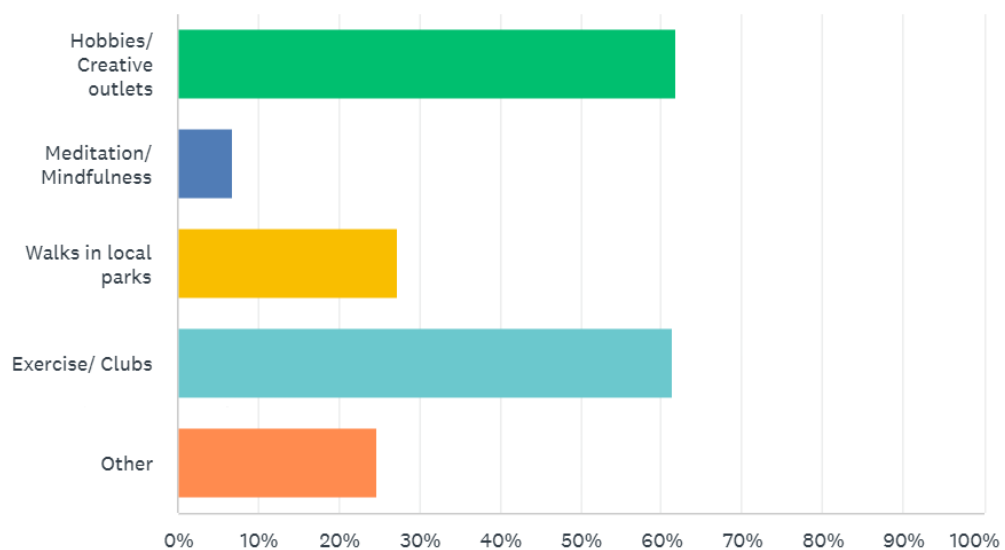
Sevenoaks Youth Council Mental Health Survey Report

(Question 7) Do you practice any of the following to cope with stress/ promote well-being?

Young people were asked about the strategies they use to cope with stress and promote well-being. Of the 231 respondents who answered this question (with 19 skipping), the recorded responses were as follows:

- **Hobbies/Creative Outlets:**
143 respondents (61.90%) reported relying on creative activities to cope with stress.
- **Meditation/Mindfulness:**
16 respondents (6.93%) indicated they practice meditation or mindfulness techniques.
- **Walks in Local Parks:**
63 respondents (27.27%) selected going on walks in local parks and green spaces.
- **Exercise/Clubs:**
142 respondents (61.47%) highlighted using exercise and or clubs to help cope with stress and general well-being.
- **Other:**

It should be noted that in the survey while there is an “other” option there was no prompt for young people who selected this to fill in how they coped with stress and well-being, 57 respondents (24.68%) selected this option.



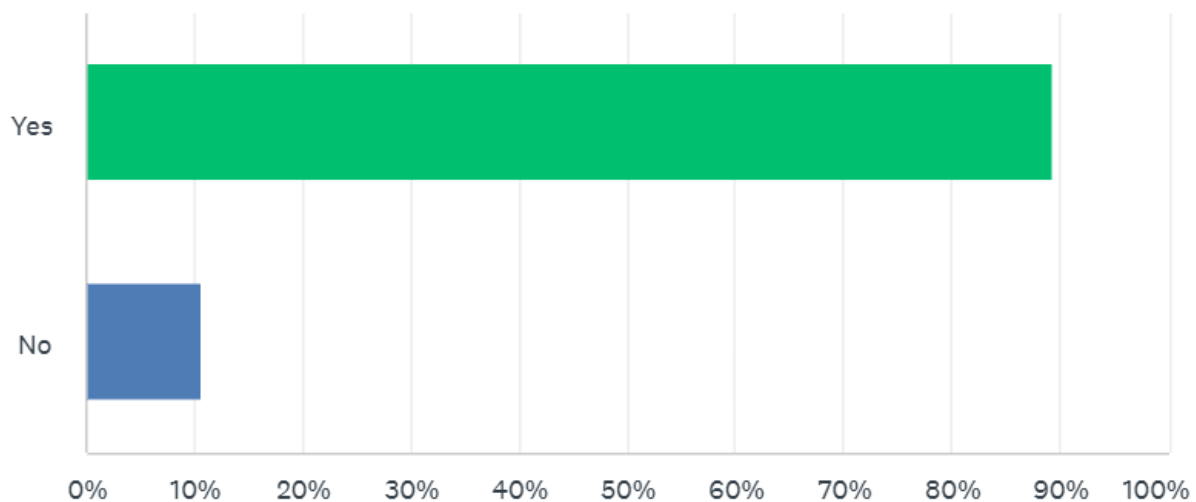
Sevenoaks Youth Council Mental Health Survey Report

(Question 8) Do you know where to go for help?

In this question, which seeks to gauge the level of awareness of where they can go to seek help, 246 of the respondents answered (with four skipping). This question was put to the young people as a yes or no question and yielded the following results:

- **Yes:** 89.43% (220 respondents) confirmed they are aware of support services.
- **No:** 10.57% (26 respondents) indicated they do not know where to seek help.

The high level of awareness is encouraging; however, the 10.57% who are uncertain demonstrate the need for enhanced signposting and communication about available mental health resources.



(Question 9) What could your school do to support student's mental well-being?

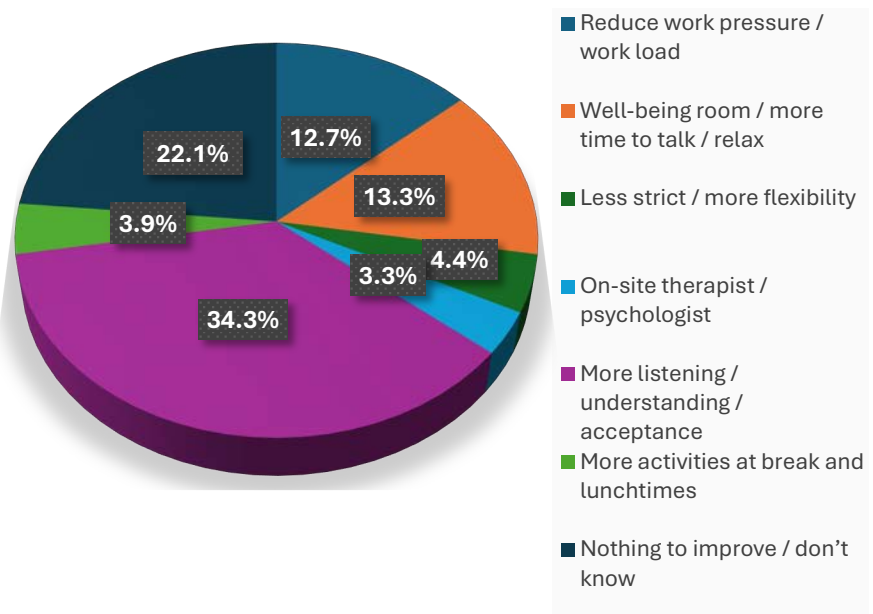
Key Findings:

181 of the 250 respondents provided insights into how their school could better support student mental health with 69 skipping this question. The responses reveal several recurring themes:

- **Dedicated Well-Being Spaces:**
13.3% of respondents proposed the establishment of designated “well-being spaces” within schools. These areas would offer students a quiet environment to relax, engage in mindfulness, or simply take a break from the daily pressures of school life.
- **Mental Health Awareness:**
34.3% of respondents requested that more understanding towards mental health was needed in schools with more listening and acceptance was needed. 3.3% of the respondents highlighted that more mental health support staff were needed for students to talk to. 12.7% of respondents suggested that a reduction in workload and pressure could help improve their mental well-being.

Sevenoaks Youth Council Mental Health Survey Report

It is important to note that 22.1% of the respondents reported that they are content with the current level of support offered by the schools or that they did not know how the school could improve.



(Question 10) What could be done in your community to raise awareness about mental health?

Key Findings:

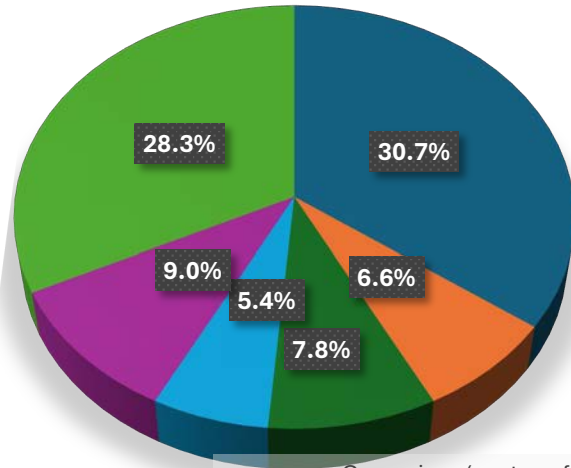
Responses to Section 10 with 166 contributions focused on what could be done in the community to enhance mental health awareness, it should be noted 84 skipped this question. The key recommendations include:

- Organised Events and Campaigns:**
 30.7% of respondents advocated for community-wide events, such as mental health awareness days and public campaigns. 6.6% requested more youth clubs, free activities and facilities within the town as well as more awareness of those facilities that already exist. One of the common requests under this heading was for a specific mental health awareness event.
- Enhanced Mental Health Education:**
 7.8% of respondents mentioned they would like to see more regular, structured sessions such as assemblies or workshops featuring mental health professionals. 5.4% of respondents highlighted that having someone they could go and talk to about how they were feeling outside of school could help.

28.3% of those who answered this question stated that they were unsure or did not know what could be done to raise awareness for mental health.

The responses indicate that young people see great value in proactive community initiatives that not only educate but also actively involve them in the dialogue around mental health.ⁱ

Sevenoaks Youth Council Mental Health Survey Report



- Campaigns (posters, fundraisers, signs)
- Youth Club, free activities
- Mental Health education inc for parents
- More Mental Health services
- Community events/well-being ambassadors

Conclusion

The survey findings reveal that academic pressures, self-image concerns, and experiences of bullying are among the primary factors negatively impacting young people's mental health.

The majority of respondents reported having a good school-life balance and they are relying on positive coping strategies that were key to good mental well-being at school, most notably through creative outlets. However, a significant proportion of respondents feel uncomfortable discussing mental health and/or remain uncertain about where to seek the help required.

The diverse suggestions provided, particularly regarding reduced academic pressure and enhanced support mechanisms display that there are several ways to change school structures to benefit student's mental health as well as a number of additional supports that could be integrated within the local community.

Recommendations from Sevenoaks Youth Council:

- Encourage schools to create an internal young people's mentorship programme
- Promote via posters and digital information for students about where to get help if concerned about exam pressure
- Also via posters and digitally provide links to independent services for helping with mental health concerns
- More information talks at schools around *It is ok not to be ok* and *where to access help*
- Consider making available space for young people to meet up and share revision notes and techniques and/ or create groups e.g. informal language meet-ups.

Sevenoaks Youth Council Mental Health Survey Report

Acknowledgements

We extend our gratitude to all Youth Council members for their contribution and help in promoting the survey within their schools. Special thanks to Youth Councillor Riddley McDermott for his efforts in correlating data for questions 3, 9, and 10.

Simba Li- Chair	Lizzie Hunt
Rosie Blackmore- Vice-Chair	Cristian Hunter-Garcia
Harry King- Treasurer	Sharma Ishwar
Bianca Agarwal	Riddley McDermott
Aryanna Mahdavi Ardestani	Ayaan Motwani
Catherine Barden De Leon	John Ng
Rosie Blackmore	Madeleine Politzer
Dexter Buhmann	Elif Sabanci
Catherine Campbell-Pitt	Drago Schwalber-Janaway
Charlotte Doe	Jospeh Soanes
Elena-Teodora Dragoi	James Tang
Ayush Gautam	Ines Wang
Maya Goodrich	Aditya Vara
Bea Hayward	

ⁱ The data for questions 3, 9, and 10 were correlated by Youth Councillor Riddley McDermott, whose valuable contributions are gratefully acknowledged in this report.

Sevenoaks Youth Council

Sevenoaks Town Youth Councillors are elected to represent the views, issues and opinions of young people across Sevenoaks, to make a difference and change things for the better in Sevenoaks.

Youth Council meetings are held approximately every 6 weeks in the Town Council Chamber.

Since its conception in 2009 the Youth Council has become increasingly involved in initiating and developing events for young people.

All young people are welcome to attend and join the Youth Council.

For more information about Sevenoaks Youth Council please QR code below Or check out our Instagram: @sevenoaks_youthcouncilofficial



Sevenoaks Town Council
Youth Services Committee- Wednesday 18th March 2026



House in the Basement Youth Café Manager:

January 2026 Figures:

We saw 278 young people attend, with 35 of these being new over-18 sessions. We had 45 SEN young people attend over 4 SEN sessions. We did host one open mic night on Friday, the 30th of Jan. With the new STC Community bus, we are now able to hold detached sessions at Greatness Recreation Ground, this has been done in partnership with Sevenoaks Area Youth Trust.



We have also had our Young Volunteers help to make a start on our In Bloom preparations.



**Sevenoaks Town Council
Youth Services Committee- Wednesday 18th March 2026**

February 2026 Figures:

Over the February months, we saw 267 young people. 23 of these were new; this was over the course of 16 sessions. We had 4 SEN Sessions, seeing 45 SEN young people. We also carried out 4 detached sessions using the new STC Community Bus in partnership with SAYT.



Sevenoaks Town Council

Youth Council – 18th March 2026

Vine – Public Space Protection Order (PSPO)

The current PSPO on the Vine is due to expire in July 2026. **Sevenoaks Town Council are asked to consider whether it wishes for this to be renewed**, bearing in mind the final decision rests with Sevenoaks District Council.

The local police have stated from a policing perspective; they would like it renewed and provided the following report in August 2024.

We are pleased to share some positive news regarding the ongoing efforts to tackle Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) at The Vine in Sevenoaks. Over the past year or so, many of you have expressed concerns regarding Anti-Social-Behaviour typically occurring on Friday and Saturday nights, including large gatherings of youths, fighting, underage drinking, drug use, criminal damage and excessive noise. Your reports have been crucial in helping us address these issues effectively.

In response to these concerns, the police and partner agencies have taken a range of actions, and we are delighted to report a significant decrease in ASB-related incidents at The Vine.



Action Taken

1. Increased Police Presence: Dispersal orders were placed over the summer of 2023, allowing officers to disperse groups causing disturbances. These measures played a significant role in reducing large gatherings.

Sevenoaks Town Council

Youth Council – 18th March 2026

2. Collaboration with Partners: We established a tasking and finish group which met to coordinate efforts between the police, the local council, and other stakeholders. The actions and progress were recorded on a proactive management plan (PMP), which provided police with a single place to record their problem solving and investigation management activity.

3. Enhanced Patrols: British Transport Police (BTP) increased their patrols on Friday nights at Sevenoaks train station, alongside Railway Enforcement Officers (REOs). Local beat officers, supported by the Neighbourhood Tasking Force (NTF) and Local Policing Team (LPT) also prioritised The Vine as part of their red route patrols.

4. Improved Security: The town council upgraded lighting and enhanced CCTV coverage around The Vine's Band Stand.

5. Public Space Protection Order (PSPO): A PSPO was approved and implemented in February 2024.

6. Ongoing Enforcement: Police have issued ASB sanctions to persons causing issue in the area, ensuring that offenders are held accountable.

7. School Engagement: Officers have engaged with local schools to raise awareness about the issues at The Vine, encouraging students to take responsibility and avoid becoming involved in anti-social behaviour.

Crime reduction: statistics

Thanks to these combined efforts, we have seen a **93.3% reduction** in calls related to nuisance youths at The Vine. Between January 1st and July 16th, 2023, there were 15 calls from the public regarding ASB. In 2024, during the same period, only one call was received. This dramatic decrease is a testament to the effectiveness of the measures put in place and the cooperation between the police, partner agencies, and the community.

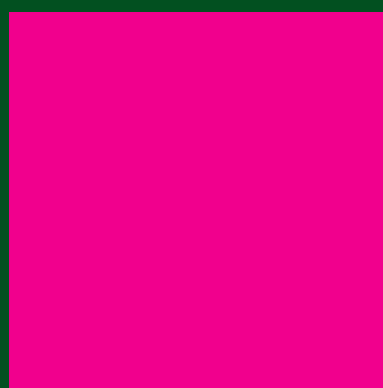
PC Nick Hubbard said: *“ASB is at the heart of neighbourhood policing, and this particular hotspot area has been a priority for months. The police have worked hard with local partners to try and reduce the issues and improve the quality of life for those affected and will continue to monitor the situation over the summer months to ensure that these positive trends continue.*

Sevenoaks TOWN council



Sevenoaks Town Council Social Value Report – Youth Services (2024–2026)

Prepared from the Youth Services Evidence-
Based Report and aligned to the UK Social Value
Model and National TOMs
03 March 2026



Social Value Impact Summary.



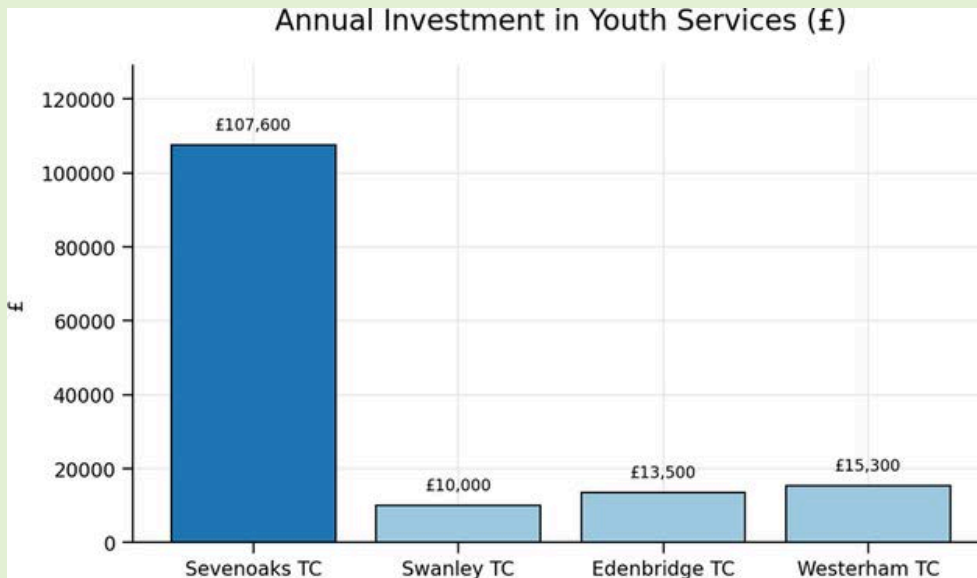
Highlights:

- High utilisation of open-access, youth-led provision at House in the Basement (HitB).
- Strong inclusive offer – with sustained SEN engagement and targeted sessions.
- Active youth voice with a record number of Youth Councillors influencing decisions.
- Partnership programmes delivering measurable community safety and education benefits.
- Extensive free-to-access play facilities supporting health and wellbeing.



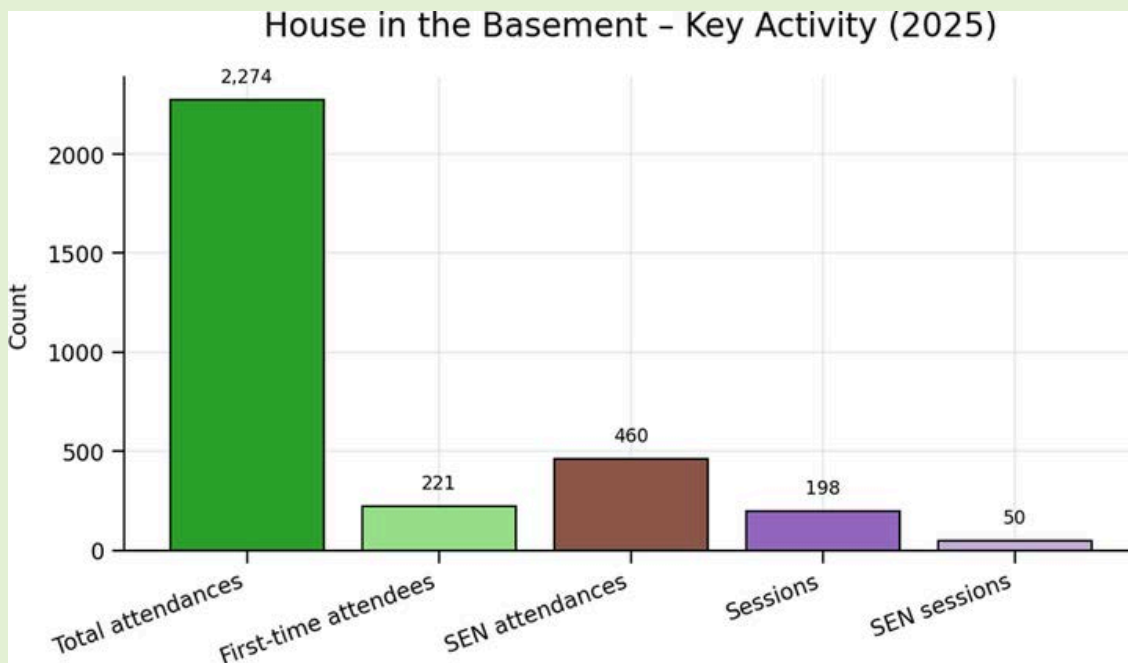
1. Investment and Reach

Sevenoaks Town Council invests significantly in youth services each year. The chart below shows how this commitment compares to neighbouring town councils in the district.

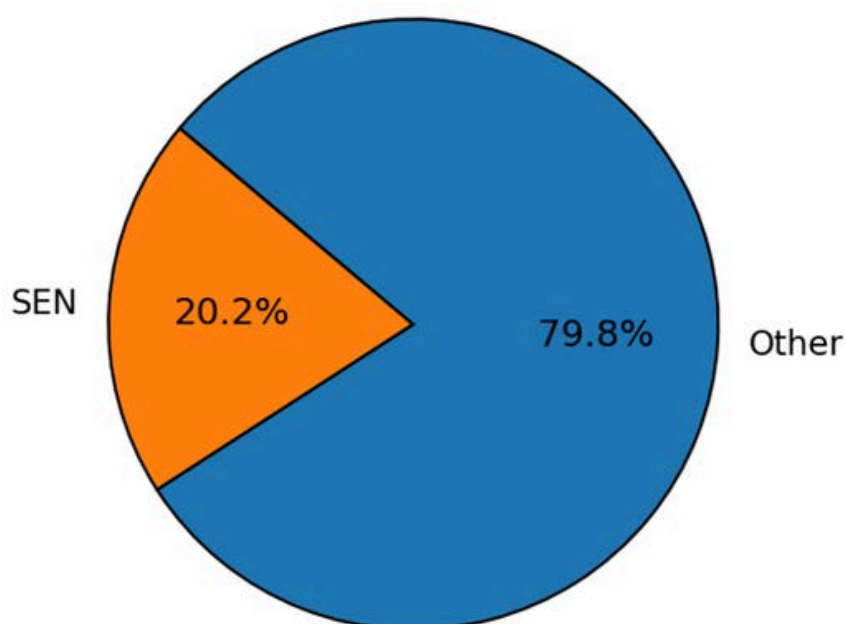


2. House in the Basement (HitB): Activity and Inclusion

HitB provides a safe, youth-led, central space for 11–17 year olds. Key activity indicators for the last full year are shown below:



SEN vs Other Attendances at HitB (2025)



3. Grants, Partnerships and Community Events

- Creative and cultural participation (e.g., Design a Christmas Light, Stag Youth Theatre, music organisations).
- Physical activity and inclusion (e.g., free and girls' skateboarding sessions; community skate events).
- Advice and early help for SEND families (e.g., We Are Beams clinics hosted at HitB).
- Town-wide free and low-cost events (Play Days, Open Theatre) and a network of play areas, skatepark and MUGA.



4. Youth Voice and Public Realm for Young People

The Sevenoaks Youth Council enables democratic participation and leadership opportunities for young people.



Council-managed play areas, skatepark and MUGA provide accessible, free spaces that encourage active lifestyles and community cohesion.



5. Framework Alignment: UK Social Value Model & National TOMs

The programme has been aligned to the UK Government’s Social Value Model (PPN 06/20) and mapped to example National TOMs measures where relevant for youth services.

This mapping is indicative and designed to support commissioning, monitoring and reporting.

<u>STC activity</u>	<u>Social Value Model theme/outcome (PPN 06/20)</u>	<u>Indicative TOMs measures (examples)</u>
House in the Basement – inclusive open access & SEN Club	Social Value Model: Wellbeing – improve health and wellbeing; Equal Opportunity – reduce the disability employment gap (where applicable via volunteering pathways).	Example TOMs: NT11 – hours supporting young people into work; NT8 – school/college visits & safety talks (where applicable).
Rail Safe Friendly Programme (with CRP)	Social Value Model: Wellbeing – improve health and wellbeing; Community integration and safety.	Example TOMs: NT8 – safety talks/school visits (hours).
Youth Council – youth voice & leadership	Social Value Model: Wellbeing – improve community integration; Equal Opportunity – tackling workforce inequality (leadership skills pipelines).	Example TOMs: NT11 – employability support for young people (e.g., mentoring, leadership skills sessions).
Grants to arts/sport/community orgs	Social Value Model: Wellbeing; Tackling Economic Inequality – skills and participation access.	Example TOMs: NT8 (talks/visits), NT9/NT10 (training/apprenticeships – where applicable).

6. Emerging Needs and Opportunities

- Sustained support for 18+ with SEND – clearer pathways post-18.
- Renewed NEET engagement following the Moving Forward project (2023).
- Expand detached youth work to reach non-attenders and hotspot areas, subject to resources.
- Explore revived community-based group models with partners (e.g., adventure/skills programmes).



Methodology and Notes

Figures are taken from Sevenoaks Town Council's internal reporting for 2024–2026 and partner programme summaries. Alignment follows the UK Government Social Value Model (PPN 06/20) and indicative National TOMs examples; it is not a monetised valuation. Charts are illustrative to aid decision-making and communication.