

Sevenoaks Town Council

Minutes of the meeting of the Youth Services Committee Held on Wednesday 25 February 2026 in the Council Chamber, Town Council Offices, TN13 3QG

Livestreamed and available to view on YouTube until approved by Council:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8jcaeZnoAP8&list=PLbrDGZbi-tsxD-6vQ191_iYF7s3dMqGp&index=3

Meeting commenced: 19:00

Meeting Concluded: 19:45

Present:

Cllr Chloe Gustard (Chair)	Present	Cllr Catherine Daniell (Vice-Chair, Deputy-Leader)	Present
Cllr Libby Ancrum	Apologies	Cllr Dr Merilyn Canet	Present
Cllr Tony Clayton (Mayor)	Apologies	Cllr Gareth Willis	Present

Co-opted Members

Sevenoaks Youth Council: Vacant		Sevenoaks District Council: Maxine Quinton	Apologies
Kent Family Hub: Ellen Shaw	Apologies	House in the Basement: Daren Mountain	Present
Sevenoaks Area Youth Trust: Peter Robinson	Present	National Trust: Amy Sabine	Apologies
KCC Early Help: Debbie Bell	Apologies		

In attendance: Town Clerk and Youth Committee Clerk.

674 - APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

RESOLVED: To receive and noted the Apologies for Absence as above.

675 - REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

REOLVED: To note there were no requests for dispensations.

676 - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

RESOLVED: To note there were no declarations of interest.

677 - MINUTES OF THE YOUTH SERVICES COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 19th NOVEMBER 2025

RESOLVED: It was agreed to adopt the minutes of the Youth Services Committee held on Wednesday, 19th of November 2025, as a true record.

678 - MINUTES OF THE YOUTH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 26th NOVEMBER 2025

The Committee noted that the Youth Council had elected new Social Media officers to promote the Youth Council's Instagram page @Sevenoaks_youthcouncilofficial
https://www.instagram.com/sevenoaks_youthcouncilofficial/

RESOLVED: It was agreed to adopt the minutes of the Youth Services Committee held on Wednesday, 26th of November 2025, as a true record.

Sevenoaks Town Council

679 - GRANT REPORTS

The Youth Services Committee noted they had received the following grant requests:

1. Sevenoaks Three Arts Festival- Towards cost of hiring venue with numerous performance spaces, pianos & practice rooms & has a piano of competition standard.
2. Kent Youth Jazz Orchestra- Towards the costs of Youth Jazz Workshop & short concert. Free of charge to the young musicians.

The Committee received and noted that the balance of the 2025/26 Youth Outreach budget was £4,612.50.

It was noted that the full amount for the Youth Outreach budget had not been allocated within the financial year. The Committee therefore

RECOMMENDED: to the Finance & Delivery Committee that the balance of £3,512.50 be placed in Earmarked Reserves for youth activities during the summer.

RESOLVED: 1) That grant requests be awarded under the General Power of Competence (Localism Act 2011 Sections 1-8 refers) as follows:

Grant Ref No	Organisation Name & Charity Reg	Purpose of award	Grant Application	Grant approved
6	Sevenoaks Three Arts Festival	Towards the cost of hiring a venue with numerous performance spaces, pianos & practice rooms & has a piano of competition standard.	£600	£600
23	Kent Youth Jazz Orchestra	Towards the cost of a Youth Jazz Workshop & short concert. Free of charge to the young musicians.	£500	£500
Total awarded				£1,100

680 - HOUSE IN THE BASEMENT (HiTB) YOUTH CAFE

680.1 - HiTB MANAGER'S UPDATE REPORT

Daren reported that they had been steadily seeing more young people attending House in the Basement. Daren mentioned that some of the young people who had been volunteering had created some TikTok social media posts, which were drawing a lot of young people to HiTB.

It was also reported that preparations for In Bloom were underway, with young people helping to clean the walkway to HiTB. Daren mentioned that on Thursday evenings, he and some of the Youth workers from SAYT had been carrying out detached youth work at Greatness Recreation Ground using the Town Council's new community bus. It was noted that while the weather had been bad, they had interacted with a few young people.

It was noted that the open mic nights continue to do well. Daren reported that they do see some young people who had not attended before coming just for the open mic nights.

Sevenoaks Town Council

680.2 - FINANCE COST CENTRE REPORTS

RESOLVED: To receive and note the House in the Basement finance cost centre reports.

681 - VINE PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER (PSPO)

The Committee received the report from Kent police on the Vine Public Spaces Protection Order. It was noted that the current PSPO ends soon, and Sevenoaks Town Council had been asked to consider whether it would support the renewal of the Order for a further two years. Councillors noted that it was better to have it in place as a just-in-case measure following the issues from two years ago, which have subsequently subsided. The Committee asked that the Youth Council's views be sought.

The Committee also noted that the report only covered the period from January 1st, 2024, to July 16th, 2024, and lacked data from the summer holidays of that year, as well as data from 2025.

The Committee took a vote on the motion that no objection be made to the renewal of the PSPO on the Vine. 3 votes in favour and 1 vote against were received. Cllr Dr Canet asked that her vote against the motion be recorded.

RESOLVED:

- 1) That the Youth Services Committee has no objections to the renewal of the PSPO on the Vine.
- 2) That the Youth Council's views also be sought on the renewal of the PSPO.
- 3) That the Youth Services Committee request regular reports as to how often the PSPO is enforced.

682 - STC YOUTH PROVISION REPORT

The Committee received a report detailing the current youth provision from Sevenoaks Town Council, which also outlined areas where there is a current lack of provision. The Chair issued their thanks to officers for producing the report.

It was noted that the report would be a useful ongoing document with data available to use and show what the Town Council provides.

Councillors asked if Sevenoaks District Council could be asked for the census data for Sevenoaks Town so that it could be added to the report.

RESOLVED: To receive and note the STC Youth Provision Report, and when resources permit, for a social value report to be created.

683 - UK GOVERNMENTS 10 YEAR YOUTH PLAN

RESOLVED: To receive and note the UK Government's proposed 10-year youth plan.

684 - REPORTS FROM CO-OPTED PARTNERS

684.1 - SAYT

Peter Robinson reported that since the last meeting, SAYT had held their Christmas party, which was very well attended, with the Mayor of Sevenoaks, Cllr Tony Clayton, joining them. It was noted they were still carrying on with the Tuesday youth work at the Bat and Ball centre, which has been reasonably well attended. Peter also reported that the number of young people attending the Thursday group had dwindled and had been taken on by the Vine Evangelical Church.

The Committee also heard that they had been helping with the detached work alongside Daren on a Thursday and were hoping that once the Sevenoaks Community Bus becomes available to expand

Sevenoaks Town Council

their outreach days to Wednesday. It was noted that this would be subject to anyone hiring the Community Bus.

Peter also reported that they were looking to hire a new youth worker.

It was noted that there had been an agreement to allow young people to use the new gym facility for free, a few hours a week, once the new pavilion was finished at Greatness Recreation Ground.

685 - PRESS RELEASE

RESOLVED: That press releases be issued on:

- 1) Grant awards made.
- 2) STC Youth Provision Report.

There being no further business the Chair closed the Meeting.

Signed

Dated

Chair

