



FROME YOUTH SERVICES RESEARCH

Report and recommendations

Participate
Frome

This report outlines the needs of children and young people in Frome and makes recommendations to the Town Council and youth providers for how children and young people's needs can be best met.

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- Young people and staff of Oakfield Academy
- Young people and staff of St John’s C of E VA First School
- Young People Frome

1. Executive summary

This report sets out how well the needs of children and young people (0-19 years) in Frome for personal development and leisure time activities are being met at present; how their needs might change in the future; and how Frome can best meet them.

A four month research project was commissioned by Frome Town Council (FTC) in July 2013, supported by County's Community Enablement Fund. The research was managed by Frome Town Council with project support from Mendip YMCA.

The research project first established the nature and extent of provision that already exists in Frome for children and young people. The research found that there are many groups providing activities in the town but the main barriers for young people to access them are cost and getting there.

Interviews with key stakeholders in the town were conducted and found that services for young people in Frome have been hit hard by national and local budget restrictions. Further significant changes are to come, as the County Council seeks to change the way services for young children are provided through children's centres.



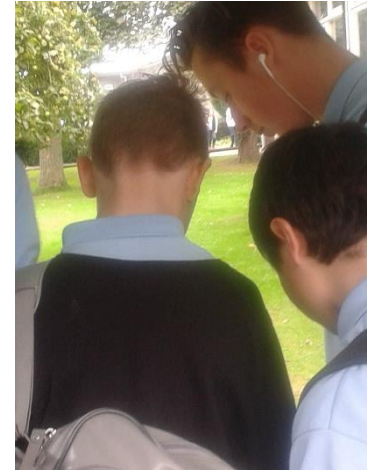
The interviews highlighted two areas in particular that needed further research: provision for young people aged 13-19, and the services provided by the children's centres.

Alongside the interviews, a group of young people were offered training and support to become 'young researchers' and they developed a youth consultation strategy to find out what young people in Frome want and need. Building on existing consultation findings (such as the 2008 Vision for Frome report) they went on to consult over 300 young people in a range of settings. The consultation concluded that young people want more hang out spaces in the town, and require flexible services that can adapt to their irregular routines as they balance demands from college, part time work and family commitments.

Finally, local data trends were analysed alongside the findings in order to make some recommendations for future youth provision, and this revealed that there is 10% increase in the number of 2-12 year olds projected for the town over the next five years.

The report concludes that current provision in Frome, whilst of a good standard, is limited and not meeting all young people's needs. The report recommends that these services should be supplemented, in particular by services close to where young people live or like to hang out.

[Open access](#) services are particularly vulnerable to service cuts but play a crucial role in maintaining 'community cohesion'. The impact of their loss is not likely to be felt for several years.



The research recommends that FTC consider investing in young people with a dedicated youth resource that can fill some of the gaps in provision; co-ordinate [youth providers](#) across the town; ensure quality in services; support communities; and make better use of potential youth spaces.

The report also recommends that future FTC grant funding supports young people's stated desire for places to go and things to do; supports young people's access to activities they are interested in; encourages inter-generational relationships; maintains play provision; protects important services such as post natal groups, the toy library and the young carers group which may be at risk; and maintains the development of [youth voice](#) in decisions that affect young people.



2. Background and context

In Spring 2013, Frome Town Council and Mendip YMCA applied for a Community Enablement Grant to undertake an assessment of the provision of services for children and young people in Frome.

The research was motivated by the context of dramatic change for services for children, their families, and young people. County wide, services are being transferred to a local level, and there have been significant budget reductions. This has been strongly felt in Frome, where until 2010 there was a youth work team based at the Youth and Community Centre, consisting of one full time and two part time staff, and another six sessional staff, providing a range of youth work in Frome and Coleford. This team took on project work according to need, including work with care leavers, work with young people with disabilities, [detached youth work](#), and support for young carers. Funding for disadvantaged children and young people to access activities was also available through Extended Services through their 'Give it a Go' scheme. In 2010, Wansdyke Play Association (WPA) were successful in a lottery bid which allowed them to provide play services in two locations in Frome.

Today, the Youth and Community Centre is managed by Mendip YMCA, which began two youth club sessions per week in September 2013; funding for vulnerable children to access activities has been replaced by additional funding for schools in the form of the Pupil Premium; and many voluntary sector organisations are struggling in the competitive funding climate. WPA's Lottery funding has come to an end meaning that play services have been significantly reduced in the town. More cuts are to come as the County Council is seeking to make over £50m in savings in 2013-14 and 2014-15, in part through changing provision for children and families delivered through children's centres. The future of the SCC Young Carers' project covering Frome is also uncertain post April 2014.

2.1 Aim of the project

The research aimed to explore the lives of children, their families, and young people in Frome to understand whether their needs were adequately being met currently, how their

needs might change in the future, and make recommendations for how to meet these needs.

Recommendations aim to provide:

- Strategic direction for provision by public and voluntary sector, leading to greater co-ordination;
- Evidenced basis for any future decisions on the transfer of services from county to local level;
- Evidence of gaps in service provision that can be used by groups to back funding applications.

2.2 Scope



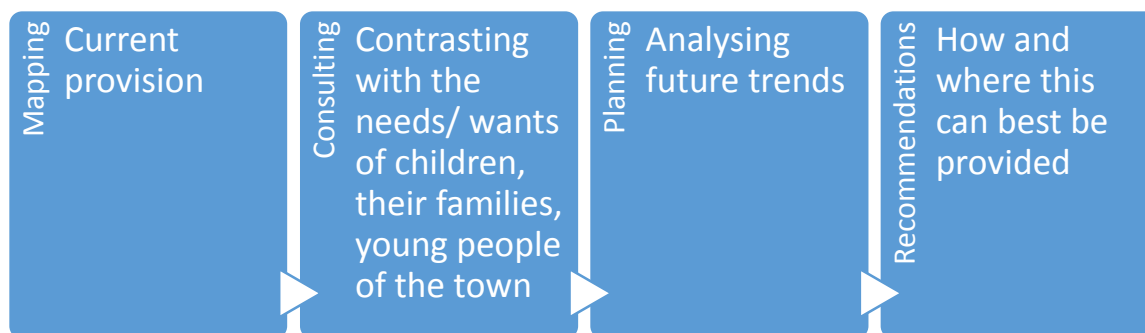
The scope of the research included children and young people of 0-19 years old (or up to 25 for vulnerable young people). As young children often access services along with their families, the needs of the family were to some extent considered alongside the needs of the child. The research focused on the town of Frome.

This research concerned non statutory services: those that do not have to be provided by law, and included access to leisure time activities, advice services, support services, citizenship activities and community facilities.

3. Method and management

This project was delivered by Tessa Hibbert. Sarah Hobbs of Frome Town Council provided management oversight of the work.

The project was delivered in four stages:



Findings from each of these stages will now be outlined in turn.

4. Mapping

The first phase of work was to identify the existing groups and activities being offered for children and young people in Frome, in order to ascertain if there are any gaps in provision.

134 groups offering activities and services for children, their families, and young people in Frome were identified by reviewing information available in existing directories and websites. See Appendix 1 for a map of Frome showing the location of groups and the types of activities offered.



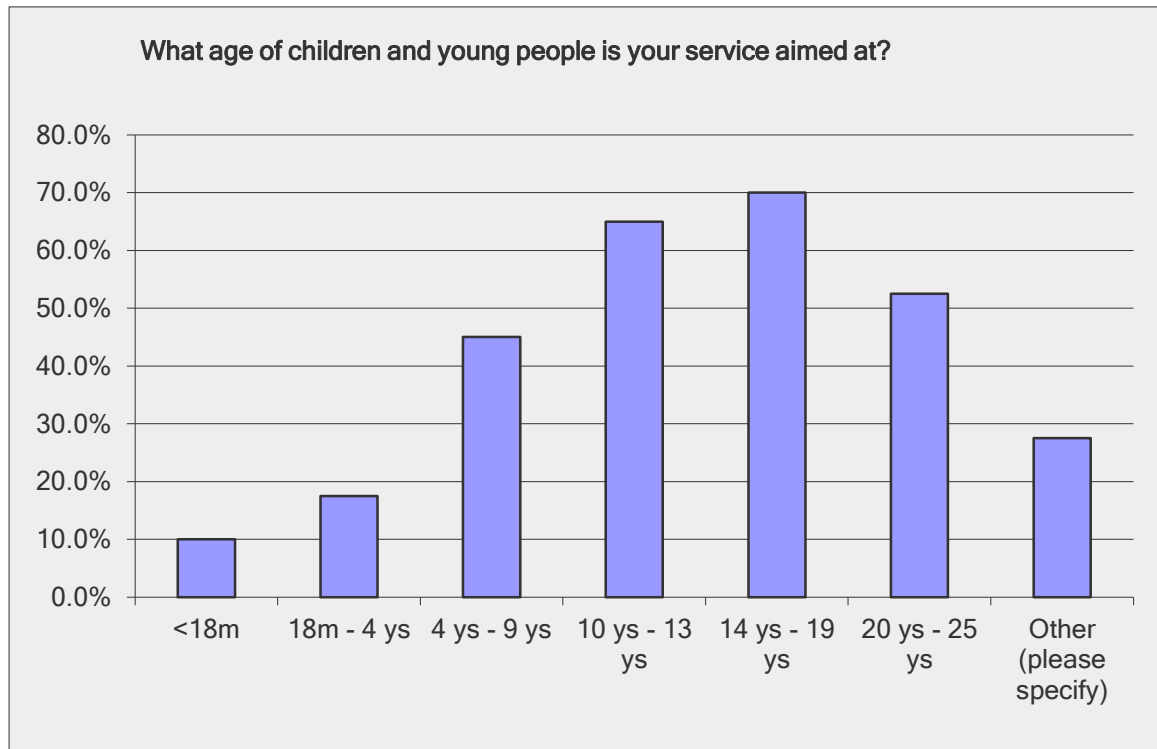
It was noted that a large number of groups operated from a small number of key sites, such as the Youth and Community Centre, the Children's Centres, the Leisure Centre, Oakfield School and the College, revealing the importance of these centres as hubs for a range of other provision.

An e-survey was created, and a link sent to all 134 groups in summer 2013. 40 responses (30%) were received— providing a reasonable sample. Respondents included a good range of voluntary sector and community groups in the town.

4.1 Summary of key findings

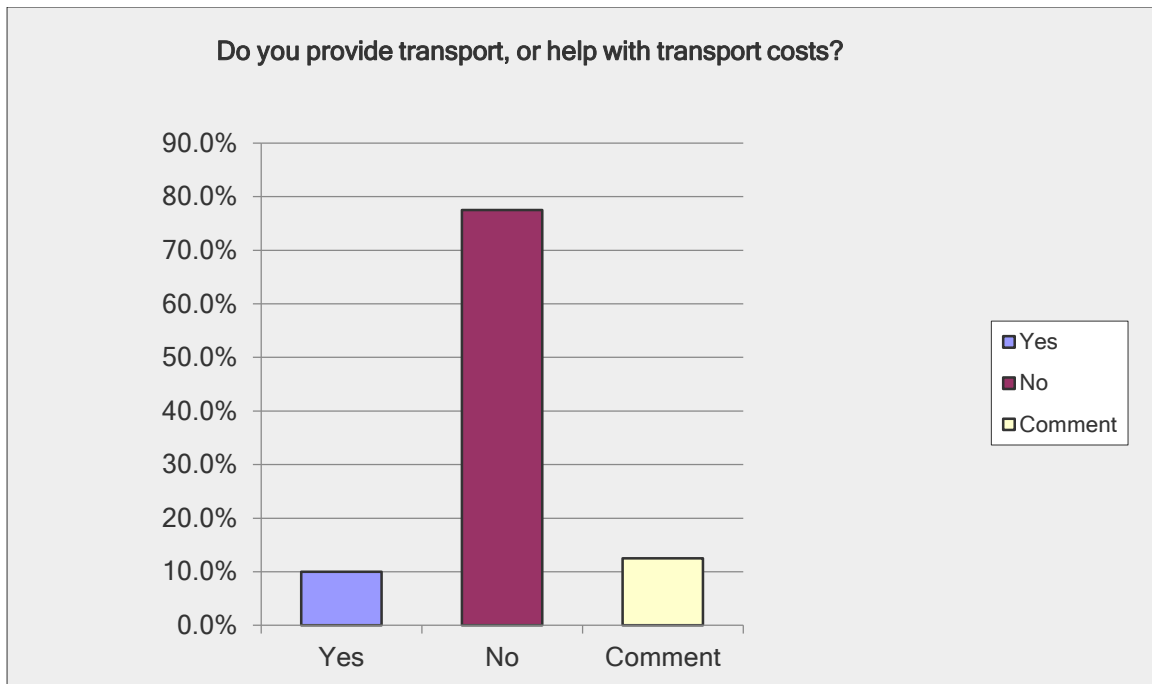
Out of 40 organisations responding to the questionnaire:

- The majority offer services aimed at older children – aged 10-13 years or 14-19 years. Despite the large number of groups running for teenagers in Frome, we know from existing research (Vision for Frome, 2008) there are many young people in the town who feel that there is nothing for them to do. This apparent contradiction raised questions to be explored in the next stage of the research.

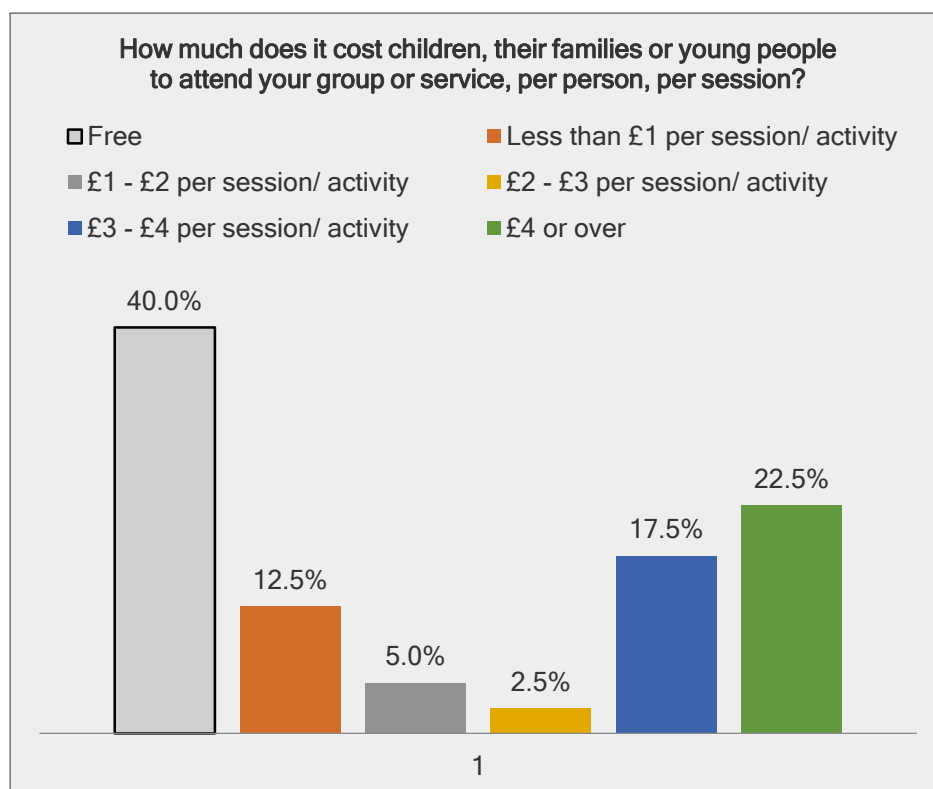


N=40

- 12 groups said their services were restricted to particular groups. Of the 12, four were targeted at disabled young people and four said they targeted young people with learning disabilities.
- As expected, the most common type of activities offered to children and young people in Frome are sports activities. There are 11 groups offering general leisure activities but these include those targeted at a particular group such as disabled young people.
- Whilst most services attract young people from right across the town, the majority of projects do not provide help with transport. Many say they would help if needed but young people may not be aware of this potential help when they see the publicity for the group. This could present a barrier to access.



- There are few projects offering services within local communities or estates. Most provision is offered in one location, but to people from the whole of Frome.
- 40% of services are offered free to young people. However a further 40% levy a cost of more than £3, per person, per session. This could present a significant barrier to some young people. Discounts or subsidies are available but often only on application, again presenting a potential barrier to access.



In conclusion, this section of the research revealed an impressive range of groups offering structured opportunities for children and young people to get involved in all types of activities including sports, creative arts, and drama. The survey research suggests that cost and transport could provide barriers in accessing these opportunities and it was decided to focus on these factors in the next stage.

5. Consultation

In this section, the main findings of consultation undertaken with young people and with key professionals providing services in the town are reported.

5.1 Young Researchers

A group of Frome young people were recruited under the banner of 'Young Researchers'. Four young people received training and support on research methodology from experts at the South West Regional Youth Work Unit, in order to design a robust youth consultation. They worked together as a group over an 8 week period to:

- Identify aims and objectives for the consultation

- Review known consultation findings and recommendations - such as the Vision for Frome report
- Consider ethics, safeguarding and data protection within the research project
- Design an interview schedule for one to one interviews
- Analyse results of interviews undertaken at Frome Show
- Design a focus group discussion guide
- Deliver and then analyse results of focus groups at Frome College, Farleigh College, St John's and Oakfield schools
- Formulate recommendations for the town council
- Design and plan a film highlighting main findings
- Interview peers for the film
- Support the edit of the film
- Plan and conduct a launch event for the film and consultation results



5.2 Review of existing youth consultation findings

The young researchers conducted a review of previous consultations with children and young people in the town over the last five years including: Vision for Frome (2007/8), Youth Café consultation (2010), section 106 consultations on the Mary Baily playing field equipment, and the youth council activities (2012), consultation on the skate park (2012) and Frome Youth Club consultation (2013).

After reviewing the results, the young researchers saw a consistent message that young people in the town say there is little for them to do. Whilst some young people enjoy structured activities, many prefer to have space to 'hang out'. Even those who enjoy clubs and activities want unstructured time too.

Children and young people report dissatisfaction with the places and facilities there are in Frome for them to hang out, socialise, spend time with friends, play, and pursue their own interests.



Therefore, the young researchers decided to focus future consultation on the need for more opportunities to hang out, and find out where and how young people want these facilities. As mentioned above, the young researchers also decided to ask young people what barriers exist to stop them accessing existing facilities and activities.

5.3 Who we spoke to

Frome Young Researchers consulted:

- Over 300 students at Frome College (age 13-18)
- 10 young people from Oakfield Academy (aged 9-13)
- 8 school council members at St John's Infants School (aged 5-7)
- 4 representatives from Farleigh College (aged 17-18)
- The Youth Steering group at YMCA Routes (aged 19-25)
- Young people at the Frome Show (aged 10 and over)
- Young people at FROGS Welshmill event (all ages)

5.4 Main findings

The young researchers analysed the results and came up with seven main findings:

- Young people need better access to activities

There are lots of activities going on in the town for young people. The main barriers to access are the cost and getting there.

"It costs £10 per session to do a drama course...more should be done to make these places available to everyone"

Young people would like better ways of finding out what's available in the town, with events promoted by social media

"I don't look on websites cos I use my phone for everything...Facebook updates get to me"

"It would be good to know what's happening in town that night...your schedule changes week to week because of College and work"

- Young people want more hang out spaces in the town



The majority of young people like to hang out with their friends in their local spaces. They want more robust shelters where they hang out, with more seating and with sides as well as a roof to provide shelter from the weather. They want places where they can hang out indoors and where they won't get criticised for being there.

As the youth club was closed at the time of the consultation, few young people we spoke to had awareness of it, although some older people remembered its existence. There was good awareness of Mendip YMCA/ Routes as a place to get information and advice, but few saw it as a general hang out, despite there being a café.

"We go to Costa but it's too expensive....some people can't afford it"

"We go to the park but it's no good for winter, we need somewhere indoors"

"I spend my time at my friend's house – her parents don't mind us there".

"We go to out of the way places, they might not be the best but they are out of the way and we don't get wet".

"We need somewhere warm and dry to hang out in winter"

"We go to the park but when it rains we end up with nowhere to go"

“I used to go to secret places so we wouldn’t get noticed....otherwise you feel in the way”

“More shelters...with sides”

“You should convert empty shops like Lloyds Chemist into temporary youth shelters – better than it standing empty”

The most popular place cited by young people as a hang out spot is Victoria Park. Whilst well used and valued by young people they said more could be done to make them feel welcome such as more shelters with sides, to protect them from the weather. Some felt the park was not a safe place to hang out and highlighted tensions between groups.

Some young skaters felt their wish for more challenging skate park equipment has still not been met by the new facilities in the park.

- Children want local, safe places to play



Younger children tell us that they are not allowed to ‘roam’ or play far from home. They are often not used to a lot of physical activity. Space to play outside needs to be near their home and easy for their care-givers to ‘keep an eye on them’ – or be with trusted adults

Children would like to play outside their house or in their street but are not allowed to because of traffic.

- Young people want better relationships between young people

A small but significant minority of young people feel that there are ‘gangs’ and bullying with some being picked on for being different. This can make it difficult to spend time in public spaces like the park.

“The park is not a safe place at night”

“The older kids take up the park..they are smoking”

“There is a group of bullies and I’m bullied at school and in the community.

I’m too scared to go to town. I feel safe at Guides.”

“You can get picked on for being different. Any small thing will get noticed”.

“I used to come home from school and go to my room. For me the day was over then”

- Young people want more flexible youth services

Young people would like the involvement of youth workers who can provide information and advice, link them up with activities going on in the town, and make sure public spaces are safe for everyone.

Awareness of Mendip YMCA Routes as a place for those who need advice is high, although some describe it as a place for those who are ‘in trouble’ with less awareness of its role providing career guidance or guidance on educational choices. Young people stress the importance to them of independent advice on a range of life issues (particularly sexual health advice) from an organisation that is not school.

“You should be able to get advice when you need it, wherever you are. Not have to go to a certain place at a certain time. That way it would get to more people”.

“Everyone needs advice sometimes and not everyone knows what is available at Routes”



“There should be someone you can go to separate from school.”

- Young people are concerned about societal attitudes towards them

Young people say there is a lack of community cohesion: many say that they feel that other people disapprove of them because they are hanging out with their friends.

“I got told by some older people to stop ‘hanging out in the street’ when I was just waiting for a bus!”

“Young people are always going to hang out – why make it a big issue?”

“I’ve been judged by people before – they make judgements on you just because you are young”.

- Young people want more affordable transport

Accessible transport is an issue for young people

“It costs £1.80 on the bus to get from one end of Frome to the other but I can get a fare saver to Trowbridge for £1 each way”

“My parents take me around to things, but I feel bad having to ask them for their help all the time”

“If you live by Sainsbury’s you don’t want to walk all the way across town to get to something”

In conclusion, the consultation conducted by young researchers revealed a number of answers to questions posed during the mapping phase described above (Section 3). The group synthesised their main findings and produced a short film (shortly to be available on YouTube), aimed at raising awareness of the need for more youth spaces in the town.

Inevitably the youth consultation revealed most about what young people *want*; it remained challenging to find out what young people *need*. In order to try to do this, and find out more about young people’s need for support services, the project also conducted interviews with stakeholders involved in providing services to young people in Frome.

5.5 Stakeholder interviews

13 professionals working with children and young people in Frome were interviewed as part of this research. See Appendix 2 for a list of interviewees. Interviews were semi scripted. Their focus was on identifying the major factors affecting provision of services for young people and any gaps in services in Frome.

The following points emerged from the research and helped to inform the youth consultation phase of research, running concurrently.

- There has been a significant decline in funding for preventative services, and an increased focus on meeting emergency need and the needs of targeted groups.

In 2011, Somerset County Council announced they would cut the youth service from £3m to £814k per year by 2014. The next stage of the change programme will see SCC stop being a direct provider of youth work by March 2014. Until then they will retain some direct delivery in Taunton, Bridgwater and Yeovil. Alongside this, they plan to focus on helping communities start, sustain and improve local youth provision, by continuing to offer training and quality measures. Youth organisations in the town are already being supported by a SCC Senior Youth and Community Worker under this scheme.

Services provided by the Children's Centres are currently being assessed by the County. A County Council review is looking at keeping a minority of the 41 current centres open exclusively as children's centres. In the consultation document, Proposals for Change, the plans show 27 centres would be "deregistered". The remaining 14 buildings to remain exclusively as children's centres would be situated in the most deprived areas of Somerset. It is likely that services currently run from the town's two Children's Centres will be delivered through other public buildings, with the centres themselves converted to other purposes.

Whilst professionals recognise the importance of using limited resources to protect services for the most vulnerable groups in society, there is a widespread concern about the loss of open access services (open to everyone). These services have been shown to make a difference for everyone including the most vulnerable, as they are non-stigmatising and catch problems at an early stage. Feedback from young parents interviewed at the Bridge Children's Centre revealed how strongly they felt that the building and staff should be retained.

It is difficult to measure the impact of preventative work, by its very nature, which has made it an easy target for cuts. The Somerset Young Carers' Project has also experienced severe

budget restrictions. Although there are no definite plans available at present, the future of this vital service post 2014 is currently unclear.

- Services that can be flexible to meet the changing needs of communities and young people are needed

Professionals interviewed in the course of this research felt that – in this climate of limited resources – services that are flexible and ‘fleet of foot’ will be more sustainable. Services without a large team of permanent staff; without expensive leases on office premises; without office maintenance costs; are those more likely to succeed. This chimes to some extent with the views of young people who felt they wanted varying provision to meet need rather than having to attend specific youth sessions at certain times and certain places.

An interview with a housing association indicated there may be some adult spaces in the town, eg Frome Residents’ Centre on Rodden Road, that could be opened up to young people in the evening, if there is someone to run this provision. There will be other spaces like this in the town which could form part of a flexible approach to the provision of youth work.

- Community led provision is sustainable but communities need support to enable this to happen

The Government’s flagship policy, The Big Society, aims to reduce the state funded public sector and reforming public services by encouraging communities to step forward and run their own services.

Many in the voluntary sector question this reliance on communities alone to get things done. In particular, the attempt to use volunteers to take on work previously done by paid professionals is criticised for undermining the altruistic spirit that motivates volunteers, and exposes essential public services to the risk of being run by ‘postcode lottery’ (Evans, 2011). This is of concern in poorer areas, where people working long hours and fulfilling caring roles within families on a shrinking budget



have extremely limited capacity for engagement in voluntary work.

Particularly in relation to work with children and young people, communities need strong support from professional workers to ensure they provide quality services that are sustainable.

- Lack of co-ordination between services in the town



Professionals involved in this research felt that there were few opportunities to network and share information across the town. They felt unsure of what the wider picture was for children and young people in Frome. To some degree this reflects the squeeze on capacity from funding reductions, but it is also an indicator of a lack of coordination and strategic leadership for youth issues in the town.

One sports activity provider interviewed for this research highlighted this lack of co-ordination in relation to access to sports facilities, saying that the difficulty in accessing an adequate sports pitch and changing facilities meant that the number of children they can work with is limited.

- Youth participation is playing an increasingly important role in making decisions affecting young people.

Interviews with young people involved in the Frome Youth Council and the Youth Mayor scheme indicate the importance and benefits of youth participation, for them and for wider society. Somerset County Council's Senior Youth and Community Worker cites the Frome Youth Council as a model of good practice and recommends developing it further. She pointed out that young people's involvement in setting budgets for youth issues, allocating youth budgets, and evaluating their effectiveness, is recommended in national good practice guidance on youth participation (British Youth Council, 2012).

6. Demographic and social trends

In Frome's population of 27,282, 5-15 year olds make up 13%, which is higher than the average for Somerset (12%). The town has an above average proportion of households with dependent children, with the highest proportion of any major town in Somerset.

Analysis of population and school roll forecasts for the next five years reveals two significant trends. Demographic data for Mendip reveals an increasing numbers of 2-12s, and SCC project a 10% increase in this age group by 2018. They also predict decreasing numbers of older teens and 20-somethings. This suggests that Frome needs to ensure that young people in their early teens have enough space and things to do in the town.

Additionally, figures on the numbers of people moving from one authority to another reveal the continuing net outflow of 18-20s leaving for university and not coming back to live. This clear and visible gap in the local population of 18-25 year olds could be the reason why many in the younger age group say they view Frome as a 'dead end'.

An examination of a profile of the Frome community reveals that, whilst nobody in Frome lives in an area amongst the top 20% most deprived areas of England, Frome Welshmill and Frome Keyford were designated by Mendip as priority areas because of issues of child wellbeing (Somerset Intelligence Network, 2011).

The proportion of 16-19 year olds who are not in education, employment, nor training (NEETs) in Frome is a little higher than in Somerset as a whole.

To conclude this section: an examination of these trends was included in the research in order to support conclusions arising from the youth consultation and interviews with stakeholders. It helped identify that young people in Frome need more support than they receive at present.

The next section puts forward some interesting ideas from a regional project which looked at the role parish and town councils can have in providing youth services.

7. Good practice from other areas

In March 2013, the South West Regional Youth Work Unit (SWRYWU) was commissioned by BaNES and Somerset councils to research into the role parish and town councils are playing in youth work provision in these two areas (SWRYWU, 2013).

They found that at least eighteen parish and town councils in B&NES and Somerset have either initiated support for work with young people or expanded their previous support.

This support has so far taken the form of some or all of the following:

- Employing youth workers directly
- Providing funding for needs assessments delivered through youth organisations (such as in Frome)
- Making buildings available and accessible to youth groups
- Recruiting volunteers and supporting management committees for youth groups
- Collaborating with neighbouring councils and the local authority on planning and delivering appropriate provision

The Regional Youth Work Unit's report notes that one consequence of local determination of services is that it is not necessarily possible to ensure consistency in the quantity or content of provision. However, the report notes that parish and town based youth work is engaging more with young people's participation and curriculum developments, thus potentially increasing the quality of provision.

The report concludes with a recommendation that youth champions in parish, town and district councils are linked into sustainable local and regional networks and Frome Town Council could consider joining the SW Regional Youth Work Unit to network with other town councils and find out what is working. See Appendix 3 for a profile of Martock Parish Council's work with young people as an example of good practice.

To conclude this section: having mapped out existing services in Frome, consulted with young people and youth professionals, and identified the possibilities for implementing solutions, the final section of this report will outline the recommendations arising from the work.

8. Recommendations

Having considered significant findings arising from the research, this report puts forward recommendations for the Town Council and youth providers to consider.

Finding: There are many groups available for young people in Frome but there are barriers preventing some young people from accessing them.

Recommendations to consider

8.1 Invest in a *Give It A Go* type scheme which pro-actively marketed opportunities to disadvantaged young people and subsidised their attendance. Subsidised activities should be offered in local places that young people are familiar with.

8.2 Offer practical support to grass roots organisations to provide outreach to 'widen the pool' of their members

8.3 Invest in the use of social media to promote existing opportunities.



Finding: There is a lack of youth work in the town, as a result of County funding reductions for youth work and restrictions on most national funding pots for targeted groups. Existing youth providers are operating limited services as a result of the difficulty of finding sustainable funding.

Recommendations to consider

8.4 Invest in a Frome Youth Worker / Youth Work Co-ordinator to provide flexible services according to local need, co-ordinate services, and make better use of existing spaces. These could include:

- Holiday activities
- Play Days
- Youth Club nights (in different neighbourhoods)
- Detached work (working with young people on the street or in parks)
- Outreach – to engage young people with existing services



- Supporting local voluntary organisations through training & management advice
- Quality assuring provision run by new groups

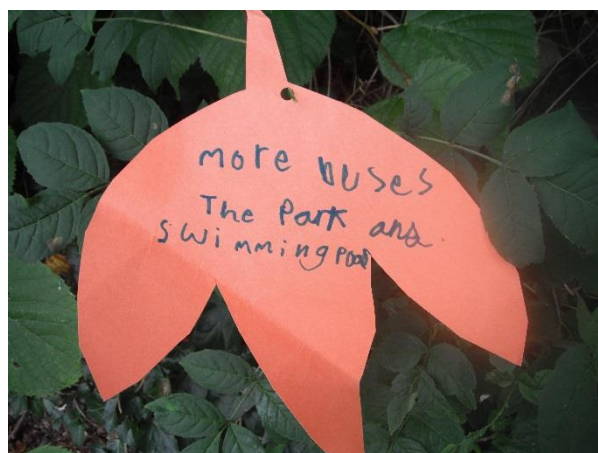
8.5 This investment could be channelled through a new Town Council managed post or via existing youth work providers in the town.

Finding: Young people say there is a lack of places to go and things to do in the town. They report a lack of places to hang out and spend time with their friends.

Recommendation to consider

8.6 Invest in infrastructure support (the youth worker/ youth work co-ordinator referred to above) to co-ordinate and extend provision

8.7 The answer to lack of youth space is not necessarily to build or construct an entirely new space venue which could be extremely expensive. Instead, adult spaces in the town that are not used in the evening should be identified which could be opened up for youth work if there is someone to run them.



8.8 Prioritise bids for FTC funding that meet young people's needs for places to go, things to do, and people to talk to.

8.9 Review facilities provided in Victoria Park as part of the Park Review and involve young people in gathering views of others. Include views of those using the skating area in this review, as some say their needs have not been met.

Finding: The Youth Mayor scheme and the Frome Youth Council are working well and need ongoing support to become embedded.

Recommendation to consider

8.10 Continue to grow the Frome Youth Council as a vehicle for decision making by young people

- 8.11 Ensure ongoing support is provided to Youth Mayor scheme so that it provides an effective youth voice in local decisions
- 8.12 Ensure some/ all of the TC budget for young people's projects is led by young people in the priority setting and allocation process and ensure they are supported to participate in this meaningfully.

Finding: Children say they are not allowed to play far from home and as a result often don't play outside. Some children are unused to active play. National funding for play services has been dramatically cut.

Recommendation to consider

- 8.13 Within the youth budget, prioritise projects which ensure there is local, exciting outdoor play provision to encourage children to get outside and play.
- 8.14 Review all play spaces (including informal, green spaces) to ensure there is equal access across the town, as part of the Open Spaces Strategy.



Finding: Young people say more needs to be done to break down barriers between groups. More needs to be done to improve relationships between people of all ages in the community.

Recommendations to consider

- 8.15 Invest in youth work co-ordinator (as above) to pilot detached work in the spaces where young people hang out.
- 8.16 Within youth budget, prioritise youth projects that work inter-generationally.

Finding: Young people value being able to talk to someone 'separate from school' for advice on anything they are worried about.

Recommendations to consider

8.17 The advice and support services at Mendip YMCA Routes are of a very high quality and cover a wide range of topics important to young people. With more capacity, services could be delivered in other settings such as the library and youth centre, thereby reaching even more people.



Finding: Services provided by children's centres are extremely well valued by parents and young children, but children's centres are facing significant funding cuts from March 2014. It is likely that future funding will be restricted to targeted groups/ individuals. Any lack of universal services will have an adverse effect on community cohesion in the town. The future of the Somerset Young Carers' Project is also uncertain post 2014.

Recommendations to consider

8.18 Assess how much funding would be required to 'save' important and well valued services such as post natal groups, the toy library, and the Young Carers group if they are threatened in March 2014. Consider working with other agencies to provide emergency funding.

Finding: Community/ volunteer led provision offers sustainability, but communities need significant professional support to get this off the ground and maintain it.

Recommendations to consider

8.19 Invest in a youth work co-coordinator (described above) whose brief includes providing support to local communities.



Finding: There is a lack of co-ordination of the sports facilities in the town providing a barrier for some community sports groups.

Recommendations to consider

8.20 Consider the needs of these groups (as part of work on sports and leisure centres).

7 Conclusion



This report summarises the findings from a major piece of research work undertaken in July – October 2013 which aimed to assess whether services for children and young people in Frome were meeting their needs.

By mapping the existing services available for young people, comparing them to what young people say they want from the town, interviewing professionals working with children and young people, and taking into account demographic, social and political trends likely to affect the town in the next five years, recommendations are offered for how Frome can be improved.

The report concludes that the town has experienced severe cuts to services provided by County and that voluntary and community groups in the town have faced significant funding challenges. This has led to a situation where young people in the town feel that there is not enough provision for them and where professionals say that the needs of children and young people are not being met.

Whilst the full impact of the loss of these services has not yet been felt in Frome, it is likely to have a significant impact over the next few years. The report puts forward a strong recommendation to the Town Council for investment into youth services now, before these services are lost forever.



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10. Glossary

Detached Youth Work Detached Youth Work is a model of youth work practice which takes place on young people's own territory such as streets, cafes, parks and pubs at times that are appropriate to them and on their terms.

Open access services Services that are open to all, rather than just to particular, targeted groups

Outreach Youth Work Outreach work is normally related to services which are available elsewhere and is generally aimed at feeding young people in to those services. Whilst it can and does take place on young people's own territory, it can also include work in existing youth facilities, educational institutions and commercial settings. It is characterised by purposeful

interaction between youth workers and young people and involves contact, information giving, and the invitation to join existing or proposed youth programmes and other services designed with them in mind.

Youth providers Organisations delivering youth activities and youth services, such as charities, private businesses, schools

Youth services Youth service is an umbrella term which refers to both educational and recreational leisure-time activities for young people which are for the improvement of their well-being.

Youth Voice The inclusion of young people as a meaningful part of the creation, implementation and evaluation of services

Appendix 1: Mapping

A map of Frome which shows activities for children and young people categorised by age can be accessed at:

[Map by age](#)

A map showing the activities by type can be seen at:

[Map by activities](#)

Appendix 2: List of stakeholder interviewees

Organisation	Sector
Aster Communities	Community
Barnardos	Play
Break 3	Education
Frome Town Youth FC	Sport
Mendip YMCA	Youth advice/ housing
Mendip YMCA	Youth clubs
SCYS	Youth work
Somerset community learning partnership	Education
The Bridge Centre	Family Support
The Key Centre	Family Support
Vision for Frome	Community engagement
Wansdyke Play Association	Play
Young People Frome	Youth work

Appendix 3: Profile – Martock Parish Council

In 2011, the parish of Martock in South Somerset experienced severe cuts from County provided youth work. They found themselves with a relatively high rate of antisocial behaviour, few activities for young people and lots of young people hanging around with nothing to do. Youth issues were a high priority on their community plan for 2012 onwards.



As a result, in 2012 they carried out the following activity:

- Refurbishment of youth centre and Parish Council made a commitment to fund ongoing running costs.
- They sought – and received - grant provision from Somerset County Council (SCC), South Somerset District Council (SSDC) and other external agencies.
- Working with SSDC, they began a programme to progressively improve youth facilities on recreation grounds – play areas, bike track, skate park, MUGA.
- Re-engagement with SCC Youth Service.
- Employment of full time youth worker by the Parish Council.
- Formation of Youth Parish Council.
- Project to build new youth centre (ongoing).

The impact felt in the parish is clear. They now have in place:

- Youth Centre programme:
 - Weekly term-time sessions for three ages groups (juniors, inters and seniors). - Drop-in sessions including informal after school clubs.
 - Outreach activities.
 - Holiday activities
 - Annual Play Day on recreation ground (over 1,000 attendance).
 - One-to-one support for challenged young people.
- More volunteers recruited and properly supported (including from older young people).
- Young people engaged in design of outdoor youth facilities.
- Programme with sports clubs to create more opportunities for young people.

- Youth Parish Council involved in community partnership (two time winners of SSDC Gold Star Award).
- Work with police and other agencies to improve relationships.
- Partnership projects for young people with police, Fire Service, schools and housing associations.
- Marked reduction in ASB (evidenced by police statistics).
- Lobbying of SCC by young people re cuts in Youth Service.
- Martock young person on UK Youth Parliament.

The key factors they state in enabling this success have been:

- Full time youth worker able to concentrate on local needs and uninhibited by national/ county policies and targets.
- Professional advice and support from County Youth Service.
- Establishment of Youth Affairs Committee under Martock Community Partnership, including all relevant stakeholders (SCC, County Youth Service, SSDC, Parish Council, police, Fire Service, schools, other youth groups in Martock (scouts/guides, army cadets, churches, sports clubs, etc.).
- Parish precept increased to cover cost of local youth provision.
- Grant support from SCC, SSDC and other agencies.