

## Agenda Item 5

For Information: Children and Young People's Project Officer

Author: Kate Hellard, Community Development Manager

It was agreed on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2019 to recruit a Children and Young People's Project Officer using a budget of £30k as project costs and part funding towards a full-time salary to be match funded by Somerset County Council and Mendip District Council.

The broad remit of the role is to work with children, young people, and their families to:

- Map existing provision of services
- Populate database / information sharing platforms
- Identify gaps in current and future provision
- Identify models of best practice from elsewhere
- Work with partner organisations to agree how to fill gaps
- Identify funding streams in order to support the growth of existing projects and initiate new ones.

Authority was delegated to the Town Clerk and Community Development Manager to draw up a job description and person specification and to recruit to the post. There were 28 applicants and two candidates have been successfully recruited to fill the post on a part time basis. Cllr Ali Barclay and Julie Breeze (SCC Commissioning officer) were also involved in the recruitment process.

Jessica Francombe will be starting at the beginning of August with an initial remit to look at services for children and young people aged 5 – 12 years and their families.

Hannah Stopford will be starting in October and will have a focus on services for children aged 0 – 5 years and their families, working closely with the remaining Get Set service to ensure there is a continuation of support for local families.

The aim of this area of work is to build projects and initiatives which enable communities to better support children and young people. It fits within the Community Development ethos developed to grow stronger, more resilient communities and reduce demand for crisis statutory services.