

## **AGENDA 11, Enc xv) Youth Advisory Committee Meeting Report 21st January 2025**

### **Summary**

The Youth Advisory Committee meeting focused on planning various youth engagement initiatives and activities for 2025, with particular emphasis on sports, recreation, and community outreach programmes.

### **Key Actions and Priorities**

Following the mixed success of the event held at Ashington AFC, **it was AGREED** that Youth Advisory Committee Cllrs would attend groups where young people are at, as an alternative to engaging directly with them.

### **Youth Group Engagement Initiative:**

- Creation of youth groups contact list
- Drafting of engagement letter
- Distribution to groups
- Development of engagement calendar for Cllrs. Caroline Ball and Graeme Wright

### **Youth Engagement Tools:**

- Creation of survey for Youth Advisory Councillors to use
- Confirmation of attendance at Ashington College Roadshow Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February

Following the success the Council's supported holiday activities, **it was AGREED** to continue in these efforts with a focus on active pursuits.

### **February Half-Term Youth Gym Initiative**

- Contact Adam Collard/Sculpt Gym regarding potential partnership
- Explore possibilities for two youth gym sessions
- Discussion points to include, age of group to be targeted, session delivery specifics, potential inclusion of protein shakes, requirements for different age groups

### **Swimming Program**

- Booking of swimming sessions for all 2025 holiday periods

### **Easter Holiday Events Planning**

- **Skate Event at North Seaton**
  - Contact Shred the North and Kieron Riley
  - Explore partnership with Community Safety Team for safeguarding
  - Planning for exhibition/workshop/lessons format
  - Arrangement of catering and professional staffing
- **River Open Day at Riverside**
  - Outreach to Cambois Rowing Club, Sea Cadets, and Paddleboarders
  - Focus on family engagement and youth participation
  - Consideration of timing (Easter, May, or Summer holidays)
  - Catering arrangements and publicity planning

It was discussed that an update is due from the Community Safety Team in March. The Youth Advisory Committee hoped to seek direct engagement with the team following longer term plans for Ashington being agreed.

### **Community Safety Team Engagement**

- Confirmation of CST meeting attendance
- Preparation for data review
- Development of measurable deliverables
- Creation of monitoring and evaluation framework

### **Further Actions**

- Outward Bound Activities Research
- Investigation of local delivery options
- Consultation with Community Safety Team
- Contact with Newcastle Safety Team

### **Next Steps**

- Assignment of tasks
- Establishment of timelines for each initiative
- Regular progress monitoring and updates
- Development of evaluation criteria for each program

The Youth Advisory Committee has outlined an ambitious and well-structured program of activities for 2025, demonstrating a clear commitment to enhancing youth engagement across Ashington.

The proposed initiatives span from immediate actions, such as the February half-term gym sessions, to longer-term projects including the development of sustainable partnerships with local sports and recreational organisations.

By focusing on accessible, diverse activities - from skating to river sports - the Committee aims to reach young people with varying interests and needs. The success of these initiatives will depend on effective partnership working, particularly with the Community Safety Team, and careful monitoring of outcomes.

We therefore seek the Finance and General Services Committee's support in implementing these proposals, which represent a significant investment in our young people's wellbeing and development. Our next steps will involve finalising budgets, confirming delivery partners, and establishing clear evaluation frameworks to ensure value for money and maximum impact for Ashington's youth.

**Sharon Parmley**  
**Communications and Engagement Officer**  
**February 2025**