

Heads Up Youth Mental Health Project

Background

The “Heads Up Project” is an early intervention project, designed by Shropshire Youth Association its aim is to help young people understand different aspects of emotional health & wellbeing. The project was first discussed at Town Council on 29.10.20 when the Council resolved

- **That the £1000 held in earmarked reserves for mental health support is earmarked for this project subject to grant funding being secured from other sources to run this project for a minimum of a 1 year period.**
- **That the Town Council defer a decision on use of any funds allocated in the 2020-21 budget for youth projects until the outcome of the grant applications are known.**

The full details of the heads up project were circulated with the October meeting papers.

Update

Since the meeting in October Wem Youth Club submitted a grant to Severn Trent to fund the balance of this project which was unsuccessful.

As it is felt there is still a need for a project of this nature on the town, following discussions with Connexus Housing the Town Council has been encouraged to apply to their Community Fund for £5000 towards the project to run in the town for 1 year. Wem Youth Club have offered the use of the venue offered free of charge for 3 hours a week as part of their contribution to the project.

As stated previously SYA charges £12,000 + VAT a year to run the Heads Up project and the most suitable venue in the town is Wem Youth Club as that is already a safe space for young people and Wem Youth Club are keen to be partners in the project.

It was previously felt that the project could be run by Wem Youth Club but due to VAT implications and the significant amount of Town Council funds that would be going into the running of the project it is advised that the project should be managed by the Town Council with Wem Youth Club as a key partner.

A heads up project is already running in Market Drayton from The Zone and if the project were to run in Wem there would be benefits from learning from the Market Drayton experience.

If the grant application is successful it is anticipated that the project will be overseen by the new Project and Finance Officer.

Recommendation that

- **The Town Council agree that a grant application can be made to Connexus Community fund for £5000.**
- **The Town Council agree to commit the £6000 in the 2020/21 budget allocated to youth projects as match funding.**
- **The Town Council agree to manage the project should grant funding from Connexus be awarded.**