

TENTERDEN TOWN COUNCIL

YOUTH STRATEGY

Statement of intent

The Town Council, as confirmed in its *Community Engagement Strategy*, aims to pay particular attention to the needs of children and young people in Tenterden.

The Town Council intends to support and build upon existing provisions by other authorities and by voluntary sector youth providers to do what it can to ensure that suitable facilities (premises, funding, sports and social activities and advice) are provided in Tenterden, largely for the 11 to 18 years age group but with a view to providing facilities outside that age range where practical.

While the Town Council's focus is, inevitably, on making provisions for the youth of Tenterden parish, it is hoped that these provisions will also be used by, and of benefit to, the youth of neighbouring parishes.

Aims and aspirations

The purpose of establishing and implementing this youth strategy is to improve communication between youth services providers (both voluntary and professional), consolidate and coordinate youth provision in Tenterden, consult meaningfully with youth services providers and - through them - with the youth of Tenterden themselves, and to establish and support a *Youth Projects Fund* to provide finance for the establishment and (where necessary) maintenance of youth provision initiatives.

Implementation

The Town Council proposes that Tenterden's youth facilities should be provided in partnership with Ashford Borough Council, Kent County Council, various voluntary sector providers and - in particular - by means of a service level agreement between the Town Council and a suitable local organisation with an appropriate constitution. The service level agreement would set out the detailed responsibilities of the town council and the selected organisation.

Crime and disorder impact: It is considered that the adoption of a Youth Policy along the above lines will have a significant positive impact on both the reduction and the prevention of crime and disorder (or potential crime and disorder), in particular by youths in the relevant age range.

Biodiversity conservation impact: It is not expected that the adoption of a Youth Policy will have any direct impact (positive or negative) on biodiversity conservation.

Social value impact: The establishment and funding by the Town Council of a Youth Projects Fund will enable the council to improve the social well-being of Tenterden's youth in particular, and residents in general, by seed-funding new (and if necessary preserving existing) youth projects as agreed with the Town Council.