

Annual Report Summary 2015-16

Somerset Youth & Community Service's work takes place in the context of Positive for Youth and Somerset County Council's duty to secure young people's access to a coherent range of services. We are part of SCC's getset service, which offers a range of early help and support to children, young people and their families.

Our mission is to help create a youth sector where Somerset's young people have their voices heard and have access to services which are coherent, sustainable and high quality. To do this we provide professional support to community and independent groups to enable them to provide good quality informal learning and development opportunities that help young people aged 11-19 reach their full potential.

Our Youth & Community Officers have been in contact with 126 communities and organisations to support them with their youth provision.

Our Youth & Community Worker has provided club development support over periods of eight or more weeks to six clubs across the county.

56 adults in 13 clubs have received bespoke training from SYCS.

Community Youth Club Handbook:

- More than 320 copies given to clubs in Somerset.
- Three universities use it as a reference in their degree courses.
- 12 local authorities have purchased copies

11 workers have been supported to study for their Level 3 Diploma in Youth Work Practice, plus a further two at Level 2.

28 clubs have achieved the 'Safe & Welcoming' benchmark accreditation.



Somerset Youth & Community Service Grant Funding 2015-16

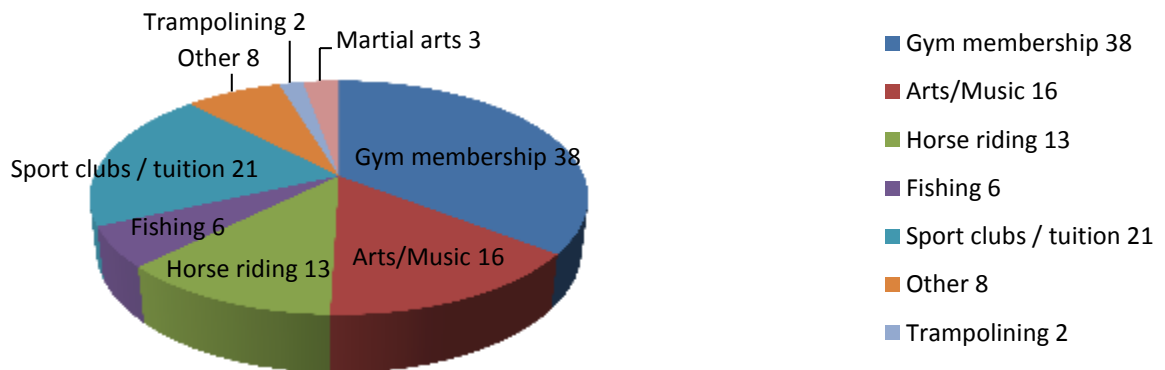


Youth Bank

Somerset Youth Bank offers individual grants of up to £350 to enable disadvantaged young people to access positive activities.

	2014-15	2015-16	Trend
Applications received	123	125	+1.63%
Applications granted	104	107	+2.89%
Sum Awarded	£28,995.65	£28,609.60	-1.33%

Key activity types funded:



Youth & Community Group Grants Awarded in 2014-15

Somerset Youth and Community Group Grants aim to enable groups within Somerset to create or sustain universal, open-access youth clubs or drop-in provision for young people.

Round 7		August 2014	
Number of applications:	21	Amount applied for:	£70,284.63
Number granted:	16	Amount granted:	£48,280.00
Funding anticipated from other sources			£40,056.00
Funding raised from other sources			£31,534.68
<i>Difference</i>			-14%

Area	No. of young people who have attended	No. of hours of direct delivery	Volunteer hours given to deliver provision	Volunteer hours given to manage the club
Sedgemoor	55	158	5	6
South Somerset	123	489	958	852
Taunton	50	153	650	396
West Somerset	135	322	440	96
Mendip	273	336	615	338
Total	636	1,458	2,668	1,688

Round 8		February 2015	
Number of applications:	21	Amount applied for:	£59,949.65
Number granted:	21	Amount granted:	£56,438.00
Funding anticipated from other sources			£119,945.60
Funding raised from other sources			£114,403.47
<i>Difference</i>			- 4.6%

Area	No. of young people who have attended	No. of hours of direct delivery	Volunteer hours given to deliver provision	Volunteer hours given to manage the club
Sedgemoor	107	282	146	350
South Somerset	1,015	1058	1826	570
Taunton				
West Somerset	345	595	1726	674
Mendip	250	470	932	700
Total	1,717	2,405	4,630	2,294

Youth & Community Group Grants Awarded in 2015-16

Round 9		August 2015	
Number of applications:	14	Amount applied for:	£37,299.92
Number granted:	13	Amount granted:	£34,841.44
Funding anticipated from other sources			£79,643.00

Round 10		February 2016	
Number of applications:	13	Amount applied for:	£38,175.00
Number granted:	13	Amount granted:	£38,175.00
Funding anticipated from other sources			£91,562.64

Three year grants 2015-16

The three year grants are offered to the larger, disadvantaged communities to help with fundraising and long term planning for sustainability.

Youth Club	Sum
Chard Youth Centre	£4,117
Frome Youth & Community Centre	£6,666
Street Youth Centre	£4,333
Victoria Park, Bridgwater	£1,666
Hamp ReCreation, Bridgwater	£4,000
Priorswood Community Centre, Taunton	£2,950
All Saints Church, Halcon, Taunton	£4,000
Wellington Youth Centre	£5,417
Total	£33,149



Duke of Edinburgh's Award 2015-16



	New Starts	Completions
Bronze	1661	696
Silver	369	144
Gold	408	423

**More than 32,788 hours spent
Volunteering**

More than 9,048 hours at Bronze; 3,744 hours at Silver and 21,996 hours at Gold.

**More than 21,918 hours spent on
Physical Activity**

More than 9,048 hours spent on physical activity to improve health and fitness at Bronze; 1,872 hours at Silver and 10,998 hours at Gold.

**More than 21,918 hours spent
Developing a skill**

more than 9,048 hours at Bronze; 1,872 hours at Silver and 10,998 hours at Gold.

**6 new centres,
4 of which work solely with
disadvantaged groups**

**222
adult volunteers
directly supporting DofE
provision in
centres**

**More than 10,410 days spent on
Expeditions and residentials
(that's equivalent to 28½ years!)**

3,480 days on expedition at Bronze; 1,008 days at Silver and 3,807 days at Gold (with a further 2,115 days on residentials).

Youth Equipment Store 2015-16

**Young people who
benefited from YES
equipment
2000+**

**TOTAL INCOME
£16,000**

Vehicle Hire
Total income - £4,500
Vehicle hire sessions - 125

**HIRE SESSIONS
400**

Deliveries

Deliveries took place on 20+ days to around 25 locations across Somerset including:

- Minehead
- Frome
- Wincanton
- Shepton Mallet
- Dulverton
- Yeovil
- Chard
- + more!

The Somerset Youth and Community Service website offers a huge range of resources and information for communities and organisations. The site has evolved constantly over the years to align with the changing shape of the service and the needs of our users.

This year shows a significant increase in the number of visits to the site and the number of individuals visiting. However, the number of page views has remained virtually the same and the average time spent on the site has reduced. Indications are that this is due to users finding what they need more quickly. This may be due to the fact that we have made the site easier to navigate and provided direct links to relevant pages whenever possible.

Visits to site	12,027	Page views	35,095	Individual users	7,270
2014-15	10,134	2014-15	35,093	2014-15	6,288
% increase	19%	% increase	---	% increase	16%

Downloadable resources

The website contains over 150 downloadable resources, including:

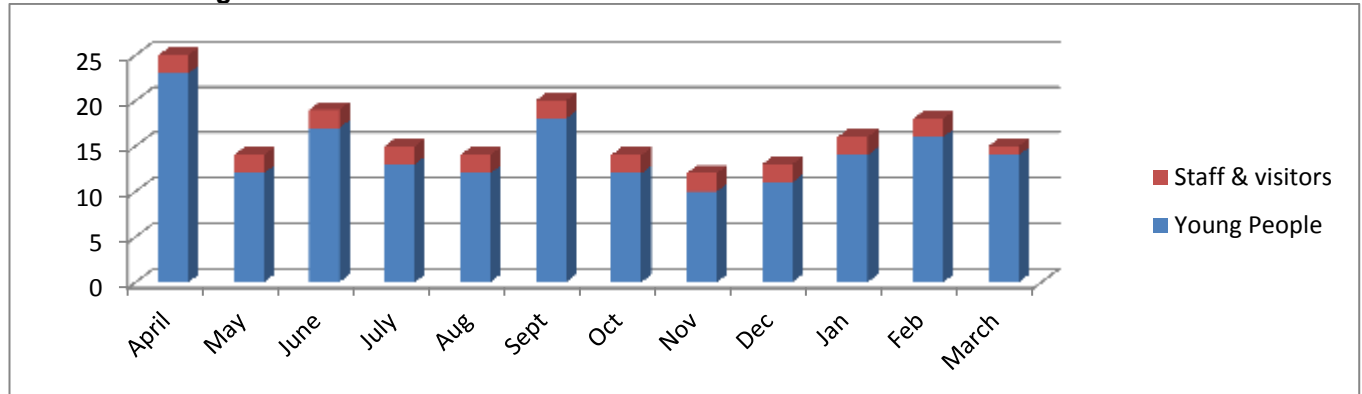
- 37 session plans and 32 ice breakers
- 2 funding sources booklets
- 26 info guides and document templates
- National campaigns calendar
- Youth Club Young Volunteers and Youth Councils workshops

Most popular pages:		2015-16	2014-15
Youth funding	↑19%	2,897	2,437
Running your own club.	↑65%	2,216	1,343
Youth equipment store	↑13%	2,166	1,917
UK Youth Parliament	↓6%	1,808	1,934
Benchmark	↑46%	1,074	734
Training	↑62%	724	448

UK Youth Parliament 2015-16

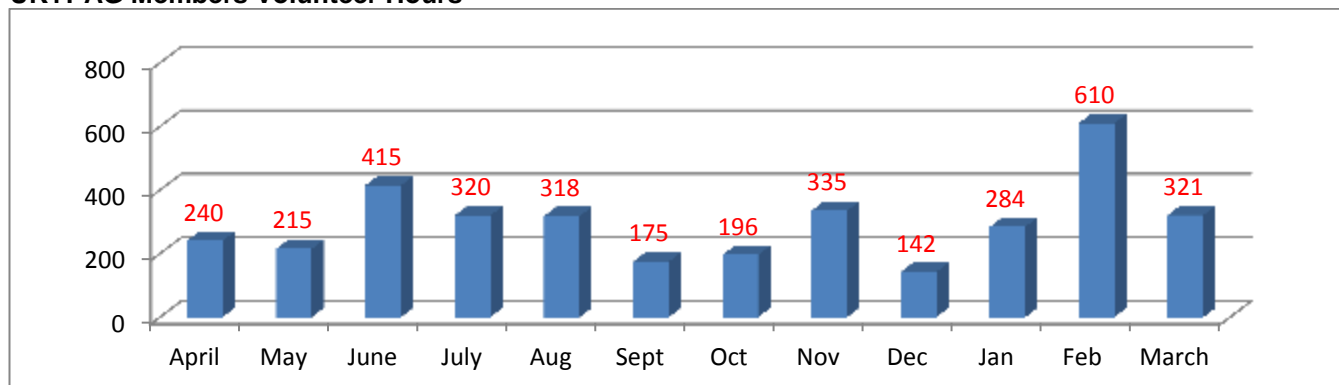
The Somerset UK Youth Parliament Advisory Group (UKYPAG) membership averages around 20, including 3 Members of Youth Parliament (MYPs) and 3 deputies.

UKYPAG Meeting Attendance



During 2015-16 UKYPAG members contributed a total of 3,571 hours to voluntary work representing Somerset's young people and communities. This is the equivalent of more than 21 weeks of 24/7 continuous work or more than 96 full time working weeks!

UKYPAG Members Volunteer Hours



MYPs, Deputies and UKYPAG members have been involved in a wide range of activities, including...

- Monthly UKYPAG meetings
- MYPs & Deputies planning meetings
- UKYPAG training residential
- Events, including a Question Time event
- Meeting councillors, MPs etc.
- Assessing funding allocations
- Promotion via social media
- Writing and delivering workshops
- British Youth Council Annual Sitting
- Assisting with commissioning services
- Global and national charity campaign work
- SW Regional Youth Voice Conferences
- A wide range of representation roles in their schools and colleges
- Working on their campaigns
- Recruitment interviews
- Various consultations
- Lobbying
- 'Make Your Mark' campaign
- Media interviews and press releases
- Attending an LSCB meeting
- BYC House of Commons Debate
- Job shadowing opportunities
- BYC national roles
- Children's Parliament
- Public speaking

Service Feedback

36 communities were invited to provide feedback, 24 feedback surveys were completed giving a response rate of 66.67%

Contact with the service was in relation to: (more than one may apply)	
Setting up a club or project	3
Supporting or developing an existing club or project	9
Benchmark scheme (Safe & Welcoming or Quality Youth Club)	3
A funding monitoring visit	1
Youth Club Young Volunteers / Senior Members	2
Training	8
Other	3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exploring young people's potential involvement in the LSCB Apprentice interviews Young people's panel as part of the Integrated Sexual Health procurement exercise 	

What has changed as a result of our work with you?

- Our youth club has become very successful. We are able to offer our young people an amazing sanctuary with a brilliant programme as a direct result of the help, training, donations and grants that we have received (thank you so much!!).
- Improved funding ops for paid employees and access to more material especially templates for various forms etc.
- The councillors (and clerk) have a better understanding of their roles, have a new reporting structure and plan for QA of the club.
- The team have refocused on the meaning of participation and where the work they are doing sits on the ladder.
- Our club now has a benchmark that many other bigger clubs have and can now reassure potential new member's parents that we are run professionally and are a safe well supported club.
- We are now properly able to deal with any issues that might arise with young people at youth club as far as their safety and welfare are concerned.

How helpful did you find the Youth & Community Service staff?

Very helpful	Helpful	Unhelpful	Very unhelpful
24 (100%)	0	0	0

Additional comments:

- Extremely helpful and go out of your way to look out for our young people and provide support for us.
- Very well delivered training promoting reflection and positive change.
- Without their help I do not think we would still be open.
- The staff are always helpful and dedicated – very committed – one of Somerset County Council's outstanding services.

How likely are you to contact SCYS in the future should you want more information, advice or support etc.?

Very likely	Likely	Unlikely	Very unlikely
22 (92%)	2 (8%)	0	0

Additional comments:

- The Youth & Community Service are very helpful on a range of topics and they always come prepared.
- I would phone the service for advice without hesitation. I have found it very approachable and knowledgeable.
- The experience they bring is like nothing I have come across before – until we made contact with them in 2014 we were a very ad hoc run club and the turnaround thanks to SYCS's funding, training and on-site support has been so valuable in rejuvenating the club.
- I'm sure you'll be our first port of call if we need any advice or help with anything. We've all been very impressed with the service.

Overall, how would you rate your experience of SCYS?

Very good	Good	Average	Poor	Very poor
22 (92%)	2 (8%)	0	0	0

Additional comments:

- Vastly experienced, committed professional staff who care about their service and clients, large amount of documented advice, guidance and templates.
- They are always willing to help, whether in person, by email or on the phone. The quality of the training has always been excellent.
- Everyone in the Youth & Community team that we collaborate with are helpful, informative and show a can-do attitude to finding positive solutions. Thank you.
- We wanted to set up a youth club but had no idea how to go about this – the youth service have supported us all the way through and encouraged us. We still supported which is fab.

Anything else you'd like to tell us?

- We would like to thank you all for your help, support and advice. You have helped us to take our humble youth club to a whole new level for our young people.
- Thank you for your continued help and support!
- Nothing else at the moment other than there is a clear support and professional support for the local authority and important for that service to be maintained in order the voluntary sector is able to maintain a progressive quality service in universal settings.
- When the youth service was first cut it was not obvious what it could usefully offer. However it has carved out a really useful space and provides a unique and vital service. On the resources that they have, they should be celebrated as a shining example of more with less.

If you have any questions or would like to find out more about the Somerset Youth & Community Service, please contact a member of our team:

	Zara Scott-Davies Youth & Community Officer	zscottdavies@somerset.gov.uk Tel: 01823 349854 Mobile: 07919 540738
	Kirstie Brown Youth & Community Officer	kbrown@somerset.gov.uk Tel: 01823 349853 Mobile: 07899 700170
	Kate Darlington Youth & Community Worker	kdarlington@somerset.gov.uk Tel: 01823 349855 Mobile: 07968 222857
	Angela Derry Project Support Officer	aderry@somerset.gov.uk Tel: 01823 349852
	Jeff Brown Service Manager – Commissioning	jbrown@somerset.gov.uk Tel: 01823 358170 Mobile: 07967 729242

Somerset Youth & Community Service
The Holway Centre, Byron Road, Taunton, TA1 2JD

01823 349852
youthservice@somerset.gov.uk