



Somerset Youth & Community Service

What we offer to communities across Somerset



Our offer to communities

Somerset County Council (SCC) is committed to supporting communities and young people who have, or want to develop, youth provision – it does this through the Youth & Community Service. We will help you provide the best youth provision possible in your community.

We offer a wide range of support, resources, advice and information to communities and organisations. You can find a taste of what we can offer in this leaflet and we also respond to unique needs as they arise.

Please contact us if you would like to find out more about what we can offer you, your club or your community – we're here to help!

Support to communities

Our Youth & Community Officers provide support and advice to communities which are starting new youth provision, or maintaining and developing existing provision. This support has the advantage of being offered by impartial, professionally qualified youth workers with extensive and varied youth work experience.

Training

We provide bespoke training for youth workers and volunteers, designed to meet the unique needs of each community we work in. This could be a general introduction to youth work for new volunteers, or specifically targeted at identified areas for development such as team building, programme planning or conflict resolution. We are accredited by the LSCB to provide basic Child Protection training to staff and volunteers in youth clubs and offer sessions free of charge. We also offer an accredited Level 2 or 3 youth work qualification for those working in open access, universal youth clubs. Finally, we offer part funding for locally arranged training on the key areas of safeguarding, first aid and food hygiene.



Benchmark

We have developed a benchmark scheme which enables youth clubs to be easily recognised as a good place for young people to go. The scheme covers the safety, sustainability and 'young people friendliness' of the club. The entry level 'Safe & Welcoming' benchmark is now a requirement for any club accessing grant funding from Somerset Youth & Community Service.

Grants and funding

The Youth & Community Service offers grant funding via:

Youth & Community Group Grants – up to £3,500 to help community groups create or sustain universal, open-access youth clubs or drop in provision.

Youth Bank – up to £350 to enable individual disadvantaged young people to access positive activities.

Community Youth Club Handbook

We've produced a really helpful book called the Community Youth Club Handbook. It contains everything you need to know to get your club up and running and includes a lot of template documents. Community based youth clubs in Somerset can request a free copy. A number of the templates and information documents are available as downloads from our website.

Club Development

Many youth clubs are keen to move into developing a youth work programme but are not sure how best to do this. We can arrange for our professionally qualified and highly experienced Youth & Community Worker to work with a member of staff in your youth club to deliver a social education programme to your young people.



Developing quality youth work

The quality and range of work delivered in Somerset's youth clubs are a priority for us. As well as advising communities and youth club managing groups about developing youth work programmes and effectively managing youth work contracts, we also offer more practical support. Our website currently has a wide range of ready-to-use downloadable resources. These include over fifty different session plans for use in youth clubs, on a wide range of issues from sexual health, to money to internet safety. All are designed to be fun, interactive and educational and we've had very positive feedback about them.

Affiliation

Somerset Youth & Community Services has introduced an affiliation scheme. The scheme is completely free of charge and enables access to a wide range of services, support, advice and opportunities.

Youth Voice

We facilitate the UK Youth Parliament in Somerset. Three elected Members of Youth Parliament (MYPs) and their Deputies campaign on a variety of issues, as well as being available to act a consultative body for adult organisations seeking young people's views. This group also allocates Youth Bank grants. The MYPs are supported by an advisory group of young people aged 11 to 18 from across the county.

SYCS also provides an advisory service to any organisation which wishes to improve young people's participation in decision making. We provide tailored information, advice and support to enable organisations to listen more effectively to the voice of young people.



Endeavour Credit Awards

Endeavour Credits are an entry level accreditation scheme that recognises the informal learning that young people achieve in youth groups or schools. Anything can be accredited and there are specific Endeavour Credits for sports, healthy living projects, the arts and all types of volunteering. Young people undertake ten hours of an activity that is challenging to them, reflect on their learning and receive their award.

The Somerset Youth & Community Service website contains a wealth of information and resources, including:



- Funding information
- Session plans, icebreakers and quizzes
- Benchmark scheme
- Youth Equipment Store
- Duke of Edinburgh's Award
- Running your club
- Training
- UK Youth Parliament
- Youth work providers

For more information contact Angela Derry (Project Support Officer)
Tel: 01823 349852 Email: aderry@somerset.gov.uk

Duke of Edinburgh's Award

A Duke of Edinburgh's Award is a real adventure from beginning to end. To take part you just need to be aged 14 - 24 and realise there's more to life than sitting on a sofa watching life pass you by! SCC holds the DofE Operating Licence for Somerset and we support schools, colleges and community groups across the county to offer DofE to young people.

Tel: 01823 349850



Youth Equipment Store

The Youth Equipment Store offers equipment for children and young people and the adults working with them to hire at affordable rates. YES is based at Hollies Children's Centre in Taunton and will also deliver to recognised groups across Somerset.

Tel: 01823 289387



The Youth & Community Service Team

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