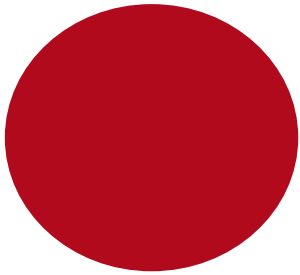
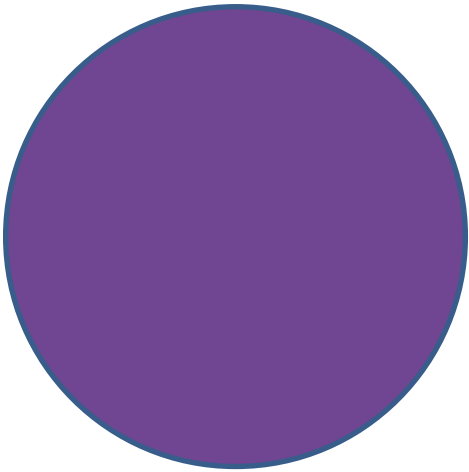


# Somerset Youth & Community Service



# Annual Report 2017-18



# Somerset Youth & Community Service

## What we do

**Our mission** is to help create a youth sector where Somerset's young people have their voices heard and have access to universal and open-access services which are coherent, sustainable and high quality.

### Advice, information and support

Our staff are professionally qualified and experienced youth workers who advise communities which are starting new youth provision, or maintaining and developing existing provision. We maintain as much up to date information about the availability of youth provision as possible, and where this demonstrates a geographical gap we work with local organisations and parish councils to help them develop provision. We also offer a benchmark scheme which enables clubs to be recognised as 'Safe and Welcoming'.

### Resources

These include the service-produced Community Youth Club Handbook; youth work session plans; a campaign calendar with quick and easy suggestions for youth work activities; DofE and youth voice initiatives; an entry-level accreditation package; a development programme for young volunteers; a development framework for local youth voice and youth council initiatives; outdoor learning, expedition and activity equipment, and our website ([www.somersetyouth.co.uk](http://www.somersetyouth.co.uk)) with information, links and downloadable resources.

### Funding

We manage grant programmes including Youth and Community Group Grants which support universal, open access youth provision; Youth Bank which enables individual young people to access positive activities; West Somerset Essential Life Skills funding which improves access to extra-curricular activity programmes for groups and individuals in the West Somerset Opportunity Area. We also provide information about other appropriate sources of funding.

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# Somerset Youth & Community Service

## 2017-18 - Our year in numbers



**56**

communities supported



**58**

people received Basic Child Protection Training



**250**

downloadable resources available on our website



**48**

clubs hold the Safe & Welcoming Benchmark



**£137,785**

awarded in Youth & Community Group Grants to support 42 clubs



**£16,111**

awarded in Youth Bank Grants to support 67 young people



**3000+**

young people benefitted from Youth Equipment Store resources



**26,664**

page views of our website

# Somerset Youth & Community Service

## Somerset Youth Bank Grants

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

# £16,111 awarded

82 Applications received

67 Applications granted

15 Applications refused

Most popular activity:  
Gym Membership

## Case Study

Having received a grant last year, she joined her local Guides as a shy, tearful, under-confident 11 year old girl who didn't want to leave her mum. Since then she has blossomed and taken a full part in girlguiding activities, including gaining badges in First Aid, Party Planning, Football and "Life Wise" (skills for life). Other activities have included campfire-lighting and cooking, Remembrance Parade, bowling, trail-finding, outdoor and indoor games and lots of team-building. She attended a 2-night Guide Camp recently and happily slept in a tent, and played a full part in all activities including a blind-fold trail, campfire cooking competition, washing up, cleaning toilets, a night walk and underground tunnelling!

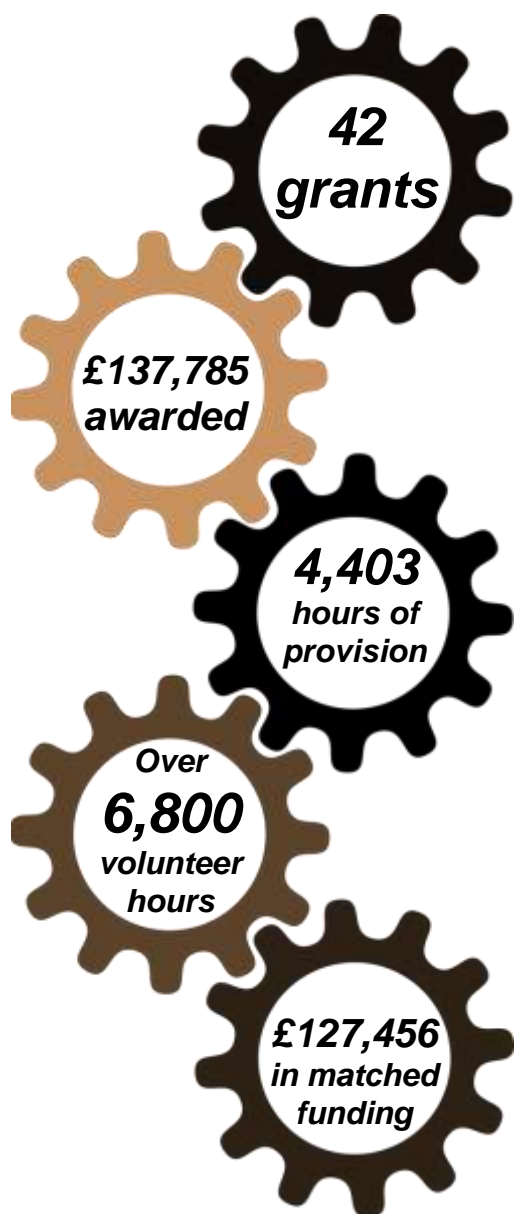
The young woman is now MUCH more self-confident and independent, has organised activities at guides, is reliable, friendly to others and particularly kind and helpful to newcomers and specifically another guide who has severe learning difficulties. Coming to guides gives her a break from her siblings and complex family situation. The grant has certainly made a difference to her life!

*September 2017*

# Somerset Youth & Community Service

## Youth & Community Group Grants 2017-18

Youth & Community Group Grants enable groups in Somerset to create or sustain universal, open-access youth clubs or drop-in provision for young people aged 11-19 and up to 25 for young people with special needs. Grant funding is backed up with professional youth work support and access to a wide range of resources, advice, information, training and monitoring.



<b>Sedgemoor</b>	7 Grants £24,540
<b>South Somerset</b>	14 Grants £38,985
<b>Taunton Deane</b>	7 Grants £20,190
<b>West Somerset</b>	5 Grants £23,475
<b>Mendip</b>	9 Grants £31,595

It has provided the opportunity for young people in the village to have activities and a base outside of home and school in a safe and welcoming space. One young person said "I do not know if I could get through the week if I wasn't coming to youth club". Another said "very often it is the only time I go out apart from school". We are a rurally isolated village with no public transport so availability of an alternative to being at home is very welcome.

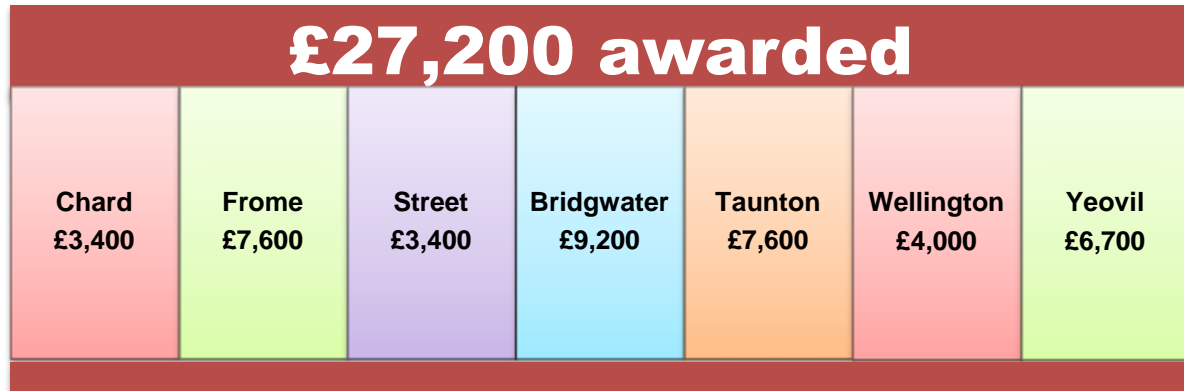
**Charltons Senior Youth Club**

# Somerset Youth & Community Service

## Other grant programmes 2017-18

### Three year grants

Three year grants have been made to allow key areas to develop longer term plans.



### Curriculum development grants

Small grants were offered in a one-off grant programme to enable open access youth clubs to run projects addressing topics which young people have identified as important to them – Curriculum for life, mental health, youth voice and promoting equality and diversity.



#### Glastonbury 1

£290

Developing a promotional club video using British Sign Language



#### Street

£300

Setting up a peer support group and producing a film around bullying



#### Glastonbury 2

£300

Project to explore and celebrate young gay pride



#### Somerset

£300

Project focussing on different areas of living independently



#### Charltons

£180

Martial arts project to focus on improving mental and physical health



#### Hinton St George

£264

Practical support sessions on various issues affecting young people



#### Frome

£300

Work with students on being inclusive and understanding through sport

# Somerset Youth & Community Service

## Benchmark Awards

Somerset Youth and Community Service developed the Benchmark scheme so that youth clubs can be easily recognised as a good place for young people to go. The scheme covers safety, sustainability and the 'young people friendliness' of the club.

The Benchmark Scheme has two levels:

**'Safe and Welcoming'** recognises clubs that achieve the basic safety standards and a level of welcoming provision for young people.

**'Quality Youth Club'** builds on Safe and Welcoming, adding elements of information and advice, young people's involvement in decision making and more stringent levels of child protection training and first aid cover.

Each level is split into four areas:

**Programme** – this looks at what young people experience at their club and what's available for them

**People** – this covers the people who contribute to, or work in, the club and their management and training

**Policies** – this covers the policies needed to run a club

**Procedures and paperwork** – everything else that needs to be in place.

# 48

**clubs held a Safe & Welcoming Benchmark by the end of 2017-18**

"The safe and welcoming benchmark has enabled us to quality assure the building and ensure that all of our systems and processes are up to date and meet good practice guidelines. As part of the process started by Safe and Welcoming the building has undergone extensive cleaning, clearing and general tidying as well as a new coat of paint and some new equipment!"

Robin Seeley,  
Community Programme Coordinator  
YMCA Somerset Coast

*"Giving young people positive activities is a very important but it is equally important that this is achieved in a safe environment."*

Cllr Andrew Govier  
Wellington Community Support Services



## [www.somersetyouth.co.uk](http://www.somersetyouth.co.uk)

- 26,664 page views
- 8,302 visits to the site
- 4,921 individual users
- Average time spent on site: 2 mins 23 secs

### Top 3 sections:

1. Youth Work Resources
2. Youth Funding
3. Running Your Club

## Somerset UK Youth Parliament

Somerset's UK Youth Parliament is made up of three elected Members of Youth Parliament (MYPs) and three Deputies. They are supported by an Advisory Group of around 20 young people from all walks of life across the county.

Between April 2017 and January 2018 Advisory Group members committed a total of 2,330 hours to doing voluntary work representing Somerset's young people and communities.

**This is equal to more than 62 weeks full time equivalent!**

*UKYP moved to the SCC Partnerships and Participation Team from April 2018. You can contact them at [kdarlington@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:kdarlington@somerset.gov.uk)*



## Service User Feedback

74% of people invited to provide feedback responded

100% rated the staff 'very helpful'

100% said they are 'very likely' to contact the service in future

100% rated their overall experience of the service 'Very good'



# Somerset Youth & Community Service

## Affiliation Scheme

This year, Somerset Youth and Community Service introduced an affiliation scheme. The scheme is available to all any club or organisation which provides or supports open-access provision for young people aged 11-19.

### Affiliation provides:

- support to set up new clubs and sustain existing clubs, including help and advice with:
  - policies
  - governance
  - health and safety (including risk assessments)
  - safeguarding
  - access to grant funding (terms and conditions apply, see website for details) and fundraising advice
- fulfilment of affiliation requirements for youth club insurance policies
- at least one visit per year from a qualified and experienced professional Youth & Community Officer to offer advice and support as required
- support and advice by email or telephone
- template policies and documents, as well as a range of youth work resources
- bespoke youth work training programmes
- accredited Basic Child Protection training for your staff and volunteers
- support for your club to achieve Benchmark awards
- access to Endeavour Credits, a way of formally recognising young people's achievements in their youth club
- monthly information bulletins, plus additional updates as relevant opportunities and information become available
- chance to advertise jobs, events etc on the 'News' section of our service website

# 70

## Clubs and organisations affiliated

### Including:

- **52 clubs**
- **7 youth work providers**
- **3 managing agents**
- **7 councils**

## Monthly bulletin

The service publishes a monthly bulletin to keep the 185 people signed up to our mailing list up to date with relevant developments and opportunities.

Each bulletin contains a range of inputs including national and local information, consultations, training opportunities, events, funding news, campaigns and competitions. Each month a different issue is highlighted, along with relevant session plans for youth clubs, in 'Resource of the Month'.

# Somerset Youth & Community Service

## Duke of Edinburgh's Award

**More than 30,000 hours spent**

### Volunteering

More than 12,500 hours spent volunteering at Bronze; 7,500 hours at Silver and 10,000 hours at Gold.

**More than 25,000 hours spent on**

### Physical Activity

More than 12,000 hours have been spent on Physical activity to improve health & fitness by young people at Bronze; 7,000 hours at Silver and 6,000 hours at Gold.

**More than 25,000 hours spent**

### Developing a skill

Somerset D of E participants have committed a total of more than 11,000 hours at Bronze; 7,000 hours at Silver and 7,000 hours at Gold on developing a skill.

**400**  
adult volunteers  
directly supporting DofE  
provision in  
centres  
(registered on  
eDofE)

**More than 6,700 days spent on**

### Expeditions & residentials

**(that's equivalent to over 18 years!)**

Young people participating at Bronze spent over 3,500 days on expeditions; 1,000 days at Silver and 1,200 days at Gold (with a further 1,000 days on their Gold residentials).

	New Starts	Completions
Bronze	1,400	936
Silver	391	199
Gold	364	160

# Somerset Youth & Community Service

## Youth Equipment Store

The Youth Equipment Store offers equipment for children and young people and the adults working with them to hire at extremely affordable rates from its base in Taunton. The store will also deliver to recognised groups across Somerset to ensure equipment is available to all young people. As well as the regular equipment, voluntary groups can rent a minibus or seven seat people carrier from the store.

YES has a range of equipment and toys for children and young people with disabilities and additional needs. These include everything from sensory toys to mobility aids.

### A snapshot of what we did in 2017-18:



**3,000+** young people benefitted from YES equipment



**500+** hire sessions



Deliveries undertaken across the county on **50+** days



**40** Young people with additional needs benefitted from YES equipment




**160** vehicle hire sessions

# Somerset Youth & Community Service

## Getting in touch with us

### The Team:

	<b>Zara Scott-Davies</b> Youth & Community Officer	<a href="mailto:zscottdavies@somerset.gov.uk">zscottdavies@somerset.gov.uk</a> Tel: 01823 357554 Mobile: 07919 540738
	<b>Kirstie Brown</b> Youth & Community Officer	<a href="mailto:kbrown@somerset.gov.uk">kbrown@somerset.gov.uk</a> Tel: 01823 357553 Mobile: 07899 700170
	<b>Angela Derry</b> Project Support Officer	<a href="mailto:aderry@somerset.gov.uk">aderry@somerset.gov.uk</a> Tel: 01823 357552
	<b>Jeff Brown</b> Service Manager – Commissioning	<a href="mailto:jbrown@somerset.gov.uk">jbrown@somerset.gov.uk</a> Tel: 01823 358170 Mobile: 07967 729242



#### By post

1 The Crescent, Taunton,  
Somerset, TA1 4EA



#### By email

[youthservice@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:youthservice@somerset.gov.uk)



#### By phone

01823 357552



#### Our website

[www.somersetyouth.co.uk](http://www.somersetyouth.co.uk)



Find us on Facebook - [www.facebook.com/SomYCS/](http://www.facebook.com/SomYCS/)

### Youth Equipment Store

The Hollies Children's Centre  
South Street, Taunton, TA1 3AG

Tel: 01823 289387

Email: [yes@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:yes@somerset.gov.uk)

### Duke of Edinburgh's Award

1 The Crescent, Taunton, TA1 4EA

Tel: 01823 357559

Email: [dofe@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:dofe@somerset.gov.uk)

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please contact us.**