

YOUTH ADVISORY BOARD STATEMENT: 26/01/2016  
HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL FUNDING CONSULTATION



The Youth Advisory Board (YAB) of SHYPP is a group of young people (16-25) using the service who feed into the Management Board of SHYPP. The purpose of YAB is to promote a positive image of young people in the wider community, shape change which effects young people locally and offers young people to build transferable skills and confidence in a formal setting.

In response to the Consultation, the Youth Advisory Board would like to make the following statement in response to the proposals made by Herefordshire Council in relation to the changes of the 2013-18 SHYPP Contract. The statements in bold are quotes that YAB Members have said during the official Consultation Period.

***“People who don’t come through the foyer may need more support which might not be so obvious”***

Outreach is crucial in supporting young people in their own tenancies. SHYPP support on average 100 young people a month out in the community of Herefordshire who may not need the high level support which is given in our three foyers. The 70 young people we support in the community may just need advice and guidance to stay in the home, crisis work when they initially become homeless or outreach when they have a current tenancy in the community but may need guidance to manage that tenancy or their utility bills.

In the past many of the Youth Advisory Board Members have taken part in school prevention workshops, and we strongly believe this has helped in reducing the amount of young people who have not become homeless or they have been able to access the right advice to be able to stay in the family environment.

***“You can’t put a set time limit on individual needs when all young people are at different stages of becoming independent in their living situation”***

In regards to the proposals, young people like ourselves who SHYPP support in Outreach or Crisis management may have their support disrupted or stopped at a time that is crucial to the individual’s development. During this Consultation, young people have flagged up that sometimes they have no one else like family or friends when they come in or leave the SHYPP service and the support they receive from the organisation is vital to their mental health, lifestyle and employment/training prospects.

***“SHYPP and its services are a family. Everyone looks out for each other. Taking or reducing a service can be compared to the loss of a family member”***

The YAB are very keen to work with SHYPP management and Herefordshire Council after this Consultation to minimise the potentially huge impact of these proposals in relation to the young people SHYPP support. As the voice of the young people SHYPP support, we feel there needs to be a

joined up approach in how these proposals (if approved) will really affect the service we offer and how to best manage this change in the months ahead.

It has been a tense time for all of us we feel with emotions running high and we appreciate the time given to us. So on behalf of the young people in the service who have attended the Council Consultation meetings over the last few weeks, The Youth Advisory Board Members would like to thank Herefordshire Council and SHYPP management for allowing us to have a say on these matters that will affect ourselves and many other young people in the future, and for allowing us to put this statement together.

We also like to take this opportunity to extend our thanks to the Local Authority for the continued support of SHYPP over the last 10 years, and look forward to working alongside all involved in a joint and equal partnership.

*Seb Bowley*

Chair of SHYPP's Youth Advisory Board (*Signed on behalf of Youth Advisory Board Members*)

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If you would like to contact the Youth Advisory Board in relation to this Statement or the work we do, please do so by emailing [Hugo.Sugg@wmhousing.co.uk](mailto:Hugo.Sugg@wmhousing.co.uk) or calling 01432 374320.