

(A) What services do SBC provide for Young People aged between 11 to 17?

Answer (Councillor Richard Henry):

Parks and Open Spaces - the Council delivers a three tier structure of sites:

Primary – offering facilities for toddlers, juniors and teenagers to the main parks and larger open spaces;

Secondary – primarily aimed at toddlers and juniors; and

Playscapes – providing informal play opportunities within residential areas.

Stevenage Direct Services (SDS) undertakes consultation with children and young people to help inform the equipment choices when the Council is undertaking significant improvements to their local play areas. Consultation is undertaken through schools, in liaison with young peoples' groups and consultation events on site. During this summer consultation events were held at Chells Park, Scarborough Avenue and Skegness Road. In the past, consultation with young people has resulted in the provision of facilities such as parcour at King George V Playing Fields, BMX track at St Nicholas Park, multi-use games area at Peartree Park, and outdoor gym equipment to a number of sites.

The current programme of investment in play spaces (£1.5 million) will double the number of primary sites making provision for 0-16 year olds, increase the number of sites making provision for teenagers, and provide better quality secondary play areas for toddlers and juniors.

Leisure facilities

The Council has four leisure facilities, managed by Stevenage Leisure Ltd, which offer a wide range of facilities and services including:

Stevenage Swimming Centre

An extensive range of swimming lessons including lessons for schools

Various casual swimming sessions available

Pool parties

Women and girls only sessions

Clubs providing services to young people include, scuba and competitive swimming

Rookie Lifeguard which is also like a social group for 8 year olds up to 16 year olds.

Splash camps during the holidays that aren't lesson based.

Stevenage Arts & Leisure Centre

Fitness memberships and sessions

Studio sessions

Bookable facilities for, badminton, 5-a-side football, netball, basketball, bowls, squash

Clubs include martial arts, ballet, badminton & dance

Inflatable parties

Stevenage Golf and Conference Centre

Bookable facilities include an 18 hole golf course, pitch and putt, 24 bay driving range, golf lessons and foot golf.

Fairlands Valley Park

Cycle hire, led rides, cycle training and cycle repair courses

Pedloes and rowing boats for hire (seasonal)

Health and Wellbeing:

Sport: *Following a successful festival of basketball across Stevenage parks, the Council is currently planning a project with Stevenage FC Foundation and Community Safety to launch a Kickz & Basketball project in ASB hot spots. The Council is also engaging with young players about how they want basketball to progress in the town.*

Health: *A health inequalities and obesity project recently started targeting communities in Shephall, which will include ongoing consultation with residents including young people. Young People's Healthy Hub (YPHH) Physical, mental, wellbeing and lifestyle support Tuesdays, Wednesday and Thursday 3:30pm-6:30pm. Signposting and onward referrals including: weight management, drugs and alcohol services, sexual health, etc. Projects and Programmes including: Active Lifestyles – Free weekly physical activity session at Marriotts, Tuesdays 4:30pm-5:30pm; Counselling Service – Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday, 3:30-6:30pm; Online Healthy Eating Programmes - Community Kitchen (Spring 2020) Noma Creates (Summer 2021), Wise About Foods (Summer 2020), Basketball Coaching and Festival (2021), Emotional Resilience Course (Winter 2020) and Life Skills Programme with Play Service. Future projects and programmes including: Mental Health Champion Training in Schools, Mental Health & Nature Project with College,*

Basketball Coaching Course, Red Shed Dementia Friendly Family Project, YPHH App development for project sustainability.

Engagement: *Young People Obesity Consultation, Barclays School pop up, Town Centre Pop up, YPHH online Summit, paid Instagram and social media adverts, GP waiting room screen advertisements, Chronical and Comet News features, Youth Strategy Group, Stevenage Secondary School Pastoral leads group helps disseminate electronic flyers to schools. YPHH social media Instagram account created in 2020*

The Play service offers afterschool and holiday sessions for children and young people up to the age of 12 years. The sessions are free and held in the three play centres across Stevenage.

The play centres offer physical activities, including table tennis and football, art and craft and life skills projects. As well as a space to just hang out.

For young people 14 years plus - they have the opportunity to become a young volunteer at one of the three play centres. As a young volunteer they can access training, support the staff team in the play centre by running the tuck shop, help with fund raising and learn what it takes to open up and run a centre (great transferable skills when applying for university and work).

The Community Safety Team *also has a Youth No More support service for young people who are involved ASB crime and gang association.*

(B) What are the local councillors doing to help support Youth provision? If so, how can the Youth Council get involved?

Answer (Councillor Richard Henry):

Hertfordshire County Council continues to lead provision for youth services and SBC continues to work with them through YC Herts to further develop youth service provision across the town to ensure that services are shaped to meet young people's needs. SBC would certainly like the Youth Council to be leading the formation of this thinking and would welcome further ideas and suggestions.

(C) What are the Council doing to ask Young People what they want to see in the town?

Answer (Councillor Richard Henry):

The Co-operative Neighbourhood Teams are working with the skater community within the town, following issues of [mild] ASB in the town centre, with skaters utilising street furniture to skate on.

A promotional flyer is in design with a planned QR code to further enable ad-hoc youth engagement across the town.

The teams have also been including young people and children when doing recent community Pop Up events and asking people how they feel about where they live. This is supporting the town wide Residents and Tenants survey that is currently ongoing.