

Executive response to recommendations on from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 3 September 2025 on the [Youth Development Officer Update](#)

Context

The Committee commissioned an update report on the work of the Youth Development Officer when setting its work plan for 2025/26. This is a discretionary service for the Council which builds on the findings of the Youth Needs Assessment undertaken in 2022. The Committee welcomed this initiative and the work being done by the Youth Development Officer and made a number of suggestions for consideration by the Executive.

Recommendation	Agreed Y / N?	Comment	Responsible Executive Member (name, title)	Lead Officer (name, title)
1. That the Youth Development Officer engages with private schools within the district area, as they have done with state schools.	Y	The Youth Development Officer will engage with private schools in the area to better understand what opportunities might exist and how they are engaging already with their wider community	Councillor Rachel Crouch, Executive Member for Stronger, Healthy Communities	Heather McCulloch, Community Wellbeing Manager
2. That the Youth Development Officer engages with sports clubs wishing to broaden their youth activities, seeking ways to reach young people who have historically faced barriers to engagement.	Y	The Youth Development Officer will engage with sports clubs and offer assistance to those clubs wishing to broaden their offer to reach young people facing barriers to engagement.	Councillor Rachel Crouch, Executive Member for Stronger, Healthy Communities	Heather McCulloch, Community Wellbeing Manager
3. That consideration is given to what more the Council could do to encourage volunteering, for example through local employers (including the Council itself).	Y	The Council could encourage other businesses to be pro-active in encouraging staff to have time to volunteer – as is Council policy. The Council could consider a comms campaign to promote the value of volunteering both externally and internally to	Councillor Rachel Crouch, Executive Member for Stronger, Healthy Communities	Heather McCulloch, Community Wellbeing Manager



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		encourage staff to make better use of their volunteering time. The Council could invite Oxfordshire Council for Voluntary Action to come and talk to Councillors/ senior staff about what the state of volunteering in Oxfordshire and provide advice about what steps could help.		
4. That the Council seeks to secure the continuation of local youth development activities into the future beyond local government reorganisation.	Y	The Council will consider a legacy position for funding programmes to cover a period of 3 years from 2026/27 onwards. Further details will be brought forward.	Councillor Andy Graham, Leader of the Council	Heather McCulloch, Community Wellbeing Manager