

# Council

20 July 2026

## Member Questions

### 1. Question from Councillor Ashleigh Davies to Cabinet Member for Safety and Communities, Councillor Jamie Jamieson

How much is spent on youth services each year?

#### Cabinet Member response

Thank you Ashleigh for the questions – which I have answered as one question.

Although I am sure you will know this, but it is worth putting on record, Cheltenham Borough Council does not have a duty to fund youth work. Instead, the statutory duty sits with the local authority responsible for education and children's services - in this case Gloucestershire County Council. It is GCC's responsibility to secure sufficient educational and recreational leisure-time activities for young people aged 13–19 (and up to 24 for those with learning difficulties or disabilities).

But despite not having the duty to fund youth work, the council has continued to secure funds to deliver youth work throughout the town, primarily through this council's commitment to No Child Left Behind.

No Child Left Behind has three aims:

- To highlight the issue of children growing up in poverty in Cheltenham and the inequality between them and their more affluent peers;
- To address the inequality gap with a programme of events and activities;
- Be a call to action for all sectors to work together to make transformational change over the longer-term.

Supporting youth work in the town helps NCLB deliver its three aims:

First, through their direct work with young people, our youth work providers can collate rich data and evidence about young people. Through youth work settings, young people have highlighted the barriers they face, including the cost of participating in activities, transport difficulties, food insecurity, mental health pressures, lack of safe spaces to socialise, and unequal access to opportunities compared with their more affluent peers. This helps No Child Left Behind raise

awareness of the inequalities that exist within Cheltenham and strengthen the case for action.

Secondly, we know that there is national evidence that youth work helps reduce the effects of poverty by providing trusted relationships, positive activities, informal learning opportunities and access to support networks that the children might not otherwise be able to benefit from. As a result, access to youth work can help narrow the gap in outcomes between those growing up in poverty and their more affluent peers.

Thirdly - Youth work supports long-term change by acting as a conduit between our young people and the services and decision-makers that can support them in the longer-term. By fostering collaboration, sharing intelligence about emerging issues and ensuring young people's voices are heard, youth work helps inspire collective action to improve outcomes for children and young people over the long term.

Here are the expenditures for the last three financial years:

| <b>Provider</b>                | <b>Amount of funding 24-25</b> | <b>Amount of funding 25-26</b> | <b>Amount of funding 26-27</b> | <b>Rationale</b>                                                                                    |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Springbank community group CIC |                                | £1,050                         | £6,300                         | To deliver youth work associated with the youth cafe funded by proceeds from the Cheltenham Lottery |
| The Rock                       |                                | £1,050                         | £6,300                         | To deliver youth work associated with the youth cafe funded by proceeds from the Cheltenham Lottery |
| The Rock                       | £41,000                        |                                |                                | Detached youth work in the town centre - funded by OPCC* grant                                      |
| Children's Society             | £13,000                        |                                |                                | Funding for the delivery of wellbeing activities at the Dart Road youth hub (funded by NHS grant)   |
| Brizen Young People's Centre   |                                | £2,000                         |                                | Community Pride grant for a summer holiday youth work scheme                                        |

|                        |        |        |        |                                                                                                        |
|------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| The Children's Society |        | £3,032 | £3,600 | HAF* funding to deliver open access and enriching activities for young people over the summer holidays |
| The Rock               | £8,089 | £1,500 | £8,334 | HAF funding to deliver enrichment activities based around sport for young people                       |

\*OPCC is the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Gloucestershire

\*HAF is the Holiday Activities and Food Programme – government funding aimed at ensuring children eligible for free school meals have access to enriching activities and healthy meals during the school holidays.

## **2. Question from Councillor Ashleigh Davies to Cabinet Member for Safety and Communities, Councillor Jamie Jamieson**

Which youth services do we support through NCLB?

### **Cabinet Member response**

My response to this question is included in my earlier answer.