

Community Development and Environment Report

Youth Review November 2025

1. Introduction

The Parish Council has a strategic objective to develop youth activities. This report outlines our vision for play and youth delivery for ages 5-14 years for the next 4 years. There are currently around 725 primary age children registered to schools in our area. Traditionally the Parish Council has concentrated on the younger year 5-9 ages. However, our main provider Bad Apples no longer exists, and HAF (Holidays activities and Food) funding that we had used to fund activities, now has criteria that is difficult for us to fulfill which has prompted the revision of our services. Residents have also expressed concerns that older children are not sufficiently catered for locally. Extending provision up to age 14 provides an opportunity to develop a more inclusive and comprehensive programme that supports children and early teens within the Choppington area.

2. Vision

This is twofold, to create an inclusive, engaging environment where younger people (5-9 years) can participate in activities in a safe environment and those 9–14 years can actively contribute to parish life, develop personally and socially, and feel heard and valued in their community.

3. Aims and Objectives. Choppington Parish Council would like to encourage:

- Skills & Personal Development
Provide opportunities to build confidence, leadership, teamwork, and practical life skills
- Youth Voice & Participation
Ensure young people have a platform to express views and influence decisions.
- Positive Activities
To offer safe accessible and fun activities that meet the needs and interests of this age group.

4. Background – Existing provision

Existing provision by Choppington Parish Council. Choppington Parish Council sponsor extra curriculum football sessions at Mowbray and Ringway Primary Schools and Cleaswell School. Previously also Stakeford and Choppington schools. We run a weekly youth group from the Holy Family Church for ages 8-11 and a multi sports school holiday activity during the spring and summer holidays. We support through grant funding other

established voluntary youth groups and youth activities. Although outside of the scope of this report also mother and toddler groups.

Schools provide after-school clubs for specific interest groups and there are organisations and providers which offer age-specific programmes throughout the week at local venues, providing structured opportunities for children and teenagers to participate in community/sport activities.

A summary of established provision is shown below:

Organisation	Age	Venue	Day
Youth Club sponsored by Parish Council	9-11	Holy Family Church	Thursday
Stakeford Beavers	6-8	Stakeford	Tuesday 6:15 – 7.30
Stakeford Cubs	8- 10.5	Stakeford	Wednesday 6:30
Stakeford Scouts	10.4 - 14	Stakeford	Monday 6:30 – 8.30
Guidepost Beavers	6-8	Guidepost Scout Group,	Thursday 6:00 – 7:15
Guidepost Cubs	8- 10.5		6:30 – 8:00pm
Guidepost Scouts	10.5 - 14		7:30 – 9:00pm
Junior Sea Cadets Ashington	10-12	Sea Cadets Ashington Black Close Bank, Ashington	18:45 - 21:15
Sea Cadets	12-18	NE63 8TF	
Northumberland YMCA			
PFC – Schools coaching sponsored by Parish Council	5 - 14		Various
Bomarsund Cricket Club	8-12		Various – April - September

5. What we know:

- Younger children (5–9) participate in activities that are typically supervised and require limited additional support.
- Only a small proportion of older young people (10–14) require diversionary intervention; most benefit simply from regular, positive opportunities.
- Parents would prefer more activities available within the local area, reducing the need for travel.

6. Proposals:

1. To Develop a Youth Programme Designed with Young People by deploying a detached youth team, initially operating around Cleaswell Park.
2. Strengthen links with existing youth organisations, local schools, and alternative youth providers.
3. Build partnerships with:
 - Police / PCSOs for input on safety and crime prevention.
 - Local businesses for sponsorship of events or awards.
 - Northumberland County Council Youth Services to access external funding and support.
 - Improve Promotion of Existing Parish Provision
 - Increase awareness of Parish Council activities—particularly extra-curricular football—through direct engagement with schools and community communication channels.
 - Explore One-Off and Themed Events
4. Investigate opportunities for additional activities, such as:
 - Music workshops
 - Arts and crafts
 - Outdoor adventure sessions
 - Sports and games
 - Coding or STEM clubs
 - Specialist sporting providers
5. Establish a Youth Panel: Create opportunities for a Youth Panel, with members nominated through youth groups and schools. The panel will help shape the youth programme and ensure that young people have a clear voice in local decision-making.

Recommendation

To approve the report and to make provision for funding in the budget process.

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18 November 2025