



Title	In The Mix Project (ITMP) Update and Summer Youth Provision Proposal 2026
Meeting	Community Committee
Date of meeting	18.05.26
Action Required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note the update regarding In The Mix Project (ITMP) youth provision in Wellington • Approve expenditure of up to £10,380 from the Youth Development budget to support delivery of the proposed Summer 2026 youth programme in Wellington • Delegate authority to the CEO/Town Clerk to approve additional expenditure from the Youth Development budget relating to subsidy of room hire at the Kings Arms Community Hub once final programme arrangements and session numbers are confirmed
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1. Introduction

This report provides Members with an update regarding current youth provision delivered through In The Mix Project (ITMP) and seeks approval for funding to support a proposed Summer 2026 youth programme in Wellington.

The report is being brought to Committee to:

- update Members on current delivery and engagement levels
- highlight emerging outcomes and positive impact from current provision
- seek approval for summer youth activity funding
- support continuity of youth engagement provision during the summer holiday period

The proposal supports wider Youth Development priorities alongside preventative and early intervention activity linked to:

- Cradle to Career

- community wellbeing
- youth engagement
- Kings Arms Community Hub activity
- community safety and resilience

2. Background

In The Mix Project currently delivers youth provision within Wellington and has established strong levels of engagement with local young people through evening youth activity, outreach work and holiday provision.

2.1 Recent attendance information supplied by ITMP demonstrates consistently strong engagement levels across Wellington sessions and holiday activity.

Across the last eight weeks:

- approximately 191 attendances were recorded
- at least 15 new young people/new contacts engaged with provision
- attendance regularly averaged between 20–30 young people per session
- some sessions significantly exceeded this level, including approximately 60 young people attending a park-based session in April 2026

The provision has supported a mixture of returning and newly engaged young people, including:

- young people with SEND needs
- young people experiencing anxiety or poor mental health
- young people affected by behavioural challenges
- young people experiencing isolation or limited access to wider opportunities

Positive outcomes evidenced through current delivery include:

- increased confidence and resilience
- improved peer relationships
- increased trust in adults and youth workers
- increased participation from SEND young people
- improved community connection and belonging
- engagement with wider support and wellbeing services

The youth provision has also supported wider partnership working within Wellington, including engagement with:

- Wellington Community Counselling / Spill the Beans
- Street Pastors
- local heritage and community organisations
- wider youth and wellbeing support services

2.2 ITMP has now provided an indicative proposal and costing for a wider Summer 2026 programme in Wellington.

The proposed programme includes:

- a three-day residential experience
- five venue-based activity sessions
- a summer festival event
- detached and park outreach sessions
- off-site trips and enrichment opportunities

The indicative total programme cost is currently estimated at:

£10,380

2.3 The proposal reflects the operational requirements associated with safely delivering a varied and accessible youth programme during the summer holiday period, including:

- staffing
- safeguarding and supervision
- transport
- resources and enrichment activities
- outreach work
- refreshments and wellbeing support
- contingency and operational overheads

At the time of writing, room hire costs relating to use of the Kings Arms Community Hub have not yet been fully costed, as final programme arrangements and session numbers are still being developed.

It is therefore proposed that delegated authority is provided to the CEO/Town Clerk to approve additional expenditure from the Youth Development budget relating to subsidy of room hire at the Kings Arms Community Hub once final delivery arrangements are confirmed.

3.Links to Council Vision and Place Plan

An inclusive, safe and secure town

The proposal supports youth engagement, early intervention, community wellbeing, safeguarding awareness and accessible provision for young people.

A town with vibrant cultural, sporting and social communities

The proposal supports social connection, participation, positive activities and opportunities for young people throughout the summer period.

A destination of choice for people to live and work and for businesses to be located

The proposal supports community infrastructure, youth wellbeing and positive opportunities for young residents.

4. Financial Implications

The report seeks approval for expenditure of up to: **£10,380** from the Youth Development budget to support delivery of the proposed Summer 2026 youth programme in Wellington.

The indicative programme cost includes:

- staffing and supervision
- planning and coordination
- transport
- resources and activities
- refreshments
- detached outreach activity
- operational overheads and contingency

At this stage, room hire subsidy arrangements relating to Kings Arms Community Hub usage have not yet been fully costed, as final programme arrangements and session numbers are still being developed.

Delegated authority is therefore requested for the CEO/Town Clerk to approve additional room hire subsidy expenditure from the Youth Development budget once final programme details are confirmed.

5. Risks

Risks if approved

- Final programme arrangements may continue to evolve following approval
- Demand for sessions may exceed expected attendance levels
- Some operational flexibility may be required depending on staffing availability, weather or engagement levels

Risks if no action is taken

- Reduced youth engagement provision during the summer holiday period
- Loss of continuity and relationship-building with young people already engaged in provision
- Reduced opportunities for preventative and early intervention youth activity
- Reduced access to positive activities, safe spaces and trusted adults for some young people during the summer period

Risk Mitigation

- Ongoing partnership working with ITMP
- Flexible operational planning
- Continued monitoring of attendance and engagement
- Delegated authority arrangements to avoid delays in programme implementation

6. Considerations

Members are asked to:

- Note update from ITMP highlighting the positive engagement and outcomes demonstrated through current delivery
- Approve expenditure of up to £10,380 from the Youth Development budget to support the proposed Summer 2026 youth programme
- Delegate authority to the CEO/Town Clerk to approve additional expenditure from the Youth Development budget relating to Kings Arms Community Hub room hire subsidy arrangements once final programme arrangements are confirmed

7. Appendices

Appendix A – Wellington Youth Club Update May 2026

Appendix B – Indicative Costing: Wellington Youth Club Summer Programme 2026

Wellington Youth Club – Attendance Breakdown (Last 8 Weeks from 8th May 2026)

Attendance has remained consistently high, with several sessions reporting some of the strongest engagement levels to date.

Session Date	Attendance	New Contacts	Programme
13 March 2026	25 YPs	1 new contact	Yoga, henna, and fruit kebabs
20 March 2026	21 YPs	4 new contacts	Pizza paninis, VR, Monopoly and tech activities.
27 March 2026	28 YPs	4 new contacts	Pancakes, 3D pens, badge making and crafts.
3 April 2026			No session due to bank holiday
8 April 2026 (Hol Easter Trip)	9 YPs	1 new contact	Steam train trip to Watchet including museums and gallery visit.
9 April 2026 (Hol Japan Day)	10 YPs	2 new contacts	Cooking, karate, language and cultural activities.
24 th April	60 YPs approx.	Lots of new contacts	Sports and snacks at the park
1 May 2026	38 YPs	4 new contacts	One of the busiest sessions to date. Tech themed evening with VR, Wii, table football and board games.
8 May 2026			No session due to staff availability and managing numbers

Overall Engagement Summary

Across the last 8 weeks, Wellington Youth Club and associated Wellington holiday provision engaged approximately:

- 191 attendances recorded
- At least 15 new contacts/new young people

- Attendance regularly averaging 20–30 young people per session

The sessions consistently attracted a mixture of returning members and new young people, including those with SEND needs, anxiety, poor mental health, behavioural needs, and rural isolation barriers.

Good News Stories, Outcomes Achieved & Positive Impact

Increased Confidence and Social Development

Several young people demonstrated noticeable increases in confidence and social engagement over the period.

- During the Easter Steam Train trip, two young people who are usually very reserved became significantly more confident, engaging more openly with peers and staff and building new friendships during the day.
- Two autistic young people attending the Japan themed day for the first time fully engaged in all activities, built confidence throughout the session, and left very positive feedback after spending supportive 1:1 time with staff.
- New young people attending regular youth club sessions were described as “chatty and friendly with staff and each other”, showing positive integration into the group environment.

Safe Spaces and Trusted Relationships

The youth club continues to provide an important safe space for young people experiencing challenges around mental health, behaviour, isolation and home life.

- Staff recorded that young people regularly sought out youth workers for conversations, support and guidance, demonstrating increased trust in staff relationships.
- Young people shared worries around body image, family pressures and anxiety with staff, showing confidence in the emotional safety of the provision.
- Sessions included access to snacks, hot drinks, sensory items and quiet/chill opportunities to support wellbeing and emotional regulation.

Positive Behaviour and Peer Support

Young people increasingly supported one another and showed empathy within sessions.

- During one session, a young person immediately alerted staff when another participant experienced a seizure, demonstrating awareness, care and appropriate response.
- Existing members actively helped include new attendees within friendship groups and activities.
- Staff noted improved behaviour during later March sessions, with sessions feeling “less negative than previous weeks”.

Signposting and Partnership Working

The youth club has continued to act as a gateway into wider support services and community engagement.

Community Counselling / Wellbeing Support

- Rhoda from Wellington Community Counselling / Spill the Beans attended sessions to build relationships with young people and increase awareness of local support.
- Counselling support was available onsite during some sessions between 7pm–8pm.

Anxiety and Emotional Wellbeing Support

- Following a young person being unable to attend the Easter trip due to anxiety, staff planned follow-up support and signposting with parents.

Community Links

- Street Pastors attended and positively fed back about the work being delivered with young people.
- Partnership working with West Somerset Railway Association supported wider learning, heritage engagement and confidence building opportunities for young people.

Emerging Themes Across the 8 Weeks

Key outcomes consistently evidenced throughout the evaluations included:

- Increased confidence and resilience
- Improved peer relationships
- Increased trust in adults and youth workers

- Greater sense of belonging and safety
- Improved teamwork and communication
- Increased participation from SEND young people
- Strong engagement in enrichment and creative learning
- Increased willingness to try new foods, activities and experiences
- Youth voice influencing activities and future planning

Indicative Costing – Wellington Youth Club Summer Programme 2026

The below indicative budget outlines the projected delivery costs for In The Mix Project's proposed Summer 2026 programme in Wellington.

This budget reflects the true cost of delivering a safe, engaging and accessible youth programme during the summer period, ensuring young people in Wellington have access to positive activities, trusted adults, social opportunities and enrichment experiences throughout the holiday, based on feedback and suggestion received by current engaged young people as well as providing support and activities for those less likely to engage in formal youth work delivery or centre based sessions.

The programme is designed to provide a varied programme of positive activities, youth engagement, outreach, trips and community-based opportunities for young people throughout the summer period.

The proposed delivery includes:

- A 3day residential experience for young people
- Five drop-in or booked activity sessions – venue based
- Summer festival event
- 3x detached and park outreach sessions
- 2x Off-site trips and enrichment activities

Staffing Costs – £6,400

The largest proportion of costs relates to staffing required to safely deliver activities and maintain appropriate staff-to-young-person ratios. This includes direct delivery time, session preparation, planning and coordination.

Provision includes:

- 3 staff supporting the residential programme
- 3 staff delivering activity sessions and outreach work
- 5 staff supporting festival delivery
- 4 staff supporting trips and off-site activities

These staffing costs ensure:

- Safe supervision of young people
- Appropriate safeguarding and risk management
- Planning and preparation of activities

- Delivery of targeted support and engagement
- Flexibility to respond to attendance and emerging needs

Overheads and Service Apportionment – £630

A contribution towards organisational overheads and operational running costs has been included across 14 sessions. This covers:

- Insurance
- Utilities
- Administration
- Cleaning and maintenance
- General operational support required to deliver the programme safely and effectively

Additional Delivery Costs – £3,350

Additional programme costs include:

- Refreshments (£500): Food, drinks and snacks for young people attending sessions and activities
- Activities (£1,000): Resources, materials, equipment hire and enrichment opportunities
- Transport (£1,500): Minibus use, fuel, external transport and access to off-site opportunities
- Contingency (£350): Allowance for increased demand, emergency purchases or unforeseen delivery costs

Total Indicative Programme Cost

The total estimated cost for delivering the Wellington Summer 2026 programme is:

£10,380