

Full Council - Wednesday, 28 February 2018

**Written question from Mr Will Matthews of Cowes to Cllr Stuart Hutchinson –
Cabinet Member for Resources**

Council youth services were slashed heavily in the last administration, leaving many towns without any provision at all. My town of Cowes has a youth centre building complete with sports hall and gym equipment, yet it has been stood empty for years. Now the council are proposing to cut youth services completely. For me, this shows that the council have total disregard for the young people of the Island, leaving them with no council provision that was once a haven for young people escaping their daily stress.

What recreational services will the council be providing for young people?

RESPONSE

“Youth offer grants have been made available to the voluntary and community sector over the past four years. Current providers are aware that the current grants period ends in March 2018. During the last four years, the organisations have been supported to develop their own sustainability through diversifying their income streams, applying for grants, income generation and liaison with town and parish councils for other funding streams.

On the Island there remains a diverse and healthy range of voluntary organisations providing positive activities and experiences for young people. This includes many different cultural and sports organisations, together with a wide range of after school activities at education sites. The local authority will continue to support more targeted youth provision through the Special Educational Needs and Disability Local Offer, Short Breaks for disabled children programme, the 0-19 early help offer delivered through family centres and support to young carers.”