

Torpoint Youth provision

Current Situation: Action for Children under the Kernow connect programme received funding from Cornwall council to deliver the Torpoint youth group, with a yearly cost of £24,000 estimated. As of 24/09/2026 Action for Children are no longer coordinating the Torpoint youth group and so it was essentially their last night.

Cllr Parsonage, Cllr Moon and Cllr Fellows attended to speak with Matthew Pontin and Racheal lead Youth worker about the youth group, the costing to remain open and what essentials were required in order to create continuous opening whilst a long-term solution could be sought.

It was emphasised that the Torpoint youth group is of paramount importance to the youth of our community and we were there to ascertain whether any support could be provided.

What the Torpoint Youth Group provides

Torpoint youth group provides a 3-hour session each Thursday to our young people up to the age of 19 or 25 with an EHCP, that is young person led.

With currently 52 young people on the register for Torpoint and a weekly attendance of at least 20 attendees each week (fluctuating) and seeing at least 2 new additions per week including:

5 x autistic individuals

3-4 x ADHD Individuals

Dyslexia

Dyspraxia

3x EHCP's

And many undiagnosed individuals that require additional support.

There are many young people that attend this youth group that could not afford to take part in other paid groups within Torpoint due to their families experiencing financial difficulties and poverty. It was estimated that around 20% of young people attending come from homes that are struggling with financial restraints.

Through their detached work they have engaged with Torpoint ferries and ran a programme within Millbrook, which was incredibly successful.

Whilst the youth group was run by Action for Children, they had access to a crisis fund and a family enrichment fund that helped them to provide 10 families with Food shopping vouchers of £300.

They provide a hot meal for all attendees, and it was discussed that this is a vital part of the support that they offer, over recent months due to funding restrictions they have had to reduce the hot meals to offering noodles and other snack foods.

They wish to be able to return to providing a hot meal for all attendees on a weekly basis, with the option of being in a position to freeze additional portions to allow young people to take meal parcels home. It is suggested to speak with CHAT to see if they would support the youth group with a grant of £300 towards the cost of food and Café Abundance to see if they could offer any freezer meals as part of their community lunches.

The group are looking to find funding to purchase a small fridge freezer in order to provide additional meals.

In one year alone with 6 youth worker members of staff across Cornwall have engaged with 2,500 young people and In Torpoint alone this year they have engaged with between 150-200 young people.

Rachael shared that one of the young people attended last week asking what the lowest % of alcohol there was. Rachael had stated she wasn't sure and asked why. The young person shared that they believed they had become alcohol dependant and knew they needed help. As Rachael was aware the group was closing, she was able to sign post to other services and Dr's without being able to offer her support, with the young person responding, ' But I don't know them, I know you'.

There were also many restrictions on the group regarding fundraising and community visibility – this was an area that the young people expressed they are keen to change.

As part of these discussions, we explained that we were primarily looking to obtain figures of how the youth group could remain open on the lowest cost possible, for a short period of time as an emergency fund.

We discussed 6 months and reduced this to three months with a view that TAC could return to Carew Pole Trust to potentially ask for match funding to secure the group for at least 6 months. We believed this would create a sensible timeline for longer term plans to be sought and put in place.

Heavily restricted cost budget required to remain open until Christmas (13 weeks) in the interim whilst a long-term solution is sought:

Description	Cost
Lead Youth support worker @£18 PH x 13 weeks	£1404
Support worker for Safeguarding and H&S purposes £12.71ph x 7 weeks	£267
DBS Checks for 3 people @£55 per person	£165
Laptop/Chromebook	£200
Phone SIM card with donated phone @ £10 per month x 4 months	£40

Food Budget to enable a hot meal for each session @£30 x 13 weeks	£390
Youth led activities and trips	£500
Project contingency fund	£250
Payroll and admin- external organisation	£55
Insurance cost for youth group for 3 months	£50
Safe CIC membership for 3 months	£18.75
Total	£3339.75

Funding already sourced or looking to obtain***:

Decsription	Cost
Cllr Parsonage donation	£900
CHAT donation for food	£300***
Donations of family meals from Cafe Abundance	£0 ***
Total	£1200

Total cost £3339.75 – ***Donations £1200 = £2139.75 remaining.

Additional resources provided by TAC, funded through Our town and TAC:

Description	Value
2nd support worker (Our Town) 3 hrs x 7 weeks @ £25	£525
Planning, development and admin (Our Town Funds) 1.5hr PW x 13 weeks	£488
TAC Governance and oversight 1Hr PW @£25 x 13 weeks	£325
Gifted iPhone valued at	£150
Total	1488

With the funding above secured it ensures that Torpoint youth group can continue to provide this much needed support up until Christmas, allowing Cllr Parsonage to review and obtain the support and financials from Cornwall Council.

The young people shared their views and wishes for the group after the financial conversation had been completed. It was clear from this conversation that the group are keen to fundraise and be more involved in the community. Cllr Fellows mentioned perhaps being included in the Christmas light switch on by holding a stall, joining in with lantern making and gingerbread creating may be a good start.

It was also mentioned that it may be beneficial to hold a stall at the volunteer recruitment day at The Torpoint library and community hub to showcase how the group provides support and a safe environment and to engage additional volunteers.

Cllr Parsonage was keen to understand the costs of running the youth group and discussed a new pilot project that Cornwall Council are looking to launch – 2 x Youth

Hubs across Cornwall, he stated he is keen to get Torpoint onto this pilot project and how the funding could provide long term security for the group.

Cllr Parsonage is engaging Cllr Frank, Children and family's portfolio holder and Adam Paynter portfolio holder for resource as a joined-up approach.

There is currently a local Torpoint led C.I.C being set up that is looking to possibly take over the running and governance of the Torpoint youth group to create a community led, young people led community group within Torpoint. With the thought being that if it is community led it will have the security of funding to remain open without the worry and anxiety regarding the uncertainty of budget cuts.

They will be looking to engage:

- local businesses
- Police commissioning fund
- Additional funding opportunities
- CCF
- Torpoint and Rame Lions
- Torpoint Freemans

This list is not exhaustive.

Potential to offer a minibus shuttle service to collect and return young people from The Rame surrounding areas, such as Cawsand, Millbrook etc to build a larger, stronger and joined up inclusive youth group.

Rachael shared that there had been a funding bid submitted between the youth group and TAC to a heritage fund for up £10,000, specifically for project work between youth and the arts. If they are successful, they will find out in October with potentially funds being released in November. They are currently working to get the details of Action for Children removed off the application.

With Cllr Parsonages kind donation of £900 this has meant the Youth group can remain open for a further 3.5 weeks, We would like to ask if the Town council would consider a 137 grant application from TAC to provide the remaining £2139.75 as an interim financial solution to keep our much needed youth group open until Christmas, it is believed this will allow the work that Cllr Parsonage is completing with Cllr Frank and Adam to come to fruition or indeed the Torpoint C.I.C to become established in order to take over?

It is important to note that TAC have kindly offered to be the organisation that manages the governance until a long-term solution becomes available and wish to ask that if any future section 137 requests are made for TAC that this application be discounted on the grounds that this is primarily for the use of the youth group only?

Thank you to TAC for offering to be the organisation that provides the governance to keep the youth club open for this interim period.

Impact

Torpoint young people need this space that allows them to be supported and have a safe environment to attend. Using the example from the beginning, of the young person worried about alcohol dependency, potentially how many other young people may experience these struggles, Drugs or crime without a support network and youth group in place?

Thank you