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Report To: Community and Leisure Committee

Date: Monday 29 Sept 2025

Contact Officer: Paula Harrison, Clerk

Title: Youth Provision

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1. **Background/Purpose**

Review of youth provision supported by the Parish Council.

2. **Detail**

2.1 **Youth review**

West Swindon Parish Council directly funds a range of youth activities:

***West Swindon Family Project***

This is a long running youth session which started in Toothill Community Centre but moved to Toothill Methodist Church. Sessions run for young people aged 10 to 17 years offering structured activities. These take place during term time from 5.00pm to 7.00pm. These have been funded as part of a wider grant to West Swindon Family Project. Costs per session are approximately £80.

***Swindon ATB***

Swindon ATB have been running a Friday afternoon session of games and music at Rivermead from 4.30 to 6.30 pm. These are well attended with numbers varying between 20 to 50 young people. These sessions run when the weather is suitable and will continue up to October half term. The cost per session is £100.

***Best Be A Better You***

West Swindon Parish Council have grant funded sessions at Freshbrook Community Centre to be delivered by Best weekly during the school holidays. Concerns have been raised at the booking on process and attendance levels. The cost per session is £320. Reports from Best for the recent summer sessions are as follows:

<u>Date of session</u>	<u>Booked</u>	<u>Attended</u>	<u>From West Swindon</u>
30/07/2025	35	20	12
06/08/2025	37	30	20
13/08/2025	38	24	18
20/08/2025	36	23	17
27/08/2025	40	17	11

Out of 200 bookable places, 186 were booked, 114 attended and of these 78 were West Swindon children. This can be summarised as 61% of child

places booked on, actually attended, and of 200 available places, 39% were attended by West Swindon children.

### **3. Financial and Budget Considerations**

- 3.1 West Swindon Parish Council budget allocated £15,000 for Youth Development activities. However, some grant funding allocates youth projects from the £10,000 grants budget. Approximately £4,400 has been spent across these two budget lines on youth provision. It is recommended that youth activities be designated for funding from the Youth Development budget going forward. This will give continuity and security to future sessions.

### **4. Recommendations**

- 4.1 That Council approves the following youth activities
- Future Youth ATB sessions at Rivermead from March onwards – weather dependent up to £3,000 (based on £100 per session)
  - West Swindon Family Project youth club at £2,802 up to September 2026