

## **Frodsham Youth Association Report for Frodsham Town Council, November 2019**

In March of 2020 , it will be 10 years since the re launch of Frodsham Youth Club. Since starting this club back up after a long period of no or little local provision, the youth club has grown in many positive ways and now serves over 150 young people per week through its various activities.

This year, FYA has been bringing the building it works from, to standard with current fire regulations. A substantial amount of our limited resources have been redirected to ensure that the youth centre remains open for our young people. We have funded a new fire alarm system and new fire doors as well as a number of other maintenance issues. We are grateful to our trustee, Lionel Rimmer, who has overseen so much of this work. We must also pay regard to Cllrs Riley and Dawson for supporting us with a donation from their Ward Funding which has allowed us to keep our doors open. We hope to work in closer partnership with Frodsham Community Centre on ensuring the buildings – particularly disabled access – is improved in the year ahead. For the last two years Frodsham Youth Association has spent around £15,000 per year on maintenance and refurbishment, which has put a significant strain on the club's finances and the roles of the trustees.

2019 has seen large changes within its trustee body, and the present trustees are grateful for the work that our former Chairs, Sian Day and - more latterly, Lesley Dixon - have put in. We have welcomed six new trustees, including new Chair, Secretary and Treasurer, all of whom are Frodsham-based and have an active interest in supporting the work of the youth centre as a vibrant place for Frodsham young people to grow into mature citizens. The trustees remain committed to the work of FYA and support Nicola in her work. During the past year, they have put in arrangements for volunteer supervision for Nicola and plan to ensure that her role develops, in order for the charity to fulfil its charitable objectives.

Frodsham is a very financially divided town. We have young people who attend youth club from very affluent families and many who attend who are living in child poverty and deprivation, and all those young people in between. FYA prides itself on providing open access youth provision to ALL local young people. Young people pay only £1 per night and we serve food at non-profit rate. We also have the provision for young people to wash and dry their clothes. We are only able to do this because of the ongoing support from Frodsham Town Council and thank you for helping us to successfully run the following activities:

- Monday Nights - Alternate weeks Boys group and Girls groups ages 9-16 in two groups, juniors and seniors. These groups address issues such as friendships, bullying, health, knife crime, vaping, exercise and sexuality
- Wednesday Nights - Duke of Edinburgh award (123 passed bronze, 92 Silver and 24 Gold). Music studio.
- Friday Nights - 3 youth club's ages 8-11. 12-15 and 16 plus. This runs from 5-10pm and draws well over 100 young people weekly. The main focus recently in Friday sessions has been anti-smoking/vaping, gambling awareness and knife crime.
- Teen Market (Saturdays), a business and enterprise initiative ran in partnership with Helsby High School.

- Sunday Independent living project. This draws over 20 of Frodsham's most vulnerable young people every fortnight in order to help them with life-skills, such as cooking a healthy meal, washing their own clothes and talking about their own future plans, as well as chatting through present life issues.
- Outreach work at both Weaver Vale primary school and Helsby High School.
- Outreach and support at HHS Rainbow club (LGBTQ), in view of starting another LGBTQ group at youth club, when funding is secured
- Young Carers - working in partnership with HHS, and Cheshire young carers to start a new piece of work at youth club to support young carers
- Staff support and attend Child in Need meetings and support young people who are on a TAF (team around the family)

In addition to the above, last Summer we ran (according to Edsential) one of the most successful summer programmes in Cheshire West. Over 100 young people attended, 3 days a week for 3 weeks and then a end of Summer activity event at Castle Park. We target young people who are not going away on holiday but the programme is open to all local young people. All young people received a free hot meal at each session, school supplies and most importantly a fun and safe space to be themselves. A quote from a young person was: " Nic I love this summer programme because we never go on holiday and I never have anything to write about when I get back to school and now I do!".

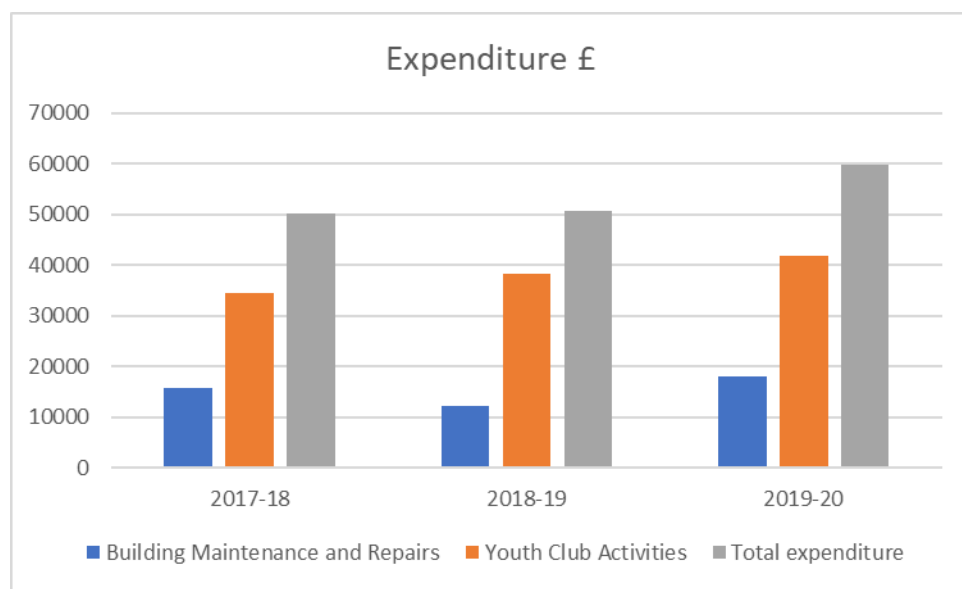
Last month we were also involved in the 50th Birthday Celebrations of Frodsham Youth Association/Frodsham Community Association, where a number of local residents visited the Youth club engage with young people and see the memorabilia from Youth Club activities over the last 50 years. They were able to purchase early Christmas Cards and other gifts, whilst reminiscing times past from when they had been Youth Association Members.

PCSO Neil Flanagan consistently reports that when the youth club is open he sees a reduction in anti social behaviour. We work closely with Neil to break down barriers between the police and young people and safeguard the community at large. Having a youth club in a small town like Frodsham is fairly unique. We are the biggest voluntary youth club in CWAC, serving more young people per week than any other. All around the country youth clubs have closed and as a result we as a society are seeing the repercussions. Increase in Knife crime and knife related incidents, an increase in anti social behaviour, county lines gangs infiltrating villages like ours and recruiting vulnerable young people to run drugs for them all over the country, Child exploitation etc. Having a youth club and qualified experienced youth workers to work with young people is a huge deterrent to those things occurring in our town, but we need continued vital support from the town council in terms of funding, and a sense of shared ownership of the responsibility of our young people by the whole community.

Thank you for the invaluable funding that you have given to your young people of Frodsham. We urge you to continue to support us in 2020 with town council funding.

Trustees of Frodsham Youth Association and Senior Youth Worker Nic Mikoleizik

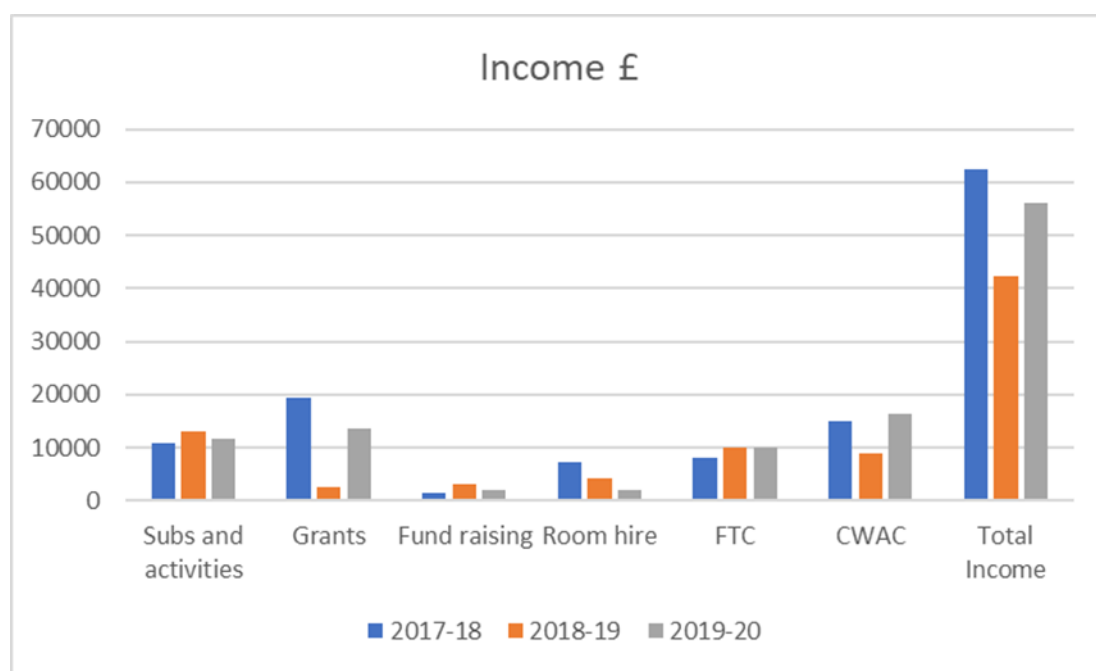
## **Financial Position**



### **Forecast expenditure 2019-20**

Total expenditure for 2019/20 is expected to be £ 59889, which is higher than previous two years. This is largely because of the capital expenditure associated with making the building safe, replacing the front doors and meeting statutory fire regulations.

### **Forecast income 2019-20**



We expect to end the year with an income of around £ 56152, which is higher than last year. This is mainly because received funding of around £6000 towards our fire safety refurbishment from Cllrs Riley and Dawson from their Ward Funding and have accessed more capital bids aimed at youth services such as Bernard Sunley. This has enabled us meet our statutory fire safety requirements without reducing our service provision for young people. The funding from Frodsham Town Council also played a vital role in this.

Room hire is down as we have a bad debt of around £2000 from an ex-tenant who is beginning to pay on a monthly payment plan. We have not been proactive in finding new tenants while the uncertainty over the lease agreement and our subletting rights is unresolved. We have again been successful in securing funds from CWaC to support the girls' group, life skills club and some staff time to work with some of our most vulnerable young people in partnership with social services and other key agencies. Fundraising has

increased with events including bag packing at Morrisons, Festival in the Park stall and sponsored activities.

Forecasted income is lower than expenditure, necessitating reserves from previous years to be reduced.

### **Reserves**

We expect to end the financial year with around £10,000 in the bank. This is lower than last year due reserves part funding capital expenditure. However, this is still nearly equivalent to around 3 months expenditure, in line with our reserves policy, but reducing this further may put the club at risk.

### **Forecast for 2020/21**

Again in 2020/21 we face the challenge of meeting the needs of an increasingly diverse and challenging young population of Frodsham and the surrounding areas whilst ensuring the building is fit for purpose. The club is currently not accessible for those with disabilities and the toilets need refurbishing. This will cost approximately £15,000. While the lease issue remains unresolved we will plan to fundraise and apply for grants were possible (without a lease) to meet these difficult requirements.

**The continued support of Frodsham Town Council helps to fund the core costs associated with running the youth club which are difficult to find from other sources. Thank you for your commitment to and enthusiasm for our local young people.**

**For any questions about the information in this report, to find out more about what's going at the youth club or arrange a visit, please contact [edougherty@helsbyhigh.org.uk](mailto:edougherty@helsbyhigh.org.uk) (please note the new email address).**