

Byron Road youth centre, building renovation works and operating costs

The former Lancashire County Council Youth Centre at Byron Road, Colne closed over 7 years ago. Colne Youth Action Group (CYAG) is a youth-oriented charity set up during the covid lockdown period in response to rising youth centred anti-social behaviour occurring at this time. The charity engages young people in activities such as sports, which give them something to do in the community. To date the charity has operated without a base, undertaking activities at a range of venues in the Colne area. An opportunity has arisen for CYAG to take over the former youth centre at Byron Road in Colne, which closed due to funding cuts over 7 years ago. The charity has taken on a lease but requires support to bring it up to a habitable state after the enforced period of closure and to invest in kit which would assist with activity delivery, and support with operating costs of the centre to enable it to open the doors to young people for the maximum time possible.

UKSPF will contribute match funding to the capital and revenue costs, as per their submitted schedule of costs, including; building renovations and associated costs, making the building secure, fit out including with kitchen facilities suitable to be used as part of the community activities, IT equipment and networking for young people to use, maintenance and upkeep. The use of UKSPF should assist the charity to operate its facilities for more days of the week than it ordinarily would have been able to afford. For the purpose of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, it is a requirement that this will develop volunteer capacity.

The centre will act as a catalyst for social action within the community, primarily by allowing CYAG to further develop its youth support, but also by providing a space in which they can support parents, such as through links with Park Primary School next door, and by creating a space which can be used by other organisations to deliver services of a complementary nature. For example the Lancashire Music Service and the Lancashire Police Restorative Justice service.

Colne Youth Action Group should at all times consider its obligation to the flow through agreement on Subsidy Control.

Funding to support the re-opening of the hub will deliver value for public funds by removing the maintenance costs to the County Council of the empty building.