



Andover Town Council

Item No.

- To **receive** the report and **discuss** the U-Choose scheme
- To **consider** and **approve** a budget so the Community and Events Officer can continue working on this initiative.
- **Consider** using and **approving** money from the Youth Provision budget line.
- To **instruct** Officers to proceed with the initiative and report progress at the next meeting.

Produced for: C&E Committee

By: Community and Events Officer

Date of Report: 6 November 2025

Purpose

To present the findings and recommendations of the Community & Events Officer following research into a potential new initiative aimed at supporting young people in Andover during school holidays.

Background

The Community & Events Officer has explored the feasibility of introducing a school holiday provision for young people aged 11–16 years old, with the aim of addressing several key community challenges. The proposed initiative, titled 'U-Choose', would pilot during the Easter 2026 school holidays (30th March – 10th April 2026).

Proposal Summary

The *U-Choose* scheme would provide young people with access to a range of healthy, safe, and engaging activities at local leisure venues. The initiative is designed to:

- **Reduce social isolation** among young people
- **Alleviate financial pressure** on families during school holidays
- **Encourage physical activity and wellbeing**
- **Support local leisure and entertainment businesses**
- **Help reduce antisocial behaviour** in the town

The scheme would operate through a physical activity card, distributed via schools, which young people could use to access subsidised or fully funded activities. The card would be stamped at each use and returned for evaluation at the end of the holiday period.

Alignment with Andover Town Council Business Plan

1. Supporting Young People and Families

Business Plan Priority: Enhance opportunities for young people and support families facing economic challenges.

- Subsidised access to leisure activities for ages 11–16.
- Focused on school holidays, a financially challenging time for families.
- Delivered via schools to ensure equitable access.

2. Promoting Health and Wellbeing

Business Plan Priority: Encourage physical activity and mental wellbeing across all age groups.

- Structured, safe activities that promote physical and social engagement.
- Helps reduce isolation and excessive screen time during school breaks.

3. Reducing Antisocial Behaviour

Business Plan Priority: Improve community safety through partnership working.

- Offers positive alternatives to unsupervised time in public spaces.
- Builds relationships between young people, schools, and local venues.

4. Strengthening Community Partnerships

Business Plan Priority: Collaborate with local organisations to deliver community-focused services.

- Delivered in partnership with schools, leisure providers, and youth organisations.
- Supports local businesses and builds a scalable model for future collaboration.

5. Financial Responsibility and Innovation

Business Plan Priority: Deliver value for money and explore innovative funding models.

- Low-cost, high-impact delivery via activity cards.
- Potential for partial cost recovery through voluntary contributions.
- Enables reinvestment into future holiday provision.

Recommendations

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- To **instruct** Officers to proceed with the initiative and report progress at the next meeting.