

Online Meeting – 2 June 2026

Youth and Community Work within Exmoor

Exmoor Young Voices (EYV)

Role and Purpose

- A community-led group focused on **raising the voices of young people and young adults in Exmoor and surrounding areas**.
- Historically focused on **housing challenges for young adults**, including affordability and local retention.

Current Direction

- Expanding into supporting **children and younger families**, not just young adults.
- Seeking to **engage people in more accessible ways**, moving away from traditional evening meetings toward family-friendly activities (e.g. a proposed community fun day).

Approach

- Works by:
 - **Listening to community needs**
 - **Signposting individuals to relevant organisations**
 - **Raising awareness of issues and opportunities**

Key Activities Mentioned

- Planning a **family-focused “fun day” event** to:
 - Raise awareness of EYV
 - Build partnerships with local organisations
 - Engage hard-to-reach families and young people
- Involved in **fundraising and community projects**, with a preference not to hold long-term liabilities (e.g. handing projects to parish councils once complete).

In The Mix

Role and Purpose

- A **youth and community charity** delivering structured youth provision across Somerset.

Core Areas of Work

- Four main strands were outlined:
 - **Open access youth work**
 - **Targeted programmes** (e.g. SEND, food provision, skills development, topical issues)
 - **Alternative education provision** for schools and colleges
 - **1-to-1 mentoring**, including support for young people who are NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training)

Additional Work

- **Youth participation and social action**, helping young people engage in their communities and have a voice.

Geographical Reach

- Primarily operates across **Taunton and Wellington**, with some work extending into West Somerset and emerging interest in Exmoor.

Delivery Model

- Moving toward a “**hub and spoke**” model:
 - Central base (Kingsmead School, Wiveliscombe)
 - Satellite provision in surrounding communities

Scale and Activity

- Provides:
 - Youth clubs (varying attendance levels)
 - Holiday programmes (funded schemes such as HAF)
 - Events, trips, and residential experiences
- Reported reaching **hundreds of individual young people annually**, with growth ambitions.

Strategic Interest

- Looking to:
 - **Expand rural youth provision**
 - **Work collaboratively with other organisations and parish councils**
 - Fill gaps where there is **little or no youth provision**

Minehead Eye

(Referred to in the meeting; overview is based on discussion references only.)

Role and Purpose (as referenced)

- A **local youth provision organisation based in Minehead**, delivering services primarily along the coastal strip.

Activities and Contribution

- Provides:
 - Youth sessions and outreach work
 - Facilities including a **recording studio and youth activities**
- Engages with young people through:
 - Regular programmes
 - Links with youth workers operating in communities (including Exmoor-related settings)

Geographical Reach

- Strong provision in **Minehead and coastal areas**, but:
 - Limited reach into **rural Exmoor communities** compared to need

Partnership Role

- Seen as:
 - A **key delivery partner** for events (e.g. potential involvement in the Exmoor fun day)
 - Part of the **Somerset Youth Alliance landscape**, alongside organisations such as In The Mix

Summary (Comparative Positioning)

Organisation	Primary Focus	Strengths	Key Gap Identified
Exmoor Young Voices	Community voice & engagement	Strong local insight, flexible, partnership-led	Needs reach into families & younger cohorts
In The Mix	Structured youth provision & programmes	Established delivery model, wide activity offer	Limited rural reach (expanding)
Minehead Eye	Coastal youth provision & outreach	Strong delivery base in Minehead	Limited penetration into Exmoor

Generated by AI. Make sure to check for accuracy.

Meeting notes:

- **Planning the Exmoor Young Voices Family Fun Day:** Meg, Sam, and Nick Harvey discussed the upcoming Exmoor Young Voices Family Fun Day, focusing on its purpose, potential date, venue, activities, and the involvement of local organisations and sports clubs, with Meg outlining the vision and Sam and Nick providing suggestions and support.
 - **Event Purpose and Vision:** Meg explained that the Family Fun Day aims to raise awareness of Exmoor Young Voices, build partnerships with local organisations, and provide a family-friendly environment to engage young people and their families, moving away from traditional pub-based meetings.
 - **Date and Venue Selection:** The team agreed on the 5th of September as the event date, avoiding conflicts with other local events, and chose the Exford Cricket Ground due to its familiarity, facilities, and connections with Exmoor Young Voices trustees.
 - **Sports and Activities Planning:** Meg and Sam discussed including sports activities such as cricket matches, netball, and football, with input from local clubs like Dulverton Netball Club and Football Fun Factory and considered a BBQ or community picnic to keep the event affordable and inclusive.
 - **Insurance and Risk Management:** Meg raised questions about required insurance and risk assessments, with Sam advising that each activity provider should have their own public liability insurance and suggesting seeking sponsorship from the Parish Council to potentially cover event insurance.
 - **Music, Licensing, and Additional Activities:** The group discussed options for live and recorded music, licensing requirements, and involving local bands, as well as craft tables, face painting, and dance groups, to ensure broad appeal for all attendees.
- **Collaboration Between Youth Organisations:** Sam, Meg, and Nick Harvey explored opportunities for collaboration between Exmoor Young Voices, In the Mix, Minehead Eye, and other local youth organisations, aiming to expand

youth provision, share resources, and address gaps in rural youth engagement.

- **Overview of In the Mix Activities:** Nick Harvey provided an overview of In the Mix's work, including open access youth work, targeted programs, alternative education, mentoring for NEET young people, and youth participation, mainly across Taunton Deane, and West Somerset.
- **Overview of In the Mix Activities:** Nick Harvey provided an overview of In the Mix's work, including open access youth work, targeted programmes, alternative education, mentoring for NEET young people, and youth participation, mainly across Taunton, Wellington, and West Somerset.
- **Joint Event Participation:** Nick Harvey confirmed In the Mix's willingness to participate in the Family Fun Day, subject to scheduling, and suggested involving multiple organisations to offer a broad range of activities for different age groups.
- **Future Collaborative Opportunities:** Sam invited Nick Harvey to upcoming meetings, including the Exmoor LCN, to further discuss collaborative projects, youth club re-establishment, and leveraging partnerships for funding and expanded youth engagement.
- **Challenges and Strategies for Youth Engagement:** Meg and Sam discussed the difficulties in engaging young adults and families in Exmoor, highlighting declining attendance at traditional meetings, the need for new outreach methods, and the importance of creating inclusive, accessible events and spaces.
 - **Declining Meeting Attendance:** Meg described how quarterly and yearly meetings have seen dwindling attendance, especially among young adults, prompting a shift toward more family-friendly events like the Fun Day.
 - **Barriers to Engagement:** Sam and Meg identified barriers such as childcare, the drinking culture in traditional venues, and the challenge of reaching young adults who may be at home or working, emphasising the need for alternative spaces and activities.
 - **Inclusive Event Design:** Meg proposed designing events that cater to both children and adults, including sports, crafts, and opportunities for parents to connect with support services, aiming to raise aspirations and provide accessible support.
- **Utilising Community Spaces for Youth and Family Activities:** Sam, Meg, and Nick Harvey discussed the potential of community spaces like the Riverside Centre and Exford Youth Club for hosting youth and family activities, addressing perceptions, recent improvements, and opportunities for broader outreach.
 - **Riverside Centre Improvements:** Sam described recent renovations at the Riverside Centre, Dulverton including new flooring, kitchen, and improved facilities, making it more suitable for cookery classes, toddler groups, and community events.
 - **Overcoming Space Perceptions:** The team discussed challenges in changing perceptions of spaces like Fishers Mead, which are often

seen as exclusive to social housing tenants, and strategies to increase footfall and community identification.

- **Potential for Outreach and Support:** Sam suggested using these spaces for outreach activities such as debt advice, budgeting workshops, and linking families with support services, aiming to make them more inclusive and viable for community use.
- **Funding and Sustainability for Youth Initiatives:** Sam, Meg, and Nick Harvey addressed funding challenges for youth initiatives, sharing strategies for grant applications, sponsorship, and collaborative approaches to attract resources and sustain activities.
 - **Grant and Sponsorship Opportunities:** Sam mentioned available funding from SALC and Somerset Activity Sports Partnership and suggested seeking sponsorship from local councils and businesses to support event costs and activities.
 - **Managing Growth and Funding:** Nick Harvey discussed the growth of In the Mix's youth programs, the importance of making funding go further, and the role of collaboration in attracting additional resources for West Somerset and Exmoor.
 - **Charity Funding Practices:** Meg explained that Exmoor Young Voices relies on legacy and grant money, with limited involvement in financial management, and highlighted the need for ongoing learning and adaptation to sustain impact.

Follow-up tasks:

- **Family Fun Day Planning:** Contact Styles Ice Cream to discuss having their van at the event and negotiate proceeds arrangement. (Meg)
- **Family Fun Day Planning:** Reply to Dulverton Netball Club regarding their offer to bring a portable hoop and confirm participation. (Meg)
- **Family Fun Day Planning:** Check with Football Fun Factory about their availability for the event and whether they can send someone else if the date is unavailable. (Meg)
- **Family Fun Day Planning:** Investigate requirements for music licensing for the event, including potential discounts for charities. (Meg)
- **Family Fun Day Planning:** Reach out to Paul at Minehead Eye to explore if any bands from their acoustic night or recording studio would be interested in performing at the event. (Meg)
- **Family Fun Day Planning:** Assess insurance and risk assessment needs for the event, including consulting with Sam and other relevant contacts. (Meg)
- **Family Fun Day Planning:** Speak to Exford Parish Council about potential sponsorship and insurance coverage for the event and consider applying to SALC for funding. (Meg/Sam)
- **Family Fun Day Planning:** Contact Exmoor Roxs Festival/Home Start for advice on public liability insurance and risk assessments for the event. (Meg)
- **School Engagement:** Coordinate with local schools and trusts to ensure the event date does not conflict with school schedules and to encourage school participation. (Meg)
- **Organisational Partnerships:** Link up with Home Start and other local charities to involve them in the Family Fun Day and explore collaborative opportunities. (Meg)

