Abertillery Detached Youth Provision

Value for Investment Report 2025-2026

Introduction

Abertillery Town Council's investment of **£65,000 per annum** enables Blaenau Gwent Youth Service to deliver a comprehensive detached youth work service across the town. The provision engages young people within their communities, provides positive diversionary activities, reduces the risk factors associated with antisocial behaviour, and strengthens links between young people, residents, local services, and the wider community.

The total annual cost of the provision is roughly **£117,106** meaning that Blaenau Gwent Youth Service contributes a significant proportion of the funding and infrastructure required to sustain the service.

What the £65,000 Investment Delivers

The funding contributes towards the employment and operational costs of a dedicated detached youth work team consisting of:

Staffing

- **3 Detached Youth Workers**
  - 9 hours per week each across 52 weeks
  - Regular evening outreach sessions in identified areas of need
  - Relationship-based youth work with young people aged 11-25
- **0.5 Team Leader**
  - Operational management and supervision
  - Safeguarding oversight
  - Partnership development
  - Programme planning and quality assurance
- **0.1 Team Manager**
  - Strategic leadership
  - Performance monitoring
  - Budget management
  - Partnership and stakeholder engagement

Weekly Detached Youth Work

The detached team provides:

- Street-based youth engagement sessions
- Targeted intervention with vulnerable young people
- Early intervention and prevention work
- Community reassurance through a visible youth work presence
- Signposting to support services
- Health and wellbeing promotion
- Education, employment and training support
- Community safety interventions

The team works directly in areas where young people congregate and where concerns relating to antisocial behaviour have been identified.

Contribution to Reducing Antisocial Behaviour

The detached team plays a significant role in preventing and reducing ASB through:

Early Intervention

Youth workers build trusted relationships with young people before behaviours escalate into enforcement issues.

Visible Presence in Communities

Regular outreach sessions provide a reassuring and positive adult presence in locations where complaints may arise.

Diversionary Activities

Young people are offered constructive alternatives to activities that may lead to nuisance behaviour or community tensions.

Positive Behaviour Support

Youth workers challenge negative behaviours and promote positive decision-making through informal education and mentoring.

Partnership Working

The service works alongside:

- Gwent Police
- Community Safety Partnerships
- Schools
- Housing providers
- Social Services
- Community organisations

This multi-agency approach enables concerns to be identified and addressed at an early stage.

Activities and Opportunities Delivered

The funding supports a broad range of activities which engage young people throughout the year.

Health and Wellbeing Programmes

- Street Doctor sessions
- First Aid training
- Food Hygiene qualifications
- Duke of Edinburgh Award opportunities
- Virtual Reality engagement programmes

Community Engagement Activities

- Halloween events
- Warm Spaces Hub activities
- Art and creative projects
- Seasonal community events

Sports and Physical Activity

- 3G pitch hire
- Informal sports sessions
- Team-building activities

Trips and Enrichment Opportunities

- Bowling trips
- Educational visits
- Holiday activities
- Open 4 Youth provision

- Summer programmes

These activities provide positive experiences that improve wellbeing, develop skills, and strengthen community connections.

Added Value Through Blaenau Gwent Youth Service

While the total annual cost of the service is approximately **£117,106** the Town Council contribution of £65,000 is significantly enhanced through in-kind support provided by Blaenau Gwent Youth Service.

Management and Governance

The service benefits from:

- Strategic leadership
- Management oversight
- Safeguarding systems
- Quality assurance frameworks
- Corporate governance arrangements

Professional Support Infrastructure

Access to:

- Human Resources support
- Finance and procurement systems
- Payroll administration
- Data protection compliance
- Health and safety management
- Training and development systems

Buildings and Facilities

The service has access to:

- Abertillery Youth Centre
- Meeting rooms
- Storage facilities
- Administrative support bases
- Operational resources

Vehicles and Equipment

Provision includes:

- Youth Service vehicle access
- IT infrastructure
- Microsoft software systems
- ICT support
- Communication equipment

Staff Development

Youth workers benefit from:

- Continuous professional development
- Mandatory safeguarding training
- First Aid training
- Specialist youth work qualifications
- Professional supervision

Partnership Networks

The detached team is able to utilise established relationships with:

- Schools
- Police
- Community Safety Teams
- Health services
- Voluntary sector organisations
- Community groups

These partnerships would be costly and time-consuming for any standalone organisation to establish independently.

Community Outcomes

The investment supports outcomes including:

- Reduced opportunities for antisocial behaviour
- Increased engagement of young people in positive activities
- Improved community relationships
- Increased youth participation
- Better health and wellbeing outcomes

- Increased resilience among young people
- Improved community confidence and reassurance
- Earlier identification of young people requiring support
- Stronger links between young people and local services

Conclusion

Abertillery Town Council's annual investment of **£65,000** secures a dedicated detached youth work service that delivers year-round support to young people across the town. Through targeted outreach, positive activities, and close partnership working, the service contributes directly to the prevention and reduction of antisocial behaviour while improving outcomes for local young people.

Importantly, the Town Council's investment leverages a service with a total value of **£117,106** providing access to professional youth work staff, management structures, safeguarding systems, facilities, vehicles, training, and partnership networks that significantly enhance the overall value received by the community. The result is a cost-effective, evidence-based approach to supporting young people and creating safer, stronger communities across Abertillery.

Abertillery Detached Youth Work Team
Financial and Impact Report 2025-2026

Purpose of this Report

This report outlines the estimated costs associated with delivering detached youth work in Abertillery and demonstrates the value, outcomes and preventative impact that the service provides to young people and the wider community.

Key Facts

Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council does not fund the Youth Service directly it is over 80% externally funded.

The Youth Service is separately inspected by ESTYN.

Qualified Youth Workers are required to hold a minimum degree-level professional youth work qualification, and all Blaenau Gwent Council youth workers are professionally registered.

Why the Detached Team Matters

Abertillery currently benefits from three dedicated Detached Youth Workers. If funding is reduced or removed, Abertillery would lose these dedicated posts.

Community Impact

Abertillery is no longer considered a hotspot area for anti-social behaviour since the detached team have been in post. Detached Youth Workers play a crucial role in safeguarding, drug prevention, early intervention and community safety. Without the detached team, there would be no dedicated youth work presence regularly monitoring young people on the streets and identifying emerging drug-related concerns and other themes and trends that can be prevented from escalating.

Estimated Staffing Costs

The figures below are estimated and based on salaries only. They do not include mileage or homeworking allowances. Counselling expenditure is based on 2025/2026 as working hours vary month to month.

Full and Part-Time Youth Service Staff (2026/2027): £2,175,573

External Funding Received Towards Staff Salaries (2026/2027): £1,075,052

Net Estimated Staffing Cost: £1,100,521

Abertillery Detached Team Costs 2025-2026

- 3 Detached Youth Workers - £32,980
- Team Leader 0.5 FTE - £31,750
- Detached Vehicle Running Costs - £4,000
- AYC Running Costs - £5,200
- Training Costs - £28,386
- Resources and Consumables - £3,150
- Activities and Engagement - £9,650
- Trips and Enrichment - £1,990

Conclusion

The detached team provides early intervention, drug prevention, safeguarding and positive activities for young people. Funding should be viewed as an investment in prevention, community safety and positive outcomes rather than solely a staffing cost.

Abertillery Detached Youth Work Team

Community Impact and Funding Overview 2026

Continuation Funding and Value for Money Business Case

£65,000	84.6%	1,265
existing annual investment	reduction in ASB calls in 2024	recorded engagements, Apr 2025-Mar 2026

RECOMMENDED DECISION

Continue Abertillery Town Council's contribution to the £65,000 detached youth work provision. The funding sustains an established, targeted prevention service with strong local evidence of reach and community impact.

Prepared for Abertillery Town Council, elected members and partners

2 September 2026 | Local data supplied by Blaenau Gwent Youth Service

Abertillery Detached Youth Work Team

Community Impact and Funding Overview 2026

Continuation Funding and Value for Money Business Case

1. Executive summary

This is a continuation case, not a proposal for an untested service. The £65,000 has already enabled a visible detached youth work presence in Abertillery. The decision is whether to protect that preventative capacity and the relationships already built with young people, residents, businesses and partners.

THE LOCAL RESULT

Calls relating to anti-social behaviour (ASB) involving young people aged 11-16 fell from 26 in March-December 2023 to 4 in 2024: 22 fewer calls and an 84.6% reduction. In 2025, 14 calls were recorded - still 46.2% below the 2023 baseline.

Why continuation represents strong value

- Local impact: the sharp reduction in 2024 coincided with established detached provision and supports the team's effectiveness, while not claiming that youth work alone caused every change.
- Substantial reach: the Town Council monitoring report records 1,265 engagements with young people and 346 anonymous street contacts between April 2025 and March 2026.
- Targeted deployment: police and community-safety intelligence is used to focus resources on locations experiencing higher levels of ASB.
- Prevention before escalation: the team provides relationship-based challenge, advice, safeguarding, positive activities and referrals before concerns require more costly statutory responses.
- An established asset: continuation protects trained staff, trust, local knowledge and partnership pathways that would be expensive and slow to rebuild.

Recommended decision

Continue the funding contribution for the Abertillery Detached Youth Work Team, subject to proportionate quarterly reporting on reach, referrals, safeguarding, delivery locations, ASB trends and community feedback.

2. Demonstrated local impact

The strongest evidence is Abertillery's own monitoring of ASB calls involving young people aged 11-16. The figures supplied by the Youth Service are shown below.

Period	Calls	Change from baseline	Interpretation
Mar-Dec 2023	**26**	Baseline	Partial-year baseline supplied by the service.

Abertillery Detached Youth Work Team

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Continuation Funding and Value for Money Business Case

Period	Calls	Change from baseline	Interpretation
2024	**4**	-84.6%	22 fewer calls than the 2023 baseline.
2025	**14**	-46.2%	12 fewer calls than the 2023 baseline.
2026 to date	**16**	Not directly comparable	Incomplete year; contextual factors are known locally and should accompany reporting.

Responsible interpretation

The 84.6% reduction is compelling local evidence, but it should be presented as a change that **coincided with and supports the contribution of detached youth work**. ASB is also affected by policing, reporting behaviour, seasonality, population movement and other services. The periods are not fully identical because the baseline covers March-December 2023 and 2026 is year to date.

DEFENSIBLE WORDING FOR THE TOWN COUNCIL

Following the establishment of detached youth work provision, ASB calls involving young people aged 11-16 reduced from 26 in March-December 2023 to 4 in 2024, an 84.6% reduction. While several factors influence ASB, this significant local change, alongside service reach and partner feedback, strongly supports the contribution and effectiveness of sustained detached youth work in Abertillery.

Understanding the later increase

Calls rose to 14 in 2025 and 16 in 2026 to date. The Youth Service has identified the local rationale for the increase; those contextual reasons should be set out alongside future performance updates. They have not been inserted here because they were not provided for this document.

An increase in pressure is not, by itself, evidence that prevention should be removed. It may strengthen the need for a consistent response. Discontinuation would reduce trusted adult presence, weaken early identification and risk transferring demand towards reactive policing and enforcement.

Abertillery Detached Youth Work Team

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3. What the £65,000 sustains

Detached youth work meets young people in streets, parks, town-centre locations and other community spaces. It reaches young people who may not attend a youth centre and allows workers to respond where concerns are emerging.

Recorded delivery and reach

1,265 recorded engagements	The March 2025-April 2026 Town Council report records 1,265 engagements between April 2025 and March 2026.
346 anonymous contacts	Additional street contacts where personal details were not recorded.
Regular weekly presence	Van-based and on-foot work, centre-based projects, positive activities, advice, support and signposting are described in the local report.

The service model

- Visible outreach using the youth service van and foot-based detached work.
- Positive engagement in identified locations, including parks, the town centre and community spaces.
- Issue-based work addressing ASB, bullying, discrimination, peer pressure and consequences.
- Positive alternatives including football, music, arts and youth-led community projects.
- Early advice and referral on wellbeing, education, employment, homelessness and safeguarding.
- Joint working with Gwent Police, Community Safety and the wider Youth Service, informed by taskforce intelligence.

Evidence from local reporting

The Town Council report states that early indicators provided by Gwent Police showed decreased reported ASB in targeted areas. It also records feedback from local businesses about reduced ASB, and describes the team's role in linking young people to positive activities and wider support. These qualitative statements complement, but do not replace, the incident-call figures.

4. Value for money

The strongest financial case is that £65,000 buys a full-year preventative presence and should be compared with the scale of cost once needs escalate. The comparisons below are indicative benchmarks, not guaranteed cash savings.

Benchmark	Published figure	£65k comparison	Correct use
First-time entrant cost	£3,620 historic estimate	£65,000 / £3,620 = 16.6; round up to 17	Illustrative break-even threshold only.
Youth custody place-year	Approx. £129k-£306k	£65k is 46.5% of £129k and 19.6% of £306k	Shows the scale of escalation costs.
Youth-work taxpayer benefit	£3.20-£6.40 per £1	£192k-£384k modelled value	England-wide modelling; not a local cash saving.
Welsh youth-work average	About £620 per registered member	About 97 system-average equivalents	Broad system comparator, not a team caseload.

Illustrative first-time entrant break-even

£65,000 ÷ £3,620 = 17.9. On this historic unit-cost benchmark, 18 additional and attributable prevented first-time entries would equal £61,540 in indicative avoided criminal-justice resource cost. This is a scale comparison, not a claim that the team prevented exactly 17 entries.

Custody comparison

The whole £65,000 annual provision is less than half the lowest published annual youth custody place cost used in this case. This does not mean every participant was at risk of custody; it demonstrates why proportionate early intervention is financially rational.

What counts as a saving?

Economic/social value: The monetised value of better outcomes across crime, education, health and employment. It may be real public value without appearing as a budget reduction.

Cost avoidance: Resources that services may not need to use if escalation is prevented. Attribution and evidence are required.

Cashable saving: A budget can actually be reduced or redeployed. None of the scenario figures in this paper should automatically be booked as cashable savings.

5. Why continuation is the better-value decision

The investment has already created assets

Detached work depends on consistency. The existing provision has built relationships and practical knowledge that do not appear on a simple activity count but are central to effective prevention:

- trust and credibility with young people;
- knowledge of local groups, patterns and gathering places;
- links with residents, businesses and community partners;
- referral routes into specialist and wider Youth Service support;
- staff experience of responding safely and proportionately; and
- a mechanism for turning police and taskforce intelligence into targeted youth-work deployment.

Stopping would carry avoidable risk

- Loss of trained staff and established relationships.
- Reduced visibility in locations where concerns emerge.
- Less opportunity to challenge behaviour before formal enforcement.
- Weaker safeguarding and referral pathways for young people who do not use building-based provision.
- Future restart costs and a delay while trust and local knowledge are rebuilt.

THE DECISION IN PLAIN TERMS

The Town Council is not being asked to fund a theory. It is being asked to continue an established service that has recorded substantial reach, works within local community-safety arrangements and operated during a period when youth-related ASB calls fell sharply.

6. Community benefits

Safer and more welcoming public spaces

A visible, constructive adult presence engages young people where they gather and provides an alternative to relying solely on enforcement.

Early help and safeguarding

Workers can identify vulnerability, provide immediate advice and connect young people to appropriate support.

Community reassurance

The service demonstrates that concerns are being acted on through practical engagement, targeted activity and partnership working.

Positive pathways
Young people can be diverted into sport, creative activity, youth-centre provision, education, employment and wellbeing support.

Stronger relationships
Detached workers can bridge the gap between young people, residents, businesses, police and local services.

Better use of public money
A modest preventative investment can reduce escalation pressure, while national evidence shows the high cost of formal justice responses.

7. Accountability for continued funding

Continuation should be accompanied by a concise, proportionate evidence framework. This will allow Abertillery Town Council to see what its contribution buys and how local conditions are changing.

Area	Quarterly measures	Purpose
Reach	Unique young people where recorded; total contacts; anonymous contacts; repeat engagement; hours and locations.	Shows presence and sustained relationships.
Early help	Advice episodes; referrals; successful connections; safeguarding actions.	Shows what happens beyond initial contact.
Community impact	Youth-related ASB calls by agreed period and geography; hotspot trends; resident/business and partner feedback.	Tests whether priority locations improve.
Young-person outcomes	Goal progress, participation in positive activity, accreditations and short case studies.	Captures outcomes ASB figures cannot show.
Value for money	Cost per contact, sustained engagement, referral and evidenced outcome.	Supports transparent renewal decisions.

Reporting safeguards
- Compare like-for-like months wherever possible.
- State whether figures cover Abertillery, a wider area or selected hotspots.
- Separate incidents involving 11-16-year-olds from all-age ASB where the data allows.
- Record contextual reasons for increases or decreases and identify the source.

- Combine quantitative data with feedback and case evidence; avoid claiming sole causation.

8. Recommendation and member-facing case

RECOMMENDATION
Continue Abertillery Town Council's funding contribution for the detached youth work team. The evidence supports continuation as a proportionate investment in prevention, community safety and trusted early help.

Member-facing statement

"The £65,000 is not funding an untested initiative. It sustains an established preventative service that works directly with young people in Abertillery's public spaces. Youth-related ASB calls fell from 26 in March-December 2023 to 4 in 2024 - an 84.6% reduction. In 2025, calls remained 46.2% below the baseline. The local Town Council report also records 1,265 engagements and 346 anonymous street contacts between April 2025 and March 2026.

The team uses local intelligence, provides visible outreach, challenges harmful behaviour, safeguards vulnerable young people and connects them to positive activities and specialist support. Continuing the contribution protects relationships, expertise and partnership capacity already built. The entire annual investment is also less than half the lowest published annual youth custody place cost used in this case.

While youth work cannot be credited as the sole cause of every change in ASB, the scale of the local reduction, the team's reach and partner feedback together provide a strong and defensible case that continuation represents good value for Abertillery."

Headline

£65,000 sustains an established prevention service: youth-related ASB calls fell by 84.6% at the strongest evidenced point, while the team recorded more than 1,600 identified and anonymous engagements in its latest local report.

9. Evidence notes and sources

Local evidence

Local Youth Service ASB monitoring data supplied for this business case
Calls involving young people aged 11-16: March-December 2023, 26; 2024, 4; 2025, 14; 2026 to date, 16. Internal monitoring; figures should be verified against the source dataset before formal publication.

Abertillery Town Council Detached Report, March 2025-April 2026
Internal report by Blaenau Gwent Youth Service. Records 1,265 engagements, 346 anonymous contacts, delivery activity, police indicators and business feedback. The report wording contains a date inconsistency, but explicitly states the engagement period as April 2025-March 2026.

Abertillery Detached Youth Work £65,000 Business Case
Earlier evidence-led internal business case, including calculations and national benchmarks.

Youth Support Grant Detached reporting, 2025-26
Internal Blaenau Gwent Youth Service monitoring describing hotspot work, safeguarding, referrals and partnership delivery.

Published evidence

Welsh Government - Youth work in Wales, 2024-25. Source for reported statutory youth-work expenditure and registered members. Welsh Government statistics page

Youth Justice Board / Ministry of Justice - Youth justice statistics. Source family for youth justice system data and published cost context. Youth justice statistics collection

Ministry of Justice - Youth custody data and costs. Published establishment-cost comparisons used in the earlier business case. Youth custody data collection

National Youth Agency / Frontier Economics - The economic value of youth work. England-wide modelling used only as an illustrative wider-value scenario. National Youth Agency research

National Audit Office - The youth justice system in England and Wales. Historic cost and system context. National Audit Office publications

Key caveats

- The local ASB figures are service-supplied and should be reconciled with the underlying police or community-safety extract before external publication.
- The 2023 baseline covers March-December, while 2024 and 2025 are described as annual totals; 2026 is incomplete. Comparisons are therefore indicative rather than perfectly matched.
- The national first-time entrant cost is historic and should be described as an illustrative unit-cost benchmark.
- Custody costs show the scale of escalation; they do not imply that any individual contact prevented custody.

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- The £3.20-£6.40 return is England-wide modelling, not a Wales-specific or Abertillery forecast.
- Cost avoidance and economic value are not automatically cashable savings.