

Locally Trusted Organisation (LTO)

Role Specification

Local Youth Transformation Pilot (LYTP) | Stoke-on-Trent

Introduction & Context

The Local Youth Transformation Pilot (LYTP) is testing a new place-based, partnership-led approach to improving outcomes for young people aged 11–18 in Stoke-on-Trent. Central to this approach is the Locally Trusted Organisation (LTO) model — a framework for neighbourhood-level coordination that strengthens existing youth provision, amplifies youth voice and builds lasting local partnerships.

The LYTP sits within the emerging Stoke Model: a connected, neighbourhood-based youth system designed to ensure young people can access high-quality, inclusive opportunities as locally as possible. The LTO model is a cornerstone of this system — enabling coherent, community-led youth ecosystems to develop in each priority neighbourhood.

LTO areas align with Strengthening Communities, Sport England Place-Based Expansion (PBE) and Family Hub footprints, enabling stronger integration between youth provision, Early Help and wider local services.

Priority Neighbourhoods

We are seeking one LTO in each of the following neighbourhoods:

- Meir (North & South)
- Abbey Hulton
- Bentilee
- Burslem
- Norton & Ball Green
- Blurton
- Hanley
- Chell

Organisations may apply for more than one neighbourhood but must clearly demonstrate specific local knowledge, relationships and capacity in each area selected.

Purpose of the LTO Role

LTOs act as local system anchors. The role is not about increasing delivery volume — it is about building a healthier, better-connected neighbourhood youth ecosystem. LTOs strengthen coordination, deepen partnership working and ensure young people's voices shape local provision.

The LTO will lead and coordinate the neighbourhood's youth ecosystem by:

- Enhancing existing networks and provision — not duplicating them
- Building a clear understanding of the neighbourhood's 'anatomy' (its assets, gaps and communities)
- Coordinating a coherent, accessible local youth offer
- Embedding youth voice and lived experience at the heart of local planning
- Supporting Test & Learn activity aligned to the wider LYTP
- Contributing insight and learning to citywide development

Core Responsibilities

1. Neighbourhood Insight ("Anatomy")

Understanding the neighbourhood is the foundation of effective LTO work. Each LTO will:

- Map existing youth provision, community assets and local services
- Identify strengths, gaps, barriers to access and underserved groups
- Capture lived experience and community intelligence from young people and families
- Develop and maintain a neighbourhood anatomy profile

This anatomy work will directly inform a locality action plan, setting priorities for coordination, partnership development and youth offer enhancement.

2. Partnership Coordination

LTOs are expected to strengthen and build on existing collaborative structures — not create new bureaucracy. Each LTO will:

- Identify and enhance existing partnership networks and forums
- Where no suitable forum exists, convene regular neighbourhood youth partnership meetings
- Connect providers, schools, Family Hubs and community partners around shared goals
- Facilitate joint planning, problem-solving, information-sharing and referral pathways
- Participate in the Youth Partnership Board as a core member

3. Coordinating the Local Youth Offer

Working with partners, the LTO will take a strategic view of the neighbourhood youth offer. This includes:

- Developing a balanced, inclusive and accessible neighbourhood youth offer
- Identifying gaps and supporting partners to address them collaboratively

- Strengthening pathways between universal, targeted and specialist support
- Contributing to an integrated city-level offer aligned to the Stoke Model

4. Youth Voice & Co-Design

Young people must genuinely shape local provision. Each LTO will:

- Facilitate local youth voice activity, using diverse and inclusive methods
- Ensure young people's views shape neighbourhood priorities and the locality action plan
- Connect young people to citywide platforms including:
 - The SOT Youth Collective's 'Shape Ur Gen'
 - Stoke-on-Trent Youth Council
 - YMCA's Young Person's Taskforce

5. Monitoring, Reporting & Learning

LTOs will contribute to a shared learning culture across the LYTP. Each LTO will:

- Use Upshot to record activity, participation and neighbourhood insight
- Provide regular progress updates and reflective learning reports
- Participate in cross-city reviews and contribute to the wider Stoke Youth Strategy
- Produce an end-of-project learning summary

Required Outputs

Each LTO will produce the following, in partnership with Stoke-on-Trent City Council's Youth Development Leads and the Stoke-on-Trent Youth Collective:

Neighbourhood Anatomy Profile	A mapped picture of local youth provision, assets, gaps and community intelligence
Locality Action Plan	A co-produced plan setting priorities for coordination and development in the neighbourhood
Coordinated Youth Offer Plan	A coherent, inclusive overview of the neighbourhood's youth offer with identified improvements
Youth Voice Engagement Activity	Evidence of young people shaping local priorities and contributing to citywide platforms
Regular Insight Reports	Timely updates on progress, partnership activity and emerging learning
End-of-Project Learning Summary	A reflective summary of what worked, what was learned and recommendations for future development

What We Are Looking For

Organisations must be able to demonstrate:

- Strong local relationships, trust and embeddedness in the community
- Experience working with and for young people aged 11–18
- Capacity and appetite to lead collaboration across multiple partners
- A genuine commitment to inclusion, equity and access
- Appropriate safeguarding policies, governance and organisational capacity
- Willingness to use Upshot for monitoring and learning
- Willingness to participate in the Youth Partnership Board as a core member

Support Available to LTOs

Each successful LTO will receive the following support:

Coordination Funding	£12,500 per neighbourhood
Upshot Licence	Full licence and onboarding support provided
Workforce Development	Access to training and professional development opportunities
Peer Networks	Access to SOTYC networks and cross-city peer support

Assessment Process

Expressions of Interest will be reviewed by an assessment panel.

The panel will assess applications against the criteria set out in this specification, with particular attention to local knowledge, existing relationships, partnership experience and organisational capacity.

Shortlisted organisations may be invited to a short informal conversation prior to final confirmation. All applicants will receive feedback.

Key Dates

EOI Launch	Friday 13 March 2026
EOI Deadline	8:00pm, Tuesday 24 March 2026

Further Information

If you would like to discuss whether this role is right for your organisation before submitting an application, we actively encourage you to get in touch for an informal conversation.

Further information about the Local Youth Transformation Pilot and the Stoke Model is available on request.

Please submit your completed Expression of Interest by 8:00pm on Tuesday 24 March 2026 to Aaron Northmore at aaron@apnsportsolutions.co.uk