



Leicester
City Council

WARDS AFFECTED
ALL

FORWARD TIMETABLE OF CONSULTATION AND MEETINGS:
Cabinet

12.5.08

A Snapshot of Summer Provision by the Youth Service

Report of the Interim Corporate Director of Children & Young People's Services

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 For Cabinet to receive from the Overview and Scrutiny and Management Board (OSMB), a completed report of the Children, Schools and Young People Scrutiny Task Group.

2. Summary

- 2.1 Children and Young People Scrutiny Task Group conducted a snapshot review of service provision by the Youth Service. This was the Task Group's first review. The Task Group aimed to identify the current level of youth provision across the city, understand where the provision takes place and ascertain the range of opportunities available for 13-19 year olds. The review concentrated on youth work provided directly by the Youth Service or indirectly but funded by the Authority.

- 2.2 The OSMB considered this report on 11 December 2007. They resolved:

- 1) That the Task Group Leader and Task Group be commended for the work carried out in completing the first stage of the review.
- 2) That it be requested that the title of the report be amended to indicate that the review was of summer provision and;
- 3) That the Cabinet be requested to support the following recommendations of the Task Group:
 - I. That there is a need for a greater level of strategic planning and clear co-ordination of summer youth schemes; the Youth Service delivers against three defined areas of the city and the summer youth programme should operate across the city throughout the summer, ensuring that there is provision available in each area during the school holidays.
 - II. That the variety of opportunities should continue to be widely publicised but that this publicity needs to be kept up-to-date to reflect essential changes to

the programme and circulated to as wide a range of young people as possible using appropriate methods.

- III. That the current good practice should be recognised and rolled out as models of excellence, for example the DVD project; which requires youth workers to collaborate and ensure they get the most out of facilities, through the sharing of physical resources and staff expertise amongst centres.
- IV. That the examples of partnership working between centres and with external bodies continues, e.g. the Amaze project, in order to ensure the widest range of quality youth opportunities.
- V. That young people are more involved in the planning and development of the programmes; which would ensure that events are better attended, are offering what is needed and that young people fully understand what they are getting from the Service.
- VI. That as part of the reprofiling of the Youth Service being undertaken by the Children and Young People's Department, consideration be given to ensuring a consistent standard of delivery across the city.
- VII. That the Children, Schools and Young People department give serious consideration to how the Youth Service could have the capacity to generate more external funding to support and develop good practice. It is felt that a fund raising officer position would, in a year, not only be self-financing but would also ensure that young people in Leicester get the most from their Youth Service via relieving youth workers of the burden of financial concerns allowing them to focus on planning and delivering good practice.

3. Progress on Task Group Recommendations

3.1 Co-ordination of summer provision

Youth Service staff met, on 28 April 2008, with Connexions and the Voluntary Youth Sector to examine their respective proposals for summer youth activities with the aim of ensuring both the geographical spread of provision across the city and coverage across the 6 weeks of the school holidays as requested in the OSMB report. The outcome of this meeting will be presented to a group of young people on 29 April for their consideration prior to notifying the service providers to go ahead with their programme planning.

3.2 Publicity

.A range of initiatives is or have been undertaken recently to improve the marketing and publicity of the local authority youth service's provision as follows:-

- Youth service banners have been created that can be used at events
- A revised places to go things to do leaflet is in process of production
- Regular issue of the Youth Work News publication showcasing good practice
- 3 items chosen by young people and carrying the LCC logo to be purchased in bulk for marketing purposes

- All youth provision is now advertised on the Connexions website and on the new Activities 4 U website across the city and county.
- The revised Youth Work Curriculum Framework document, incorporating Every Child Matters themes, has been widely consulted upon

3.3 Shared good practice

The service holds meetings with its full-time workforce throughout the year to secure consistent practice and to share its good practice. In addition the following initiatives are now under way.

- Regular issue of the Youth Work News publication showcasing good practice.
- The revised Youth Work Curriculum Framework document, incorporating Every Child Matters themes provides the overarching aims and principles for good youth work together with a consistent set of standards and outcomes for young people.
- A particular emphasis is to be placed, in 2008/09, on the development of the part-time youth worker workforce through a number of training events and quarterly half-day city-wide meetings.
- Integrated service roll-out, following the New Parks pilot, will result in greater sharing of good practice and consistency of approach.

3.4 Partnership working

Whilst the Youth Service is already delivering positive outcomes for a number of young people, by working with a range of partners, its approach setting by setting has not been consistent in this respect. It is clear that the services most successful centre-based youth provision is achieved through a partnership approach that brings with it additional funding streams beyond the core local authority funding. It is anticipated that the imminent report, described in 3.8 below, will recognise and make recommendations for an integrated youth support model for development in all the main youth centres across the city, within a well-integrated and resourced youth support service.

At the same time it needs to be recognised that these centres are not all of a similar size as the best and do not currently enjoy the same level or quality of facilities. It is anticipated that government funding, now being made available through the Youth Taskforce can be secured to improve the facilities available. Detailed costings have already been prepared for both local centres and a city-centre hub.

3.4 Young people's participation in planning and delivery of programmes

The service already has a good record in developing young people's participation at a more strategic level, including the Young People's Council, members of Youth Parliament and the YOPPITAL WONGA (Youth Opportunity and capital Funds) panel. The latter has allocated £900k to new projects and initiatives over the past 2 years. Young People are involved in planning the Summer Activities as described above in 3.1.

At a centre level the practice is in some cases excellent but overall is considered to be mixed and this will be addressed with the part-time youth workers at training events described above in section 3.3.

3.6 Consistent delivery standards

The Service has been working on this agenda for several years now with considerable improvements being made. However, there is still room for much improvement. The following are some of the new/recent initiatives

- A service policy on Sex & Relationships work launched last September with training to staff
- The performance of each centre or project is monitored against the services four existing national targets of numbers reached, regular participating, achieving recorded outcomes and accredited outcomes and is shared across the service. A number of centres have been identified as needing to be improved and steps are being taken.
- The revised Youth Work Curriculum Framework document, incorporating Every Child Matters themes provides the overarching aims and principles for good youth work together with a consistent set of standards and outcomes for young people
- A particular emphasis is to be placed, in 2008/09, on the development of the part-time youth worker workforce through a number of training events and quarterly half-day city-wide meetings.
- Integrated service roll-out, following the New Parks pilot, will result in greater sharing of good practice and consistency of approach
- The service does lack the necessary infrastructure and resource behind front-line delivery to secure a step change in particular with regard to dedicated Quality Assurance and data collection expertise as many services have, these functions currently being covered additionally by service managers. This point has been made to the consultants described in 3.8.

3.7 Fund Raising Post

Whilst it is clear that the Youth Service could benefit significantly from a fund raising post, it is intended that this is met through a more strategic council-wide approach to meet its priorities in an integrated and coherent manner.

- 3.8 Two consultants commissioned via the National Youth Agency have been working with the Council to produce a detailed piece of work to define and cost a future Integrated Youth Support Service, in line with the Youth Offer, taking into account: open Access provision across a range of settings, detached Youth Workers/mobile youth provision, targeted work, integrated services, particularly with Connexions, but also to include other related services, and in line with the principles of co-location. The report will be available early May and will inform future delivery in relation to much of the above.

4. Recommendations

- 4.1 That Cabinet note the contents of the report, as referred by OSMB, and the progress made to date on the recommendations, and to make any additional comments.
- 4.2 That Cabinet ask the Director of Children and Young People's Services to consider the recommendations contained in the report, with a view to appropriate implementation as part of reprofiling the Youth Service into an Integrated Youth Support Service

5. Financial, Legal and Other Implications

5.1. Financial Implications

The Council's 2008/09 budget includes additional on-going funding for administrative support to free-up youth workers, together with pump-priming monies to build service capacity and provide additional activities in schools holidays. Substantive proposals for the on-going financing of the Service will be brought forward in the 2009/10 budget, once a longer term approach for a whole-city service has been developed as the Service is re-profiled into an Integrated Youth Support Service.

It is intended that the generation and management of external funding for the Youth Service will be met through a strategic, council-wide approach. These developments should go some way to addressing the concerns expressed in the report that youth workers are concerned about financial security and lack of funding.

The Youth Opportunity Fund has secured improvements to facilities, and the funding expected via the Task Force should enable further improvements; however securing sufficient capital funding for all the desired works is likely to remain a challenge.

(Colin Sharpe, Head of Finance and Efficiency, Ext. 29 7750)

5.2 Legal Implications

There are no direct legal implications arising from this report

(Kamal Adatia, Barrister, Ext 7044)

5. Report Author

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Key Decision	No
Reason	N/A
Appeared in Forward Plan	N/A
Executive or Council Decision	Executive (Cabinet)