

INNOVATIVE WAYS OF INVOLVING YOUNG PEOPLE IN DEVELOPING SERVICES

The Youth Service currently provides opportunities for young people to influence decisions within their local setting. To extend young people's involvement to a more strategic role in services and service development we are developing the following three new initiatives: -

Youth Initiatives Project

This will be an innovative new programme giving young people funding and youth work support to address youth issues/needs creatively in their community. It will increase youth empowerment; investing in young people by engaging them in projects affecting changes they wish to see.

This project will enable young people:-

- to design projects to address needs/issues they identify as important
- to turn their ideas into action
- to gain leadership, teamwork and other life skills
- to impact on their community in positive ways.

Youth Impact Project – a youth-led evaluation project.

A team of young people drawn from across the city and reflecting its diversity will draw together under a senior member training programme. It is then envisaged that some of them will go on to be trained in evaluation skills. Youth Impact will conduct an agreed number of evaluations per year and focusing on the following 5 themes:-

- learning and achievement from being involved
- facilities and resources
- quality and range of decision-making by young people
- relationships between young people
- youth and staff relationships

Youth Forums Development Fund

This will be the foundation to ensure the further development, co-ordination and support of sustainable new youth forums across the City. It will support innovative, young people-led initiatives that give a meaningful youth perspective to the democratic processes of the City. It will build upon the work of existing youth forums, both locally and City wide, and will enable the initiation of new youth forums in the City's seven Education Clusters, where they do not exist.

Appendix 3.3

This project will link up with the Connexions Service's initiatives to ensure participation of young people in service development.

Local Young People's Forums will need to establish a link with and a voice on the Neighbourhood Forums being developed under Revitalising Neighbourhoods.

All three of the above projects have received financial support from Government Office East Midlands as part of the Transforming Youth Work Plan.

The Transforming Youth Work Fund will allow for the appointment of a new Full-time post whose brief will be to incorporate the existing work with the Young People's Council (YPC) and the UK Youth Parliament (UKYP) members with the development of the above three initiatives. This post will increase significantly the development of young people's participation and influence in service development.

It is also proposed that, wherever possible in the development of these projects, principles for the development of Community Cohesion are being promoted: -

- to enable young people to contribute to an open and honest debate on the issues preventing community cohesion
- to develop further the infrastructure that gives young people a large voice and stake in society and
- to promote cross-cultural contact and dialogue between different communities to foster understanding and respect.