

# WIRRAL COUNCIL

CABINET 24 SEPTEMBER 2009

## REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

### YOUTH HUB COMMISSIONING REPORT

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#### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report sets out the process that was followed to commission four Super Youth Clubs, one in each of the four districts of Wirral. Shaftesbury was identified previously as the Birkenhead Super Youth Centre Hub as part of the My Place submission (Cabinet My Place Report 25 September 2008). In line with the Cabinet decision at its meeting on 23 April (Cabinet report, Commissioning Criteria for universal, open access youth support services), a second round of commissioning took place during May – July 2009 to identify a further three providers for Wallasey, West Wirral and South Wirral. The commissioning process has identified Eastham Youth Club as the Centre for South Wirral, Wallasey Fire Station for Wallasey and West Kirby Youth Centre for West Wirral.

#### 1. Background

- 1.1 Recent government policy documents for youth services have set out expectations on the range and quality of provision of youth services. The Treasury Document – Aiming High a Ten Year Strategy for Positive Activities for Young People (PAYP) DCSF October 2007, reported on broad consultation returns from young people which indicated that young people wanted places that were modern, available at times that suited young people and that offered a broad range of programmes that would engage more young people than is currently the case. As part of this policy development, the “My Place” initiative was launched last year and organisations and local authorities were encouraged to bid for funding to significantly improve youth facilities across the country. Although Wirral’s bid of Shaftesbury youth club was unsuccessful, the process undertaken to identify the Wirral bid identified the need to take a critical look at the youth facilities currently operational across Wirral. An outcome of this selection process was that Shaftesbury Youth Club was identified as one of Wirral’s four Super Youth Centres. It was agreed that a further three needed to be identified in order that each district has a Hub.
- 1.2 On the 11 November 2008, the Children’s Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee presented its findings from its review of Youth Outreach, in the report entitled ‘Youth Outreach Scrutiny Review – Final Report’. Recommendations one and thirteen recommended that there should be a restructuring of outreach services with the aim of providing a Hub or key contact point in each district and current facilities for young people should open more evenings.
- 1.3 The recommendations in the Overview and Scrutiny report and the work to find a My Place nomination acted as a catalyst for the proposals presented to Cabinet in the Reconfiguration of the Youth Service report on 23 November 2008. Cabinet approved the move to the development of four main hubs, one in each district. Each Hub would be required to act as the main focus for the planning of youth provision across the District. Included in this development was the provision of a consistent youth offer that would provide access to support services and also opportunities to take part in a broad range of activities including youth arts, outdoor education, international exchanges and personal development opportunities. Key to the offer was ensuring that facilities would be available over six nights and particularly at the week-ends and available to young people who might otherwise take part in anti social behaviour. Cabinet also requested that a consultation

with stakeholders be undertaken to test out the proposals and to finalise the commissioning criteria.

1.4 A final report containing the final commissioning criteria (see section 2.1) was presented to Cabinet on 23 April. This report also set out the commissioning panel membership and the timeline for the process as there were to be three rounds of commissioning for positive activities for young people (PAYP), hubs commissioning and the Activity Fund, with the panels drawn from the following partners:

- The Primary Care Trust
- The Link Forum
- 14-19 Team
- Neighbourhood Pathfinder
- Police
- Children and Young people's Department
- Wirral's Asset Management Department

1.5 Underpinning the development of the large Super Youth Centres or Hubs is the implementation of the Integrated Youth Support Strategy (IYSS). Targets linked to IYSS were included in the commissioning brief and tendering organisations were expected to demonstrate how the work of the Hubs would contribute to meeting those targets.

## 2 Commissioning Process

2.1 The following criteria were approved by cabinet.

**a) Organisations must demonstrate the following criteria if they are to be considered for short listing:**

In responding to each criterion, organisations are expected to consider equality issues as they apply to each section.

Values, Aims and Objectives

- Evidence of how service provision is supporting the Integrated Youth Support Strategy and the Children and Young People's Plan.
- Young people influencing the planning, delivery and evaluation of services.
- Evidence of effective planning to address indicators of deprivation.
- Evidence of youth service provision for looked after young people, young people with Learning Disabilities and Difficulties or other vulnerable young people

**b) An organisation that is working towards delivering high quality provision and is outward looking.**

Understanding of the requirements

- Demonstrate value for money in provision of universal/ targeted youth work. This is to include open youth work and an agreed number of planned group work sessions which will be linked to local policy issues such as teenage pregnancy and the Respect agenda.
- Recording systems of attendances by young people at different projects. – This system to be compliant with local authority requirements regarding unique individuals.

- Provision of youth services that ensure outputs linked to national Key Performance Indicators underpinning Targeted Youth Support, Integrated Youth Support and Participation indicators.
- Centre based managers to have as minimum qualification –NVQ level 3 Youth Work qualification
- Evidence of effective planning to address indicators of deprivation.
- Evidence of how service provision supporting the Integrated Youth Support Strategy.
- Provision of four hub youth centres operating six nights per week including Friday and Saturday.
- Provision of seven satellite youth centres operating three nights per week.

#### Track record

- Evidence of effective planning to address indicators of deprivation.
- Experience of successful external funding applications.
- Evidence of partnership working across organisations to further develop youth services for young people.
- Evidence of consortium approaches to planning and delivery of services.
- Evidence of previous investment in service provision for young people.
- Evidence of positive outcomes for young people being delivered.

#### Delivery concept

- Young people influencing the planning, delivery and evaluation of services.
- Demonstrate value for money in provision of universal/ targeted youth work. This is to include open youth work and an agreed number of planned group work sessions which will be linked to local policy issues such as teenage pregnancy and the Respect agenda.
- Provision accessible to public transport routes.
- Evidence of programme planning to meet local /district needs
- Evidence of how service provision supporting the Integrated Youth Support Strategy.

#### Quality and training

- Centre based managers to have as minimum qualification –NVQ level 3 Youth Work qualification
- Programme of staff development to increase the number of professionally qualified youth workers.

#### 2.2 The commissioning panel for this round had representation from:

- The Tranmere Neighbourhood pathfinder
- The Primary care trust
- The Link Forum
- 14-19 Team
- Wirral Children and Young people's Department
- Wirral's Asset Management Team

#### 2.3 The commissioning process involved drawing up a tender document which included the Criteria to be completed as a Method Statement. The use of Method Statements encourage organisations to demonstrate how they will operate the service and in what areas they would be unique or enhance existing provision.

2.4 There were seven stages in this commissioning round:

- Advertise Commissioning opportunity via press and provider and community networks and council website.
- Procurement workshop – open to all potential providers this provides the opportunity to fully discuss issues and the tendering process.
- Desk Top review of applications (commissioning officers)– score response to criteria (Method Statement)
- Consultation with young people regarding the hub submission.
- Validation by commissioning panel of desk top scores and shortlist for interview/ presentation
- Interview/ presentation/ panel recommendations
- Cabinet report – recommendations presented

2.5 Following a number of meetings between the Management Committees of both voluntary and statutory youth providers' one tender from the Youth service was submitted and this tender covered the provision of Hubs in Wallasey, South Wirral and West Wirral. The nominated centres were Wallasey Fire station, Eastham Youth Centre and West Kirby Youth Club, Shaftesbury Youth Club had already been commissioned as the Birkenhead Super Centre. Without applying any weighting to the scores the potential raw score was 150, each proposal for the Hubs scored 127.7. (Please see table over.) The decision by the commissioning panel was to interview representatives from the Youth Service with a view to recommending that they be commissioned if they met the criteria set for the presentation and interview. The topic for the presentation and interview questions are attached as Appendix A.

2.6 Meetings to identify hubs took place at district level and involved the Youth and Play Service and other providers.

2.7 Key features of the recommended bid included steps to be taken in planning future service planning. These included:

- The establishment of multi-agency groups to undertake district planning
- The involvement of other organisations key to the successful delivery of the Integrated Youth Support Strategy
- Consistency in data gathering regarding outcomes for young people
- The partnership working that facilitated the process of tender preparation and future service delivery
- Targeted work with vulnerable young people
- The establishment of the direction of travel for youth services if they are to meet Integrated Youth Support Strategy requirements.

Question No.	Possible Score	Average Score Wallasey	Possible Score	Average Score South Wirral	Possible Score	Average Score West Wirral
1(PW)	5	4	5	4	5	4
2(PW)	5	5	5	5	5	5
3(PW)	5	4	5	4	5	4
4(PW)	5	4	5	4	5	4
5(PW)	5	4	5	4	5	4
6(SW)	5	4	5	4	5	4
7(PW)	5	5	5	5	5	5
8(PW)	5	4	5	4	5	4
9	5	3.5	5	3.5	5	3.5
10(SW)	5	4	5	4	5	4
11(PW)	5	4	5	4	5	4
12	5	5	5	5	5	5
13(PW)	5	5	5	5	5	5
14	5	4	5	4	5	4
15(PW)	5	5	5	5	5	5
16	5	4	5	4	5	4
17	5	4.1	5	4.1	5	4.1
18(PW)	5	4	5	4	5	4
19(PW)	5	4	5	4	5	4
20	5	5	5	5	5	5
21	5	5	5	5	5	5
22(PW)	5	5	5	5	5	5
23(PW)	5	4	5	4	5	4
24	5	4	5	4	5	4
25(PW)	5	4	5	4	5	4
26	5	3	5	3	5	3
27	5	4	5	4	5	4
28(PW)	5	4.5	5	4.5	5	4.5
29(PW)	5	4.6	5	4.6	5	4.6
30(PW)	5	4	5	4	5	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>127.7</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>127.7</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>127.7</b>

### 3 Next Steps

- 3.1 A key requirement of any organisation that was to be awarded a contract for running the Hubs was that they would co-ordinate the planning of youth services at district level. In the Hub tenders the Youth service indicated that district planning would be undertaken to meet targets linked to IYSS requirements, community safety and community issues. Included in this approach is a commitment to monitor and evaluate service provision.
- 3.2 Part of this new approach to deliver youth support is the need to make more people aware of the change in provision. A web editor has been appointed to oversee the development of the Positive activities website. Funding for this post was originally part of a Department for Children, Schools and Family grant. This has now been embedded in the budget and this post enables Wirral to fulfil its statutory obligation to advertise positive activities for young people. In addition the Youth service and partners will spend the next few months promoting the new developments. This approach will also be complementary to the launch of the Activity Fund Programme which has been used to fund additional activities to enhance the Youth Offer.

3.3 It is anticipated that the centres will not be fully operational until November 2009. The Wallasey Hub is currently being modified and it is anticipated that this will be open by January 2010.

#### **4. Financial Implications**

4.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report. The funding of the web editor post is already mainstreamed within the budget.

#### **5. Staffing Implications**

5.1 The proposals for the new structure can be met from within existing staffing levels. Some staff will be required to relocate to other youth clubs and any one relocated will be entitled to disturbance allowance from within the Youth Service budget.

#### **6. Equal Opportunities Implications**

6.1 The proposals for the reconfiguration of the Service and the Commissioning Criteria for Targeted and Universal Services seek to improve the quality of service provision and have more engagement with vulnerable young people.

#### **7. Community Safety Implications**

7.1 The work undertaken in the Hubs is planned in recognition of the IYSS requirements. Work will be planned to address community safety concerns and wider community issues.

#### **8. Local Agenda 21 Implications**

8.1 There are none arising from this report.

#### **9. Planning Implications**

9.1 Proposed developments at Wallasey Fire Station have been approved by the Planning Department. There are no planning implications for the other sites.

#### **10. Anti Poverty Implications**

10.1 The improved Youth Offer will enable young people to access accreditation opportunities and enhance their training and development opportunities.

#### **11. Social Inclusion Implications**

11.1 The aim of targeted and universal provision is to promote greater social inclusion. Planning for youth clubs at district level will be in response to needs assessment.

#### **12. Local Member Support Implications**

12.1 This report affects all wards.

#### **13 Background papers**

- Cabinet Report 27 November 2008
- Aiming High – The Treasury's Ten Year Strategy for Positive Activities 2007.
- My Place cabinet report September 2008
- Cabinet Report 23 April 2009

- Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee 11 November 2008 'Youth Outreach Scrutiny Review – Final Report'

## **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

That

- 1) Following a commissioning process the following are identified as the four Super Youth Clubs for Wirral:
  - Birkenhead - Shaftesbury
  - Wallasey - Wallasey Fire Station
  - South Wirral - Eastham Youth Club
  - West Wirral - West Kirby Youth Club
- 2) To continue the work with the management committees of both statutory and voluntary youth clubs to ensure continuity coherence of the Youth Offer

Howard Cooper  
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