

WIRRAL COUNCIL

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 16 MARCH 2010

REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

YOUTH OUTREACH SCRUTINY REVIEW - UP-DATE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Children's Services and Lifelong Learning Overview and Scrutiny Committee received the Youth Outreach Scrutiny Review report on 11th November 2008. This report provides an up-date on the positive progress that has been made with the suggested recommendations made by the Scrutiny Panel.

1. Background

1.1 Overview and Scrutiny appointed the Youth Outreach Scrutiny Panel on 12th September 2007. The panel subsequently produced a draft scope for the review, which was agreed by this Committee on 30th October 2007. Members of the panel were Councillors Sheila Clarke, Frank Doyle and Chris Meaden. The panel was supported by a Scrutiny Support Officer and the Lead Departmental Officer was the Head of Branch for Participation and Inclusion.

1.2 The aims of the Youth Outreach Review identified in the scope document were to answer the questions :

- Is the workforce adequately protected?
- Is the existing Youth Outreach reaching the right young people?
- What do the young people want?
- What partnerships / funding are in existence and can they be improved?

1.3 Methodology for Gateway Evidence

The panel set about gathering evidence in order to find answers to the main issues identified in 1.2 through meetings with key officers, meeting with outreach workers on the streets as well as visits to youth clubs.

1.4 The final report made 30 recommendations (See Appendix One).

All of these recommendations have been considered by the managers concerned with these areas of delivery. The key recommendations suggested improvements to joint co-ordination and partnership working and structural changes to the Department.

2. Progress with Co-ordination and Partnership Working

2.1 An Integrated Youth Support Strategy Group is now in place. Representatives from the following agencies support this area of work.

Youth Offending Service
Police
Merseyside Fire Service

Youth Service
Youth Federation
Connexions
Anti-Social Behaviour Team
14-19 Strategy
Youth Commissioning Manager
Health – Teenage Pregnancy Representative
Cultural Services
DAAT

The Strategy Group has produced two IYSS plans, both of which have been presented to the Children's Trust Board. (Appendix Two IYSS Plan 2009-2010).

Key Performance Indicators are reported on during these strategy meetings which have been of real benefit in improving the co-ordination and management of activities in this area.

3. Progress with Structural Changes

These changes can be set out as changes to Youth Service provision and the transfer of provision to the Participation and Inclusion Branch.

3.1 Youth Service Reconfiguration

Cabinet received a report, "Re-configuration of Youth Services Provision" (November 2009) setting out the steps to be taken to improve universal youth provision by the commissioning for four hubs.

The hubs identified to be open for extended hours were :-

Birkenhead	Shaftsbury Youth Club
Wallasey	Wallasey Fire Station
South Wirral	Eastham Youth Club
West Wirral	West Kirby Youth Club

Nine smaller clubs open for three nights were identified as :-

Cavendish Youth Club
Viking Youth Club
Charing Cross Youth Club
Moreton Youth Club
Leasowe Youth Club
St Mary's Youth Club
Bebington Youth Club
Fender Youth Club
Greasby Youth Club

- 3.2 The intention was for the hubs to offer a broad menu, providing support, information and access to development opportunities. The smaller clubs would link into the Hubs to ensure a co-ordinated offer in each district.

Wirral will have four large, modern facilities (Hubs) in each CYPD district. The Hubs will offer young people a broad menu, providing support, information and access to

developmental opportunities. The four Hubs will have at the centre of their operation an offer which is consistent in terms of the youth work curriculum.

Subject to consultation with young people the programme on offer could be as follows:-

- Youth Arts
- Duke of Edinburgh's Award
- Health and wellbeing (Health Promoting Youth Units and Health Clinics)
- Advice and guidance with support for young people in the areas of counselling, substance misuse and homelessness.

- 3.3 Each Hub will be staffed by a full-time worker and there will be an increase in part-time hours to ensure longer opening hours. The Hubs will be launched in March 2010 opening nights will include Friday and Saturday nights.

In addition to changes in the youth club provision the Borough wide Outreach Team will be re-organised and aligned with the four districts. This will provide a more robust structure which will enable the outreach team to more effectively engage with the more vulnerable young people and the expanding youth crime agenda.

The proposals for the re-organisation of centres and outreach will release some resources for the enhancement of the successful Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. This will enable there to be equal access to support across all four districts.

The proposed changes have provided an opportunity to re-configure the youth service to put it on a more secure operation base. They also provided the driver for the necessary change which will provide a more modern and appropriate service to Wirral's young people.

Alongside the physical modifications to premises detailed discussions are taking place with staff and their unions in order to successfully relocate staff to new bases. It is anticipated that this process will be completed in March.

In addition to the four hubs the LA was approached by Rampworx for support in opening a Skateboarding / BMX Centre. Provisional agreement has been given to leasing a plot of land in Bidston. Currently Rampworx are involved in preliminary work to identify funding for this exciting project.

3.4 Transfer of Provision to the Participation and Inclusion Branch

- 3.4.1 The report to Cabinet on 15th October 2009 recommended a number of structural changes to the Children and Young People's Department and the Department for Regeneration. Specifically it was agreed that the Youth Offending Service be moved to the Participation and Inclusion Branch and the Wirral Anti-Social Behaviour Team and Sports Development Unit be transferred from the Regeneration Department to the Children and Young People's Department. The Youth Offending Service and Anti-Social Behaviour team moved in January 2010.

In addition it was agreed that a Strategic Service Manager for IYSS be appointed. This Manager will be responsible for the strategic lead on developing youth support including the Youth Service Anti-Social Behaviour Team, the Connexions contract and other targeted and universal services in order to ensure more coherent service for young people. Both of these sets of developments have been progressed.

In addition to the key recommendations a number of other recommendations have been responded to in the service plans of the various teams linked into developing this agenda.

3.5 **Response to Recommendations**

In addition to progress with the main recommendations developments have taken place in other areas. These have included :

- District Activity Fund – which has commissioned activities for young people across the four Wirral districts, particularly on a Friday and Saturday evening.
- Youth Opportunities Fund/Youth Capital Fund – in addition to providing a myriad of additional activities for young people, the funds have enabled the refurbishment of Wallasey Fire Station, enhancement of the three other Hubs and four Youth Service Kontaktabuses
- Youth Crime Action Plan – funding from this source has enhanced three street work teams working in anti-social behaviour hot spot areas, in addition to additional activity to tackle youth related crime and disorder.
- Young People's Alcohol Intervention Programme (YPAIP) - targeted at young people stopped and or arrested for alcohol related behaviour, this involves the offer of alcohol interventions with both parents and young people. This work is delivered in partnership with Merseyside Police and is seen as an effective way of preventing young people spiraling into the criminal justice system. In addition to the YPAIP a referral pathway is in place with Arrowe Park Children's Emergency Department and adult Accident and Emergency to provide interventions for young people and parents to prevent repeat presentations to the hospital.
- Challenge and Support – This is a multi-agency process for intervening with young people engaged in, or at risk of engaging in, anti-social behaviour. It is focused upon early intervention but includes young people involved in all levels of anti-social behaviour and each young person referred is dealt with in terms of challenge (enforcement to control their behaviour) and support (and intervention to tackle the underlying causes of their behaviour). Wirral is one of fifty-two areas nationally to operate a Challenge & Support Project which was launched in September 2008 through additional funding from the Youth Taskforce (Department for Children, Schools & Families). This funding enabled existing processes for dealing with young people to be made more robust and increase capacity.

4. **Equality Impact Implications/Health Impact Assessment**

Equality impact assessments have been completed and actions identified will be monitored as part of the action plan.

5. **Financial Implications**

Costs in the order of £70,000 including specific security measures have been incurred in modifications to the Solar Campus. This has been funded from the Children & Young People's Capital Programme. The move has freed up premises previously used by the Anti-Social Behaviour Team.

6. Staffing Implications

Those staff involved in the moves set out have been consulted with and no issues have resulted.

7. Community Safety Implications

The transfer of services to the CYPD will enhance the coordination of services.

8. Local Agenda 21, Planning, Anti-poverty Implications

None directly out of this report.

9. Social Inclusion Implications

The developments set out in this report have a direct impact on vulnerable groups.

10. Local Member Support Implications

Children and Young People who receive these services reside in all parts of the Borough.

11. Background Papers

- Youth Outreach Scrutiny Review – October 2008 (11 November 2008 Children's Services and Lifelong Learning Overview & Scrutiny Committee)
- Youth Hub Commissioning Report - Cabinet 24 September 2009

12. Conclusion

- 12.1 In conclusion, the Youth Outreach Review proved to be an important catalyst for change. The majority of the recommendations have been responded to through improved partnership working and through changes to service delivery through Hubs, and Satellites and other structural changes to the Department. Other recommendations have been considered as part of team plans and will be responded to over longer time periods.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That

- (1) The progress with coordinating and partnership working is noted alongside structural changes which include the development of Youth Hubs and the transfer of the Anti-Social Behaviour Team and Youth Offending Service to the Participation and Inclusion Branch.

Howard Cooper
Director of Children's Services