

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report has been requested by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and looks at the current work of the Youth Service in the light of recent positive developments and investigates the impact of any potential reduction in funding from specific grants. The Council's deployment of General Fund is currently the subject of widespread public consultation. Members are asked to note this report.

1. YOUTH SERVICE – RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

- 1.1. The Youth Service has recently undergone a reconfiguration exercise. The reconfiguration has enabled the Service to align its youth club and outreach provision with the Children & Young People's Department (CYPD) four districts.
- 1.2. The new district model centres on the creation of four Youth Hubs, one in each of the four CYPD districts of South Wirral, West Wirral, Wallasey and Birkenhead. The Youth Service was commissioned by the CYPD to operate three of the Youth Hubs and Shaftesbury Youth Club to operate the fourth. The Youth Hubs open a minimum of five evenings per week, with enhanced staffing levels. The Youth Hubs offer a wide range of activities including, Duke of Edinburgh's Award, Youth Arts, sports and information, advice and guidance. The four Youth Hubs launched in June/July 2010.
- 1.3. Each district also operates a number of smaller, locality based Youth Clubs which are open on average three evenings per week.
- 1.4. The Youth Service makes provision through both statutory and voluntary organisations. Of the four youth hubs and eleven youth clubs, five buildings are owned by the voluntary, community and faith sector. Here the clubs operate through staff employed by the Service with the Service providing an annual rental for hosting the club.
- 1.5. Youth Outreach has been reconfigured to a district model. Each district has a dedicated outreach team, with the exception of Wallasey and Birkenhead who both have an additional team, part-financed through external funding.
- 1.6. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme has also been enhanced to enable the provision of the Award in all four districts.
- 1.7. The Wirral Youth Theatre/Youth Arts and Response have been unaffected by the reconfiguration. However, Wirral Youth Theatre has recently relocated to the site of the former Gilbrook Primary School. Investment from the capital allocation has enabled this relocation. It is envisaged that in the future the building will be maximised as a focal point for wider youth arts activities.
- 1.8. Recently discussions have taken place with Onside, who developed the Bolton Lads and Girls Club model and who are developing similar provision in North West areas such as Warrington, Wigan and Cumbria. In October elected members had the opportunity to visit Bolton Lads and Girls Club and to discuss the model with key colleagues. A group has been formed to investigate the potential for developing a similar model in Birkenhead involving the voluntary, community, faith and private sectors.

- 1.9. The reconfigured structure of youth clubs, youth hubs and youth outreach can be seen in the table below. Those marked with an asterisk are voluntary, community and faith sector units.

District	Youth Hub	Youth Clubs	Youth Outreach Teams
Birkenhead	Birkenhead Youth Hub* (Shaftesbury Youth Club)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Viking Youth Club* • Callister Youth Club • Cavendish Youth Club* • Charing Cross Youth Club* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North Birkenhead Outreach Team • South Birkenhead Outreach Team (part external funded)
Wallasey	Wallasey Youth Hub (Wallasey Fire Station)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St Mary's College Youth Club • Leasowe Youth Club • Moreton Youth Club • Belvidere Youth Club* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North/West Wallasey Outreach Team • South/East Wallasey Outreach Team (part external funded)
South Wirral	South Wirral Youth Hub (Eastham Youth Club)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bebington Youth Club 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South Wirral Outreach Team
West Wirral	West Wirral Youth Hub (West Kirby Youth Club)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greasby Youth Club • Fender Youth Club 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • West Wirral Outreach Team

2. RELIANCE ON FUNDING FROM SPECIFIC GRANTS

- 2.1. The 2010/11 core budget for the Youth Service is £2,500,800, in addition to this, this year the Service has in excess of £1,000,000 external income. A substantial amount of this income is through specific grants such as the Youth Opportunity Fund.
- 2.2. The table at Appendix 1 outlines the Youth Service's major specific grants (i.e. those above £15,000) for the 2010/11 financial year. The table also gives a brief description of each grant and examines the impact of a potential reduction or cessation of that funding.

3. GENERAL FUNDING POSITION

- 3.1. As a direct result of the reconfiguration exercise the Youth Service realised efficiency savings to its core budget of £150,000 in 2009/10. In addition, through loss of full-time posts, the Service has further reduced its core budget by some £100,000 over the past two financial years.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 This report examines the potential implications of financial reductions within the Youth Service.

5. STAFFING IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Potential funding reductions would have implications to those staff that are on fixed term and permanent contracts.

6. EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are none contained in this report.

7. COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Potential reductions in youth provision could lead to increased anti-social behaviour in young people.

8. LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

8.1 There are none contained within this report.

9. PLANNING IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There are none contained within this report.

10. ANTI-POVERTY IMPLICATIONS

10.1 Youth work enables young people to achieve accredited outcomes and learn social skills thus enabling them to have better life opportunities and achieve their full potential. Potential reductions in funding would lessen these opportunities.

11. SOCIAL INCLUSION IMPLICATIONS

11.1 Youth work enables young people to have opportunities to be included in society and local democratic processes. Potential reductions in funding would lessen these opportunities.

12. LOCAL MEMBER SUPPORT IMPLICATIONS

12.1 This report affects all wards.

13. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- Cabinet - 27 November 2008. *Reconfigure Action of Youth Service Provision.*
- Cabinet – 23 April 2009. *Commissioning Criteria for universal, open access youth support services.*
- Children and Young People’s Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 16 March 2010. *Youth outreach scrutiny review update.*

RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are asked to note the report.

Howard Cooper
Director of Children’s Services

IMPACT OF ANY POTENTIAL REDUCTION IN FUNDING FROM SPECIFIC GRANTS

Project	2010/11 Funding Details	Project Description	Impact of potential reduction in grant
Youth Opportunity Fund & Youth Capital Fund	£424,000 & £91,050 Via: Dept for Education Current allocation expires 31/3/11	These funds have been available since 2006 to increase positive activities for young people aged 13-19. Funds are allocated by a young people's grant panel, applicants and beneficiaries also have to be aged 13-19 years. To date these funds have supported over 30 projects in both the voluntary and statutory youth sectors. Each year an average of 12,200 young people have been beneficiaries of these funds. Support costs incorporated in this fund have enabled a full-time youth worker to be employed on a fixed term contract which expires on 31/3/11.	Young people will have fewer opportunities to bid for funding to increase the range of positive activities available to them. The number of opportunities available to young people will be reduced. There are few controls to reduce the impact as this is additional funding that has contributed to the enhancement of the provision of positive activities over the past 4 years. There are still opportunities for young people's involvement in local decision making via Area Youth Forum Awards and You Decide.
Health Services in Schools	£145,000 Via: NHS Wirral Current contract expires 31/3/13	The service provides Health Clinics in all Wirral secondary schools in partnership with the School Nursing Service. 3 full-time youth workers and 1 part-time youth worker are employed on fixed term contract which expire on 31/3/11. The service is managed via the Youth Service's Response agency.	Young people would not have access to youth workers within the school health clinic settings for support. The risk to the delivery of this contract will be to the staff who have time limited funded contracts. The contract has been commissioned jointly with the School Nursing Service. Therefore, a risk to the youth work element could place the whole contract in jeopardy.
District Activity Fund	£141,000 Via: Dept for Education Contract expires 31/3/11	The Youth Service and partners have been commissioned until March 2011 to deliver a number of additional activities in each of the 4 CYPD districts. Partners include other statutory and voluntary organisation, e.g. Sports Development and Grange Baptist Church. The funding has enabled over 20 projects to take place across Wirral, particularly on a Friday and Saturday evening, e.g. talent nights, outdoor activities. This year to date over 700 young people have taken part in these activities.	Young people will have fewer opportunities to take part in a range of additional positive activities within voluntary and statutory youth provision. The number of opportunities available to young people on a Friday and Saturday evening will be reduced. There are few controls to reduce the impact as this is additional funding that has contributed to the enhancement of the provision of positive activities since Autumn 2009.
Stop Gap	£87,000 Via: Council's General Fund	The service provides intensive support to homeless young people and provides suitable and appropriate accommodation for those who are vulnerable and at risk. The service also provides	Young people with higher levels of vulnerability would be less able to access some housing providers, which in turn would lead to an increase in youth homelessness for those young people with

	Funding expires 31/3/11	support for families in crisis, including respite accommodation and/or mediation with the family to enable the young person to remain at home. 2 full-time workers are employed on fixed term contracts which expire on 31/3/11. Since April the project has prevented 33 of the most vulnerable 16 and 17 year olds from across Wirral becoming homeless. The service is located at and managed by the Youth Service's Response agency.	higher levels of need. If the project were to cease or be reduced, this could result in an increase to the Social Care section's budget as many of these cases are costly.
Specialist (Tier 3) Substance Misuse Team	£78,000 Via: DAAT (via ABG & NHS Wirral) Current contract expires 31/3/11	The specialist substance misuse team provide drug and alcohol support to the higher risk group of young people. The team links with other relevant organisations, including CAHMS. Referrals are received from Response T2 workers and many other organisations including Social Care, Schools, Hospitals etc. Last year 155 young people presented with chaotic substance misuse. 105 of who commenced treatment successfully, which lessened the risk and impact on the wider community. 2 fulltime youth workers are employed on fixed term contracts. The service is located at and managed by the Youth Service's Response agency.	This is the only specialist drug and alcohol support service for young people on Wirral, which can be accessed by self referral. If the project were to cease or be reduced, this would result in an increased demand to specialist services. As result a number of young people may not have their needs met.
Youth Crime Action Plan – Street Work Teams	£50,000 Via: Dept for Education Current funding expires 31/3/11	This funding is for the enhancement of 2 outreach teams working in the Seacombe/South Wallasey and Rock Ferry/South Birkenhead areas. The teams target hot spot areas of anti-social behaviour particularly on a Friday and Saturday evening. Last year between them the teams contacted 4,861 young people. Funding has enabled two part-time work youth posts to be enhanced to full-time until 31/3/11.	Young people will have fewer opportunities to engage in positive diversionary activities organised by youth workers in their locality. If the project were to cease or be reduced, this could result in an increase in reported incidence of anti-social behaviour in these localities.
Young People's Alcohol Intervention Project	£33,000 Via: NHS Wirral Pending signing, the current contract will expire on 31/3/13	The service is a source of referrals for those young people who have been arrested or stopped by the police for an alcohol related issue or offense. Alcohol Interventions take place with family members and young people in an attempt to prevent repeat arrests and a reduction in alcohol consumption. The service has provided 452 interventions to young people who had been arrested. So far, of those involved with the project, only 12 have been re-arrested. A full-time youth worker is employed on a fixed term contract which	This is the only post of its kind and is unique in its partnership work with the police and YOS. The loss or reduction of this work would weaken the holistic pathway of care for young people. In addition, there would be an increased risk of young people entering into the criminal justice system and having alcohol related health conditions.

		expires on 31/3/11. The worker operates in partnership with Merseyside Police and the Youth Offending Service (YOS). The service is located at and managed by the Youth Service's Response agency.	
Tier 2 Substance Misuse Team	<p>£31,000</p> <p>Via: DAAT (via ABG & NHS Wirral)</p> <p>Current contract expires 31/3/11</p>	The funding contributes towards supporting the substance misuse outreach team. The team provides essential drug and alcohol services to those young people who are harder-to-reach and who are considered a hidden cohort of young people. Targeted at those who have significant substance misuse issues on streets. The service also delivers workshops in schools, colleges, training agencies etc. Last year the team provided 5,501 young people with credible drug and alcohol information. The team are also a main referral source for the specialist services within Response. The team consists of 2 full-time staff and 3 part time staff. The service is located at and managed by the Youth Service's Response agency.	If contributory funding was reduced the team would have to reduce staff levels, targets and the breadth of operations, including partnership work. This would result in an increase of young people not assessing the services they need as well as creating potential referral problems to other services. Preventative work would also be reduced, which in effect would create a barrier to young people's learning on how to keep themselves safe, healthy and where to go for help and support.
Alcohol Worker	<p>£31,000</p> <p>Via: DAAT (via ABG & NHS Wirral)</p> <p>Current contract expires 31/3/11</p>	The funding provides a designated alcohol specific post which delivers targeted intervention to young people who abuse alcohol. The worker takes referrals from across Wirral including schools, parents, police and young people themselves. The worker is also placed at Arrowe Park Hospital Accident and Emergency Department (A&E) where they deliver 'on the spot' alcohol interventions to parents who are collecting their intoxicated child and offer on going support. Last year the service provided 249 interventions to young people who were intoxicated. The service is located at and managed by the Youth Service's Response agency.	<p>This post is innovative in its delivery of alcohol services to young people at risk by using a variety of approaches and settings where the most young people 'turn up drunk '. The partnership work with both A&E and others, including social care, enables young people to have direct links and referral pathways into alcohol services.</p> <p>The loss of this work would prevent a holistic pathway of care and referrals for young people at risk. It may also increase alcohol related admissions into Arrowe Park Hospital. Preventative work is integral to the post and would likely to be reduced. This would create a barrier to young people's learning on how to keep themselves safe, healthy and where to go for help and support.</p>