

## Youth Service Consultation 2017

### Summary of responses to Consultation

#### 1. Introduction

- 1.1 A number of opportunities for consultation have been provided in relation to budget proposals concerning youth services.
- 1.2 Formal consultation has particularly focused on users of the service and the target age range for the service via an online consultation portal aimed at under 24s. There were additional opportunities for consultation via face to face involvement facilitated by youth groups so as to reach more vulnerable young people. A vehicle for open responses via e mail was provided to stakeholders aged over 24. This paper sets out the results, scope and methodology of the consultation.

#### 2. Consultation process and design

- 2.1 The formal consultation began on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2017, and ran until 12<sup>th</sup> February. The consultation did not begin until that date so as to ensure that the consultation could be on the basis of up to date information concerning the likely budget proposals and their impact, and so as to provide the opportunity to first consult with youth workers as to the best way for the consultation to have the most effective reach to young people potentially affected by the proposals.
- 2.2 The consultation included nine questions all of which were designed by Senior Youth Workers currently working with Young People in Youth Advocacy and with Vulnerable Young People across the city. Young people also contributed to the design and format of the questions, and were consulted on how the wording should be adjusted to be appropriate to the audience
- 2.3 The consultation took the following forms:
- Publishing a formal consultation paper with key questions to consider
  - Launch of online consultation portal
  - Focus groups which were led by a mixture of council and non-council funded services and included the most vulnerable young people that access Youth Services
  - Council press release promoting consultation
  - Social media notifications
  - Internal council communications

- Creating a separate email address for over 24 year olds to offer open responses
- 2.4 Feedback was invited:
- Via the council's consultation portal
  - Via email
  - In person at young people sessions, from which feedback in writing was produced to reflect the views expressed
  - In writing
- 2.5 In addition the proposals have been subject to 15 public questions at council meetings, a paper at Policy, Resources & Growth Committee on 9 February 2017, and a debate of a petition presented to councillors at full council.
- 2.6 All consultation responses have been collated and been shared with all councillors ahead of budget council. 3 documents have been shared;
- Online portal responses in full
  - Email responses to inbox in full
  - Summary paper feeding back from the work completed in the focus groups with young people
- 2.7 Throughout the consultation period we reviewed the number and range of responses in order to make sure that all groups were represented in responses and to inform any further work to make sure all stakeholders were aware of the consultation process.

### **3. The basis of the consultation**

- 3.1 The consultation was on the basis of proposed cuts described on the front page of the consultation portal, as follows:

#### **Background to Budget Proposals;**

The Council Budget savings for 2017/18 include a proposal to make significant cuts to the Youth Service Budget. This is one of the budgets which funds services for young people in the city. The proposal is for a significant reduction of £800,000 on a net budget that is currently just over £1m, which would lead to the overall budget being just over £200,000.

The reduced budget will need to pay for a service that the Council must provide under the law - the advocacy services to all looked after children in the care of the council. (Described as a statutory service).

The in-house services that are likely to be cut are targeted youth work including the youth information bus; 1-1 and group work around resilience on issues such as self-esteem, anger management and risk taking; Duke of

Edinburgh for those outside mainstream school and those young people with SEND; and the Youth Arts Award.

The council currently provides funds to a number of organisations which provide youth work under the Youth Services budget. Once Budget Council has made a final decision the current provision will need to be significantly re-designed, and if the proposed cut to the budget is agreed it is unlikely that the council will be able to continue to fund any of the youth work provided by organisations listed below. Some of those services may not be able to continue in their current form or at all unless they can find alternative sources of funding. The cuts will affect the work of community based organisations and there will be a reduction in the delivery offered by the Crew Club, the Deans Youth Project, Brighton Youth Centre, the Turner Community Project, the Trust for Developing Communities, the Hangleton and Knoll Project, the YMCA and the Young People's Centre.

Other services for young people that the council will continue to provide or support include the Extended Adolescent service, the Youth Offending Service (YOS), RU-OK?, the social work Adolescent Pod, the Youth Employability Service (YES), Cherish, Extratime Ltd and Brighton and Hove Music & Arts (BHMA).

Families, Children & Learning Directorate of Brighton & Hove City Council have requested that a consultation takes place with young people across the city for their views on how these proposals may affect them. The results will be shared with the councillors who will be making the decision on the budget. This is your opportunity to give them your views.

- 3.2 **Update;** during the consultation period the budget proposals have changed and the figures presented to Budget Council will be a reduction of around £700,000 to leave an overall budget of just over £300,000.

#### **4. Process for analysing responses**

- 4.1 To analyse results representatives from the Youth Collective and the council's in-house team joined officers to review the feedback from the consultation using an agreed framework to identify themes and record significant issues for further consideration.
- 4.2 The information provided as part of this report is both statistical and from comments made by participants in the engagement period. From initial discussions with stakeholder groups it was clear that there was more interest in the comments than the statistical data. The report has been adjusted to demonstrate the importance of the comments.

#### **5. Feedback submitted on the consultation proposals**

- 5.1 Young people were encouraged to participate via the council's online portal but were also able to respond via email.

- 5.2 **1056** responses were submitted via the online portal and the quantitative data in this report reflects these responses.
- 5.3 In addition there were 130 paper copies of consultation responses and these have been entered onto the portal by council officers so that all consultation responses have been collated in one place.
- 5.4 From initial feedback it was clear that parents, residents and other stakeholders wanted to respond to Youth Service budget proposals and for that reason a separate email address was created to allow for open responses. The email address was then circulated to voluntary sector partners and in house youth teams as well as being added as an update to the online portal.
- 5.5 In all 15 responses were received via the e mail address. These open responses have been included in papers presented to budget council.
- 5.6 Seven focus groups were completed throughout January/February 2017 with young people taking part from the following youth groups:
- AHA! Youth Group
  - Allsorts Youth Project
  - Duke of Edinburgh's Award
  - Hangleton & Knoll Project
  - Hove Park Detached
  - Turner Detached
  - Youth Council
- 5.7 A total of 76 young people aged 11-24 years took part in the focus groups. The majority of young people could be described as vulnerable, with the following characteristics recorded:
- Special Educational Needs (SEN)
  - Homelessness
  - Domestic violence at home
  - Black and Minority Ethnicity
  - Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and Intersex (LGBTQI)
  - Non-school attendance
  - Known to Social Care
  - Bullied at school

5.8 A summary of the themes identified in the focus groups;

Themes:

<p><b>Coming to (or using) this place makes my life better</b></p>	<p><b>I learn new things by coming here and talking to youth workers</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Employability – improving CV</li> <li>➤ Feeling safe</li> <li>➤ Opportunities to do new activities</li> <li>➤ Non-judgmental</li> <li>➤ Builds self-confidence</li> <li>➤ Get information, advice and guidance</li> <li>➤ Meeting new people and making friends</li> <li>➤ Fun</li> <li>➤ Alcohol-free space – particularly mentioned by LGBTQI young people</li> <li>➤ Can talk to adults (youth workers) about problems</li> <li>➤ Workers are friendly, nice and kind</li> <li>➤ Can ask youth workers questions that wouldn't be able to ask teachers or parents</li> <li>➤ Voluntary to go</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Health issues, especially mental health</li> <li>➤ Politics and public speaking</li> <li>➤ New skills – cooking and art</li> <li>➤ Signposting to other support</li> <li>➤ Knowledge of specific issues, especially mentioned by LGBTQI young people</li> <li>➤ Internet safety</li> <li>➤ First aid</li> </ul>
<p><b>I feel this is a safe and comfortable place to be</b></p>	<p><b>Sometimes I don't feel safe when I'm out</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Non-judgmental and not intimidating</li> <li>➤ No alcohol</li> <li>➤ The group (young people and youth workers) is safe – can talk openly</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Depends on location and time</li> <li>➤ Lots of street harassment</li> <li>➤ Tran young people feel like they 'stick out' all of the time</li> <li>➤ Public transport can be daunting</li> </ul>
<p><b>If I didn't have youth workers, there are other people/places I would go to</b></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Teachers are often busy and discussions won't be confidential</li> <li>➤ Other workers wouldn't be as impartial or effective</li> <li>➤ Online groups are supportive but not as good as real life</li> <li>➤ Youth services are well connected to other groups</li> <li>➤ There isn't anywhere else to meet other young people in a safe space (this was particularly important for LGBTQI young people)</li> </ul>	

5.8.1 A more detailed summary of the focus groups has been shared with councillors ahead of Budget Council.

### 5.9 Email inbox

The email inbox allowed open responses for anyone affected by budget proposals and as such this makes it difficult to summarise. There were some common themes identified and these include:

- Concerns on the wider damage of proposals and increased pressure/strain on other services
- The loss of the openness that the youth service offers compared with other more targeted services
- Giving young people somewhere to go and something to do that diverts them away from negative activities
- Positive examples of what the youth service has done for their children or children they know

5.9.1 All emails have been shared with councillors ahead of Budget Council.

6. Consultation Portal Data – Questions

6.1 Question 1

Have you used any of the following youth services in the last 12 months?

- Youth centres/clubs
- Youth Bus or Detached Youth Workers
- 1:1 support from a Youth Worker
- Group work run by Youth Workers, this could be in school or in a youth centre
- Drop in sessions for advice and information
- Youth advocacy
- Youth Voice groups for example the Youth Council or other youth forums
- None of the above

If any respondents answered none of the above they were directly taken to question 7 and did not answer question 2-6 which were related to the services on offer

6.1.1 Question 1 Results

Have you used any of the following youth services in the last 12 months?				
		Frequency	Percentage	Valid Percentage
Valid	Yes	471	44.6	45.9
	No	555	52.6	54.1
	Total	1026	97.2	100.0
Missing	No response	30	2.8	
Total		1056	100.0	

Q1. Which of the youth services have you used in the last 12 months			
		Responses	Percentage of respondents
Q1 <sup>a</sup>	Youth centres/clubs	359	76.2%
	Youth Bus or Detached Youth Workers	111	23.6%
	1:1 support from a Youth Worker	172	36.5%
	Group work run by Youth Workers, this could be in school or in a youth centre	208	44.2%
	Drop in sessions for advice and information	185	39.3%
	Youth advocacy	41	8.7%
	Youth Voice groups for example the Youth Council or other youth forums	70	14.9%
Total		1146	243.3%

*\* Respondents used more than one service*

**6.2 Question 2**

Was the service(s) you used run by:

- The Council
- The voluntary sector (charities and community groups)
- Don't Know

**6.2.1 Question 2 Results**

Q2. Was the service(s) you used run by...			
		Responses	Percentage of respondents
Q2 <sup>a</sup>	The council	171	37.8%
	The voluntary sector	220	48.7%
	Don't know	147	32.5%
Total		538	119.0%

**6.3 Question 3**

Why did you choose the service?

Please tick all that apply:

- Location
- Confidentiality
- Trusted adult to talk to outside school or family
- Continuity
- To get support
- It was fun
- Recommended by someone else
- It was free
- Activities/ facilities provided
- Because I felt safe there
- I liked the workers
- Because I wanted to go
- Other please give details.....

6.3.1 Question 3 results

Why did you choose the service(s)?			
		Responses	Percentage of Cases
		N	
Q3 <sup>a</sup>	It was fun	284	62.7%
	Because I wanted to go	238	52.5%
	Activities/ facilities provided	231	51.0%
	Because I felt safe there	229	50.6%
	It was free	228	50.3%
	I liked the workers	225	49.7%
	To get support	209	46.1%
	Location	204	45.0%
	Trusted adult to talk to outside school or family	185	40.8%
	Recommended by someone else	178	39.3%
	Confidentiality	153	33.8%
	Continuity	81	17.9%
	Other	43	9.5%
Total		2488	549.2%

\* Young people ticked more than box

6.4 Question 4

If you have used any of the above services what have they helped you with?

Please tick all that apply:

- Confidence, self esteem
- Relationships
- Sexuality/identity
- Sexual health
- C-Card/Condoms
- Drugs or alcohol
- Staying safe
- Anger management
- Mental or emotional health
- School
- Bullying
- Advice and information
- Having someone to talk to about your worries
- Opportunities/Activities
- Life skills/ Accreditation
- employment skills/being job ready
- Other please give details.....

## 6.4.1 Question 4 results

What have the youth service(s) that you have used helped you with?			
		Responses	Percent of respondents
Q4 <sup>a</sup>	Confidence, self esteem	274	61.4%
	Opportunities/Activities	210	47.1%
	Mental or emotional health	204	45.7%
	Advice and information	199	44.6%
	Having someone to talk to about your worries	198	44.4%
	Staying safe	183	41.0%
	C-Card/Condoms	153	34.3%
	Life skills/ Accreditation	151	33.9%
	Relationships	138	30.9%
	Sexual health	135	30.3%
	School	130	29.1%
	Sexuality/identity	109	24.4%
	Bullying	91	20.4%
	Drugs or alcohol	89	20.0%
	Employment skills/being job ready	87	19.5%
	Anger management	64	14.3%
Other, please give details below	21	4.7%	
Total		2436	546.2%

## 6.5 Question 5

If the Youth Services currently available were not there where else could you go? Please list below

### 6.5.1 Question 5 results

There were 187 different responses to this question, below are the list of responses that were given by more than one person

If the Youth Services currently available were not there where else could you go?	
	Response
Don't know / not sure	68
There isn't anywhere else / no where	63
school	6
Home	5
I wouldn't be able to go anywhere	5
I'm not really sure	4
GP	3
The park	3
Another club or home.	2
Family	2
Home/Tarner park	2
I would not have anywhere else to go	2
Nothing.	2
school counsellors	2

### 6.6 Question 6a

Do you get other support from any of the following?

Please tick all that apply:

- Social worker
- CAMHS worker
- Counsellor
- School nurse
- GP
- School Mentor or other person you go to in school
- WISE
- RISE
- Ru-ok
- Outreach/ befrienders
- Other – please give details

## 6.6.1 Question 6a results

Do you get other support from any of the following?			
		Responses	Percent of respondents
Q6a <sup>a</sup>	None of the above	134	33.8%
	Counsellor	104	26.3%
	GP	97	24.5%
	School Mentor or other person you go to in school	89	22.5%
	CAMHS worker	78	19.7%
	Social worker	53	13.4%
	School nurse	40	10.1%
	Other	40	10.1%
	Ru-ok	19	4.8%
	Outreach / befrienders	9	2.3%
	WISE	4	1.0%
	RISE	4	1.0%
Total		671	169.4%

## 6.7 Question 6b

If you answered yes to Question 5 do you think that these services would be able to help you with the same things that the youth services do?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

## 6.7.1 Question 6b results

Q6b. Do you think that these services would be able to help you with the same things that the youth services do?				
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Yes	44	9.3	16.1
	No	152	32.3	55.5
	Don't know	78	16.6	28.5
	Total	274	58.2	100.0
Missing	No response	197	41.8	
Total		471	100.0	

## 6.8 Question 7 including summary

If Youth Services across the City are cut, do you believe this will affect you? YES/NO
<p>There were a total of 269 responses to this question, 246 of these had used youth services in the last 12 months 23 had not used services for 12 months.</p> <p>There were common themes in the responses and these included;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Youth services offered a safe space <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The actual buildings/settings as a safe place to go</li> <li>○ For a safe place to talk to someone about anything</li> <li>○ Treated everyone confidentially</li> <li>○ Kept them out of trouble</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Youth services offered somewhere to go and respondents felt that there were few other options or that they didn't know about them</li> <li>• That talking to youth workers was different when compared to other services for young people <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ They had someone that they could relate to</li> <li>○ Easier to approach than some other professionals</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Individuals gained a lot of confidence from the environment</li> <li>• Respondents got a lot of advice from Youth services about a wide variety of things and nothing was off limits</li> <li>• Youth services were very constructive towards respondents mental health</li> </ul>
Comments
<p>"I'll be stuck at home and I won't see anyone ever. I won't be somewhere I feel ok. I won't get any support"</p> <p>"It's hard to say how much it affects me until the services are actually gone but the support I've had from workers at Brighton Youth Centre and on the Youth Bus has been really important to me."</p> <p>"I am a young carer. I care for my mother which can be really difficult at times. I need the support in order to maintain steady mental health."</p> <p>"Then we have somebody to talk to who we don't feel such a barrier with . People who work as Doctors , Teachers and RUOK workers are much more difficult to speak too than youth workers."</p> <p>"Wouldn't have the same support, but I'd still manage. I am unsure about other people though, of course."</p> <p>"I wouldn't be able to speak to someone outside of my family about my worries problems and many more issues."</p> <p>"I would worry the youth service wouldn't have enough funds to keep activities going. I think youth services offer safe, supportive places for groups of people to interact."</p>

“I will have no one I feel safe talking to about serious issues in my personal life.”

“The cuts mean that some of the Services are lost which means a vital source of help will be lost and people who are suffering will suffer even more.”

“My brother is part of the YMCA group right here, since he's been volunteering there it's really helped him with his mental health condition and that has really helped us as a family to deal better in supporting, understanding and dealing with it”

If Youth Services across the City are cut, do you believe this will affect your friends? YES/NO

There were a total of 282 responses to this question, 200 of these had used youth services in the last 12 months 82 had not used services for 12 months.

There were common themes in the responses and these included;

- Youth services were a positive space for to reinforce social behaviour for young people
- Offered an alternative to groups getting into trouble specifically mentioned were vandalism, fights, drugs, alcohol, sexual health
- Youth services offered a preventative service
- Improved group mental health
- Youth services helped create a good social network that was different from school or other interests
- There was no judgement of the mix of ages or different groups

Nearly all of the responses were complimentary to the impacts on the individual and most pointed to the same themes identified in that section

Comments

“I feel as though my friends' lives would be undoubtedly darker and more difficult without the support of the youth services they utilise.”

“I feel lucky to have grown up in Brighton while the services have existed and I think all the young people who've used the services would probably say the same. Some of my friends have used different services as well and it's scary to think what might have happened without that help.”

“I have friends that have had problems in their lives that the youth services have helped with a huge amount. With the youth service gone other people may not have the same help.”

“I made nearly all of my friends through youth services. They, like me, struggled to socialise at school/college/uni. Having a space where the focus is on something else i.e. sports or religion, took the spotlight off them and made them feel more comfortable approaching people they didn't know and starting

a conversation.”

“My comrades depend on the youth services provided by the council as a means of support. They have developed close relationships with the workers, and if the service was gone then they wouldn't know where to go nor feel comfortable going.”

“Less able to support each other, as receive less support themselves, and more easily overwhelmed by own problems. Could lead to some of them having significant deterioration in mental health”

“The cuts will affect my friends and close ones in the same ways as mentioned above in the section asking 'How will the cuts affect you?'. ”

**If Youth Services across the City are cut, do you believe this will affect your community? YES/NO**

There were a total of 364 responses to this question, 210 of these had used youth services in the last 12 months 153 had not used services for 12 months.

There were common themes in the responses and these included;

- There were concerns over what alternatives young people would do;
  - Increase in crime
  - Increase in fights
- Concern that without the safe place to go young people would have a negative impact on the community
- There were a lot of comments about poor mental health in young people currently and reducing the support on offer to them would make this worse
- That it would disadvantage the people that need services the most

Nearly all of the responses were complimentary to the impacts on the individual/friends and most pointed to the same themes identified in that section

**Comments**

“As a result, young people will have less to do with their time, leaving them to roam the streets or even get themselves into trouble.”

“Not everybody has a safe space to go to seek advice and issues, often speaking to somebody at your place of study isn't that easy and can put you in a situation where others become aware you are seeking help.”

“Brighton Youth Centre is a great community space for young people in my area. The Youth Bus is often at community events around here as well and it helps people know what kind of support they can get if they need it. Both of those and the other services would be a huge loss to my local community.”

“If others do not get the support they need they may turn to less healthy forms of dealing with situations”

“The cuts will affect my community by stripping them of what we would call 'a community' in a fixed environment with free social aspects and services which are in effect, offered to us with open arms.”

“Children and youths from lower income families and those who have parents or carers that may not be able to support them will go without, and potential suffer.”

“The knock on effect of the closure or reduction in youth services needs to be more actively considered. You are likely to see more groups of young people hanging around on street corners, and this is not safe”

“I feel like the young people around me will definitely feel the cut, as one less option is available to them and therefore one less shot at higher self-esteem”