

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Agenda Item 32

Brighton & Hove City Council

Subject: Youth Services Commissioning Review – update

Date of Meeting: 10th November 2010

Report of: Director of Children's Services, Terry Parkin

Contact Officer: Name: **Steve Barton** Tel: **29-6105**

**Lead Commissioner for
Children Youth and Families**

E-mail: steve.barton@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Wards Affected: All

FOR GENERAL RELEASE/ EXEMPTIONS

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1. This report is produced to enable the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee (CYPOSC) to review and monitor the progress of the Children and Young People's Plan and the Section 75 Improvement Plan i.e.:

CYPP Priority 3c - work with our local partners to ensure local youth provision including opportunities to volunteer and participate in community activities sport and leisure activities are accessible to all children and young people

The Section 75 Improvement Plan:

To review and enhance the design of youth service provision across the Partnership building on the work that has already taken place to date including the development of the Integrated Youth Support Services, the Teenage Pregnancy Action Plan 2009, the Alcohol and Substance Misuse Strategies and the development of 14-19 provision; and including as appropriate a service redesign process with stakeholders and service users.

- 1.2. The purpose of this report is to enable CYPOSC to contribute to the development of the commissioning plans for youth service provision at this pre-policy stage.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Committee:

- 2.1 Notes the proposed direction of travel and the model of service suggested.
- 2.2 Contributes to the development of the proposed model of service.

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION/CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:

3.1 The core purpose of the youth service is to provide opportunities to help young people learn about themselves, others and society, through non-formal educational activities building social and personal development (National Youth Agency). Brighton & Hove's youth work curriculum addresses those issues including: participation and inclusion; creativity and challenge; equality and diversity; health and wellbeing; personal and social development; and education and independence.

3.2 A report came to CYPOSC in June 2010 setting out the scope and timescale of the review. The following work has now been completed:

- A needs assessment
- Service mapping – see links to resource maps in Appendices (hard copies will be available to view at the meeting)
- A series of Joint Commissioning Group meetings involving key partners and young people
- consultation with young people across the city

The Joint Commissioning Group has identified an outline model for the delivery and development of youth service provision. These changes will improve:

- numbers of young people/families who know about and can access the wide range of positive and recreational activities available across the city
- numbers of young people who use open access youth services i.e. structured activities (not 'free play')
- numbers of the approx 4,000 or so young people known to be most at risk of poor outcomes leading to high expenditure who are contacted by and engage with support programmes, training and personal development that lead to work and improved life chances

Ofsted's review of the council's Youth Service that took place 17th to 19th November 2009, challenged a perceived disconnection between core Youth Service (curriculum led activities) and the city's wider youth offer and positive activities. This challenge is the rationale for the more joined-up approach which is being suggested.

3.3 These changes also reflect the partnership approach to the current review which builds on existing relationships and will promote innovation, improvement and value for money - especially managing the anticipated pressure on resources following the Comprehensive Spending Review.

3.4 The commissioning review has found:

- Good out of school and community based provision from sports clubs, arts and cultural activities to libraries, youth clubs including mobile services, youth café's.
- a wide range of activities that young people can access including drama, football and uniform activities

However, the review has also found:

- limited understanding of the full range of activities available amongst young people and families
- that there are more opportunities for young men than for young women
- That many of the activities are used by under 15's and less by 16 – 19's – although the latter group do want to have things to do in their leisure time.

3.5 Emerging proposal:

There are two complementary strands to the proposed model:

- Firstly to co-ordinate more effectively services commissioned or provided by the council which give opportunities for children and young people to participate in positive activities including through sports and leisure, culture and libraries.
- Secondly, working in partnership to commission a network of local centres in neighbourhoods that build on existing provision - while recognising that:
 - Pattern and distribution of some resources and facilities is historical and not ideal
 - the level of resources available to the council will determine the number of centres commissioned
 - providers will consider how they work together in the future

It is envisaged that each local centre would have 4 main functions:

- To lead the development and delivery of local youth service provision – building provider networks and be part of the local community
- To signpost and market activities available across the city as well in the local area
- To deliver a programme of activities to attract young people, including outreach/detached work; ensure young people participate in the design and delivery of service; provide early identification and interventions to support behaviour change and build resilience through individual and group support to those most need and those at risk of poor outcomes.

Delivery of these functions will require:

- A common service specification that ensures consistent provision linked to a recognised Youth Service curriculum which ensures statutory duties are met (and will include requirements re: data, tracking, etc)

- connected 'neighbourhood development plans' which build on and/or rationalise existing local facilities
- making best use of local knowledge and skills of paid staff and volunteers from the council, 3rd sector and local communities.

4. CONSULTATION

4.1 A group young people were involved in feeding back on what standards of service they would like to see as part of the youth services provision across the city. This involved representatives from each youth centre discussing standards with other young people attending the centre. The young people were supported throughout this process by facilitators from community and voluntary sector agencies and the council's youth participation team.

- 37 young people in total were involved in auditing and feeding this information into the review process across statutory youth services and 3rd Sector providers (participants)
- 92 young people provided a response to the audit process as representatives from youth services across 3rd sector and statutory services to the above assessors.

4.2 An on line survey of young people was carried out and 76 responses were received and fed into the review process.

4.3 Information has also been included from consultations with young people that have been conducted within the last two years and that is relevant to youth services.

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

5.1 Whilst there are no direct financial implications stemming from the recommendations in this report, commissioning of services does have a vital role to play in future resource allocation. The commissioning strategy outlined in the report must have, as one of it's priorities, a continuing focus on effective use of financial resources to ensure the optimum value of money for the Council. It will be important that any service redesign, as well as decisions concerning ongoing service provision are tested and benchmarked to evidence best value for money has been achieved.

Finance Officer Consulted: David Ellis

Date: 25-10-2010

Legal Implications:

5.2 This report enables the Committee to consider and monitor the progress of the Children and Young People's plan and the section 75 improvement plan relating to Youth Services.

Equalities Implications:

- 5.3 The council's equalities policies are central to the draft proposals set out in this paper.

Sustainability Implications:

- 5.4 There are none

Crime & Disorder Implications:

- 5.5 Supporting young people most in need and providing joined up positive activities across the whole city will support the target of reducing the number of first time entrants to the criminal justice system.

Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

- 5.6 Analysis of risks and opportunities will be included in the final strategy.

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

- 5.7 The aim is to have a joint approach to the commissioning of positive activities across the council as part of the new council commissioning arrangements.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. Please press CTRL and click to open the link below:

[Culture Activities Map 04-10-2010](#)

[Faith / Uniform / Other Activities Map 04-10-2010](#)

[Community Centre / Local Activities Map 04-10-2010](#)

[Schools / Colleges / Specialist Activities \(Education\) Map 04-10-2010](#)

[Youth Centres / Commissioned Services Map 04-10-2010](#)

[Sports / Leisure / Physical Activities Map 04-10-2010](#)

Documents in Members' Rooms

None

Background Documents

None

