

WEST AREA COMMITTEE

16th January 2008

REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF PERFORMANCE AND SCRUTINY

**REVIEW OF THE PROVISION OF SERVICES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE -
CONSULTATION BY THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE STANDING PANEL**

1 SUMMARY

This report asks the Area Committee to consider responding to consultation by the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Standing Panel on the review it is undertaking on the Provision of Services for Young People. It may be helpful if members of the Area Committee consider the questions at 3.5 below prior to the meeting in order to aid discussions and assist efficient time keeping.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Area Committee -

- a) considers the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Standing Panel's consultation questions for the major review being undertaken by the Panel on the Provision of Services for Young People;
- b) agrees a response to the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Standing Panel.

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Government is changing the agenda for the provision of youth services towards more integrated and targeted youth provision. This means increased partnership working and integrated delivery for all services for young people and it also means more targeting of universal services at vulnerable young people to drive early intervention and to lessen the need to deploy more specialist services at a later stage.
- 3.2 The City Council is leading this move towards increased integrated and targeted delivery with partners, and the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Standing Panel has initiated a review to contribute to Policy Development in this area.
- 3.3 The Panel is aiming to find out what the main issues are in terms of provision of services for young people aged 14 - 19 in your area and is focussing on the youth offer or positive activities for young people.

3.4 For clarification purposes, within guidance issued by the former Department for Education and Skills (now Department for Children, Schools and Families), positive activities for young people fall into two categories:-

Structured activities (including sports and physical activities, attending clubs and societies and volunteering). These activities:-

- enable young people to participate in, or initiate, planned and purposeful activity that holds clear health, learning or social and personal development aims. This will normally involve practitioners or peer-leaders who engage with young people on a one to one or group basis; and
- provide, or lead to, recurring opportunities for participation – this could be fulfilled by being an extended and co-joined programme of activity (e.g. residential events), by leading to a regular programme of activities / encounters (including taster sessions), or by referring young people to other activity providers;

Unstructured activities that young people choose to engage in during their leisure time (including, for example, going to the cinema and similar leisure pursuits).

3.5 With this in mind the Panel would like the Area Committee to consider responding to the following questions:-

- 1) Could you tell us about the youth offer or positive activities for young people that are provided in your area and who provides them - e.g. by the Council; by voluntary and community organisations; by other public sector bodies; by a partnership of some or all of the above?
 - 2) Can you comment on partnership working in the provision of the youth offer positive activities for young people?
- or
- 3) What is the balance between universal provision of positive activities for young people and the targeting of such activities to more vulnerable groups? - i.e. what is available for all young people and what for certain more vulnerable young people?
 - 4a) Do you think there is an adequate level of service - both universal and targeted?
 - 4b) If not, where do you see the gaps in provision? Are there barriers to providing more services to young people?
 - 4c) If there are gaps and barriers to provision what are the effects of this for the young people in your area?
 - 5) Could you comment on whether you feel there is sufficient capacity in your local area to provide more services for young people?
 - 6a) Do you think there are enough adult volunteers and mentors in your area?

- 6b) What ways do you think more adult volunteers and mentors could be attracted to working with young people?
- 7) Are there examples of intergenerational activities between young people and older people in your area?
- 8) Do you think the young people in your area are given a voice and are involved in the decision making about the services provided to them?
- 9) Do you have any other comments you would like to make to the Panel?

4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None.

5 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

None.

6 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

The views of Area Committees about the provision of services for young people in their area will be considered in influencing policies that will ensure open, accessible and equitable youth services for all communities in the City.

7 RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES

Risk management issues regarding the youth offer overall will be addressed as part of the review.

8 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

The aims of the review are in line with the Every Child Matters Five Outcomes for Children and Young People, included in the Council's Children and Young People Plan:-

- Be Healthy;
- Stay Safe;
- Enjoy and Achieve;
- Make A Positive Contribution;
- Achieve Economic Well Being.

The review also addresses the Supporting Nottingham People and Serving Nottingham Better themes from the Council's Corporate Plan.

9 HEALTH INEQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

Providing positive activities for young people will have a positive impact on their health.

10 CRIME AND DISORDER ACT IMPLICATIONS

Providing positive activities for young people reduces the likelihood of involvement in anti-social behaviour and criminal activities.

11 LINKS WITH OTHER REGENERATION PROJECTS IN THE AREA

Where applicable, links to regeneration initiatives will be established and/or maintained.

12 VALUE FOR MONEY

There are no Value for Money implications directly arising from this report, although such issues will be addressed as part of the review itself.

13 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS OTHER THAN PUBLISHED WORKS OR THOSE DISCLOSING CONFIDENTIAL OR EXEMPT INFORMATION

None

14 PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO IN COMPILING THIS REPORT

Report of the Director for Targeted Services to the Children and Young People Panel, 12 September 2007, 'The Development of Youth Services in Nottingham City'.

Report of the Director for Targeted Services to the Children and Young People Panel, 2 October 2007, 'Signing off the review of Youth Services August to September 2004'.

Report Of the Deputy Chief Executive to the Children and Young People Standing Panel 2 October 2007, 'Work Programme 2007/08 and Major Review prioritisation and Focus'.

Transforming Youth Work: Resourcing Excellent Youth Services, 2002, Department of Education and Skills.

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