

**Submitted to: The Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee 20  
September 2016**

**Title: Youth and Play Provision**

**Submitted by: Aileen Wilson, Head of Early Help Services**

**1. Purpose**

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to update the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee on the current offer from Play and Youth team, part of the Early Help Service.

**3. Background**

- 3.1 The play and youth team is part of the Early Help Service, part of the Children's Integrated Services Directorate. The team has been restructured 3 times since 2010 and now comprises:

3 Specialists  
15 Senior Workers  
36 Workers

They are co-located with the Children's Centre workers and managed by the same management team. The Community Family Support Managers are:

Bulwell/Bulwell Forest/Basford  
Bestwood/Leen Valley  
Aspley/Bilborough  
Sherwood/Berridge/Arboretum  
Radford & Park/Dunkirk & Lenton  
St Anns N&S/Sneinton/Mapperley  
Bridge/Clifton N&S  
Wollaton E & W/Lenton Abbey

Jane Richardson  
Julia Bramble  
Pat Mills  
Jasmin Howell  
  
Kathleen Thomas  
Donna Sherratt/Wendy Mills

There are 6 Early Help teams who deliver provision in all wards within the city. There are currently 58 weekly sessions for children and young people across the city. This will increase to 61 sessions in September after the summer programme delivery.

Within the regular weekly sessions, the teams work with other partners to deliver projects on topics which are of concern to our children and young people, contribute to our safeguarding role and the 3 Directorate priorities:

- ☐ A Learning City
- ☐ Resilience in Children, Families and Communities
- ☐ Healthy Minds, bodies and relationships

We also provide somewhere safe to go, something positive to do and someone to talk to that can be trusted.

### **Universal sessions**

Across the city we deliver 58 universal Play and Youth sessions. Typically these last for two hours and offer activities ranging from creative crafts, sports, group games, chill out zones to information sessions on trending issues for young people.

Sessions are open access and allow young people to engage in the activities of their choice. We have a big emphasis on child led play and encourage participation through this and other creative methods. To celebrate children and young people's contribution, we produce and publish quarterly newsletters (Appendiced to report)

### **Attendance**

Sessions are delivered from our own sites, other community venues or out in the community, when required. Capacity can be limited by the site size but also other variable such as the weather, age range and type of activity within the session.

#### **Attendance data from April 2015 to March 2016**

Area	Unique Attendees	Sessions	Attendances
Overall	4,652	3,202	48,265
Area 1	649	353	7,860
Area 2	1,032	581	9,291
Area 3	918	432	6,279
Area 4	388	485	7,933
Area 5	503	331	3,080
Area 6	744	515	8,193
Area 8	574	500	5,624

### **Play and Youth Contribution to Safeguarding**

#### **Themed Projects**

During the last performance year, we delivered 28 themed projects – 2 of which were city wide to bring young people together from all parts of the city.

**The White Ribbon Event** received funding from the Great Workforce and the healthy relationship work culminated in a fashion show at the Nottingham Contemporary in November last year. 46 young people, aged 11-19, explored healthy relationships and domestic abuse while making outfits adorned with white ribbons. The ultimate aim of the project is to equip young people with the skills, knowledge and resilience they need to make healthy and safe choices about their own intimate relationships and enable them to recognise the characteristics of unhealthy and healthy relationships. At the end of the evening, the young people were presented with certificates and a photograph to commend their dedication to the project and its success.

### **Christmas Week Event**

**'Healthy Me'** was a full day citywide Christmas event at the new Harvey Hadden Sports Centre, where young people could try out new sports and activities as they rotated around the sessions. Over 140 young people attended and enjoyed the programme of activities on offer with many reporting that they will be attending the centre again.

Young people gained lots of new positive experiences and friendships with lots of laughter and challenges.. There were some favourite activities, such as roller skating, football and swimming but also some new experiences, such as squash, which was very popular.

### **Local projects**

These have been delivered with partners such as Equation (domestic abuse specialists, Lifeline (young people's substance abuse specialists) and the Sexual Health Team (sexting)

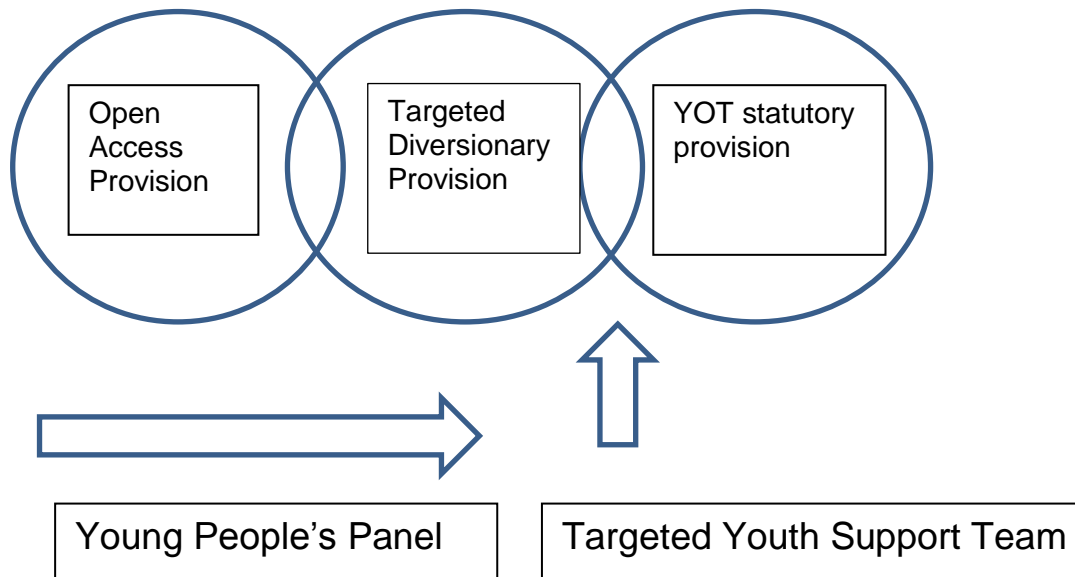
All of these projects are scaled by children and young people at the beginning and end and 67% reported an improvement in their learning or awareness of the topic. Through consultation and evaluation, children and young people contribute to the themes and content of future projects.

### **Safeguarding on an individual basis**

Safeguarding concerns that come to the attention of the teams are addressed by the worker during the session, where possible. Concerns are then discussed with the Early Support Specialist on how to best support. All teams are trained in the Signs of Safety approach to be able to empower the child, young person and their family as part of the Early Help offer. Requests for support can also be made to the Young People's Panels which are chaired by the Early Help manager and attended by many services to jointly assess (Signs of Safety) young people where there are concerns and risks of anti social or criminal behaviour. A coordinated response is agreed and a lead agency identified to support the young person and, where appropriate, the family.

## Area Based Grant Activities

Nottingham City Council provides an Area Based Grant to the lead of a local consortium to respond to locally assessed need for targeted support and diversionary activities. There are a range of area based partnership meetings across the city to enable providers to jointly plan play and youth activities. Area based grant funded leads also attend the Young People's Panel.



## Participation

The play and youth teams contribute to the citywide participation strategy to ensure that the voice of the child or young person is heard and acted upon – issues can be raised through the Youth Council and Youth Cabinet, as appropriate.

### **4. Background papers, other than published works or those disclosing confidential or exempt information**

Children's Integrated Services Directorate Delivery Plan  
The Family Support Pathway  
Play and Youth Newsletters

### **6. Contact colleague**

Aileen Wilson, Head of Early Help Service