

# Children and Young People's Partnership Board

**Item  
4.3**

DATE	TITLE OF PAPER	WARDS
December 2008	Youth Review Report  <b>Summary</b>  <b>A review of the Council's own Youth Service, its reach and effectiveness</b>	All
<b>CONTRIBUTORS</b> Jo Kendall Head of Youth Services	<b><u>Recommendation(s):</u></b>  To agree the action points identified in paragraph 5.3	

## YOUTH SERVICE REVIEW

### 1. Background

- 1.1 Earlier this year (and following the Ofsted inspection in 2008) a youth review was conducted to establish the impact and potential impact of local services for young people. It comprised an internal review of the Council's own youth service, its reach and effectiveness. This report provides a summary of the review of the local authority youth service and identified areas for improvement.
- 1.2 The purpose of the review was to identify the following:

- Current effectiveness of the service in meeting the needs of local young people and other residents
- The impact of the service in terms of positive outcomes for young people
- Value for money
- Areas for improvement
- Standard of performance in relation to central government requirements

1.3 We have identified three cohorts of young people for whom we need to ensure there is sufficient and appropriate provision:

- The universal group – who need access to a wide range of positive leisure activities
- The less advantaged group – for whom we may need to commission specific services in order to engage them; Targeted Youth Support (TYS) will engage with some of these young people
- The high risk group – who we need to divert from crime or other high risk activities, many of this group will be on the case work of the YYS

1.4 All local authorities have a duty to ensure the provision of a sufficient youth service under sections 507 and 508 of the Education Act 1996, as amended. In January 2003 the Government produced “Resourcing Excellent Youth Services” (REYS), this document set out the government’s requirements covering age range and contact targets, variety of provision, access and quality.

1.5 In March 2006 “Youth Matters: Next Steps” was published which requires local authorities to reform existing services for young people to establish an Integrated Youth Support Service (IYSS) by December 2008. In summary the required reforms cover four key areas:

- **Places to go and things to do** - A new duty on local authorities to ‘secure sufficient educational leisure time activities for 13 to 19 year olds’ and to publicise and promote the ‘local offer’
- **Making a positive contribution** – involving young people in local decision making and ensuring access to a range of volunteering opportunities for young people
- **Targeted Youth Support (TYS)** – Local authorities are expected to have arrangements in place to ensure that vulnerable young people are identified as early as possible, have a simple assessment, get support from a lead professional working with a multi agency team, and that mainstream agencies have a single route of referral when they are concerned about a young person.
- **Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG)** – Introduction of quality standards for IAG and migration of the Connexions resources to local authorities via Local Area Agreements.

## 2. Current service description

2.1 The Youth Service currently delivers and commissions youth provision for young people aged 11 to 25 years with a particular focus on those aged 13 to

19 years. Through the delivery of the curriculum in a number of settings, the service aims to provide a range of opportunities that reflect the needs and interests of young people. These services aim to enhance their personal and social development to enable them to use their leisure time positively and to make an effective transition to adulthood.

- 2.2 At present there is a mix of maintained, commissioned and grant aided services. This comprises a total of 7 LA run and funded youth centres/projects, a detached and outreach service, 4 LA funded, voluntary managed youth projects and a mix of other youth projects including uniformed groups, arts and drama projects and a range of activities provided by community and faith groups.

### **3. Meeting local needs**

- 3.1 In 2007/08, 2,671 young people, (approximately 26% of the local 13 to 19 population) took part in youth service programmes. This is in line with the national benchmark of 25%. The service has a good track record of engaging hard to reach groups. It is currently working with 34% of YOS clients in the age range. 43% of young people worked with were identified as having “poor outcome indicators” through the Family Support Panel.
- 3.2 Satisfaction levels among those the service is engaging are good. Feedback from those currently accessing the services, and other stakeholders suggests that there is a need to extend the provision to offer a broader range of activities and increased opening times including more on offer at the weekends. Broader consultation, including the local crime summit, indicates that there is a perception that there is insufficient provision and a desire for longer opening hours and a greater geographical spread. Lack of awareness about available youth provision and other activities was also identified as an issue by other key stakeholders and professionals.
- 3.3 There are also relationships that are underdeveloped including work with schools, sports development and the voluntary sector. This is a key gap that needs to be addressed to ensure the service is aligned with the development of extended services and that we have a core local universal offer that addresses priorities and avoids duplication. Currently there is no comprehensive overview of the full range of provision available to young people.
- 3.4 The service has in place a range of schemes to formally accredit young people’s learning and in 2007/08 1,472 young people achieved a nationally recognised accredited or recorded outcome. This is in line with the national benchmark for youth services. Comparison with our statistical neighbours however shows that there is scope for improvement in this area.
- 3.5 The service has a good track record of engaging disaffected young people and works collaboratively with the Youth Offending Service and police to reduce anti social behaviour and offending. An example of this includes the

support work provided through youth centres for young people following the death of Kodjo Yenga.

- 3.6 The service has in place a number of partnership and joint working arrangements that enable effective targeting and enhance the opportunities for local young people, including study provision delivered with the three football clubs (Queens Park rangers, Fulham FC and Chelsea FC), work with Connexions to support young people into education training and employment and delivery of sexual health programmes with the teenage pregnancy team.
- 3.7 We are currently developing the Targeted Youth Support team (redeploying existing resources from Youth, PAYP and YOS) and through a strategy for early intervention the service is leading developments to ensure effective arrangements are in place to provide support to young people who are experiencing difficulties, before problems become entrenched.

#### **4. Value for money**

- 4.1 Ofsted judged the service to be good in terms of performance and value for money. This places Hammersmith and Fulham on a par with the best of its statistical neighbours and in the top quartile nationally.
- 4.2 The service has commissioning/ funding arrangements in place with some voluntary sector providers. These arrangements are largely historical and reflect the comments on the overall youth provision made above.
- 4.3 The service is needs to maximise the potential to increase the range of opportunities available to young people and secure efficiencies that effective commissioning and partnership arrangements could deliver.

#### **5. Developing service for young people**

- 5.1 The existing service is performing well in terms of delivery of youth provision. Significant numbers of young people are engaging and achieving and the work contributes to a range of local targets and priorities for young people. More effective partnership arrangements with schools and other service providers and commissioning have been identified as key areas for development.
- 5.2 Additionally there is scope to make more efficient and effective use of resources by reshaping the service and identifying its role in the development, co-ordination and delivery of a broader local offer for all young people that will increase:
- Access for all young people to positive leisure time activities
  - Access to good quality youth provision that enhances personal and social development – particularly for those whose opportunities are limited by family circumstances
  - Effective arrangements across services for early intervention and support for those young people who give cause for concern

- Co-ordinated cross service initiatives that address priority areas for young people – e.g. safety, relationships, sporting achievement, health projects.

5.3 An action plan is now being developed to encompass the following:

- Map the full range of existing opportunities across the borough
- Consultation with young people to identify types of activities they want access to, where and times
- Needs/gap analysis to be undertaken of all services for young people
- Consultation with other stakeholders e.g. via focus groups, to inform strategic planning, commissioning and partnership arrangements
- Marketing and promotion of local offer (inc. local authority run, LA funded, private, voluntary sector, uniformed, faith groups) – including a youth provision web site aimed to be on line in February 2009.
- Roll out of Targeted Youth Support service
- Review/analysis of current local initiatives and activities to assess impact in relation to deterrent and creating resilience as factors in reducing ASB and crime and encouraging positive engagement.
- Establish a senior officer group to look at the borough wide ‘youth offer’ and transformation issues
- Use of the ABG PAYP funding as a commissioning pot to fund new and existing groups to deliver a range of leisure service to young people
- Diversion activities to keep young people off the streets
- Links to the Mayor of London’s Time for Action report

## 6. Comments of Head of Legal Services

6.1 There are no direct legal implications for the purposes of this report.

## 7. Comments of Director of Finance

7.1 Funds have been identified within the ABG allocation for Positive Activities for Young People (PAYP). Full costings should be worked up and agreed with CHS Accountancy prior to the agreement and roll out of the programme.

### **LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2000** **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Description of Background Papers</b>	<b>Names/Ext. of Holder of Files/Copy</b>	<b>Department/ Location</b>
1.	Time for Action Mayor of London’s Report	Jo Kendall x 2892	ChSD
2.	Resourcing Excellent Youth Services	Jo Kendall x 2892	ChSD
3.	Youth Matters: Next Steps	Jo Kendall x 2892	ChSD