

YOUTH SERVICE UPDATE: TARGETED YOUTH SUPPORT AND POSITIVE ACTIVITIES

Report By: Community Youth Service Manager

Wards Affected

County-wide

Purpose

1. To update Members on the performance of the Youth Service within the context of Every Child Matters (ECM) framework and inform of national changes in youth work particularly the increased emphasis on **Targeted Youth Support (TYS)** for vulnerable young people and new legislation on the provision of **Positive Activities**.

Financial Implications

2. The current revenue budget allocation for the Youth Service is £1,075, 240 (excluding YOF / YCF grant). The service employs 30 fte staff and delivers from six council owned and maintained youth centres, two rented full time locations, two outdoor education centres, a mobile and up to seven part time other locations (eg village halls, locations inside schools and colleges etc).
3. New Government requirements will need to be met within the current budget allocation.

Background

4. Within the Every Child Matters (ECM) Outcome framework the Youth Service work contributes primarily to the Positive Contribution Outcome area, within which the Youth Service key areas are: positive activities for personal and social development (youth work activities not leisure based provision), and the participation of children and young people in decision making.
5. The Youth Service funding and key performance indicators are for 13 - 19 years olds, however, the service does work with and record data on 11 – 25 years olds to support early intervention work with pre-teens and assist with transitions at both ends of the age band.
6. The Youth Service is currently charged with achieving four key performance indicators (two of which are BVPIs) by the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF). The number of young people the service is in **Contact** with, how many **Participate** in youth work programmes and how many have their development **Recorded** or **Accredited**. Performance in these areas are part of the Annual Performance Assessment (APA) submission and contribute to the overall score of the local authority.
7. In addition to these indicators Ofsted set quality standards for management, youth work delivery, curriculum and resources provided by local authority youth services. These are inspected as part of an 'Enhanced' Joint Area Review (JAR), in 2005 when Herefordshire was last inspected the Youth Service was graded overall as Adequate (2).

8. In 2006 -7 the Youth Service refocused some of the areas of its work and achieved three of the four DCSF key performance indicators (KPI's) for the first time (and missed the fourth by a very small margin), and are currently on track to achieve all four this year. This change in work practice has meant that areas of work that do not contribute directly to KPI's have been discontinued, this has not been well received in some areas particularly where the Youth Service is still perceived as a 'leisure' provider for young people.
9. The Youth Service has a Partnership Agreement in place with Herefordshire Council for Voluntary Youth Services (HCVYS) to support third sector organisations working with young people that help contribute towards the KPI's of the service. In addition the service also has a number of smaller partnership agreements in place with members of HCVYS for specific areas of delivery eg with Herefordshire Federation of Young Farmers to support their work with young people living in rural areas across the county and again delivering KPI's for the Youth Service.
10. The Youth Service has created six geographical areas for Herefordshire, based on secondary school catchment areas; each area is served by one full time youth worker, half of a senior workers time and approximately forty hours of part time staffing. Each area has at least one building (youth and or community centre) or location which is their main point of delivery, they may also deliver from other locations. Each area has £3,000 to spend on youth work programmes and activities in their area each year and in conjunction with their senior worker and any other local partners can make bids for other funding to enhance the provision eg Local Network Fund, Arts Council, town councils etc. The six areas are: 1. Leominster and Wigmore 2. Kington and Weobley 3. Hereford City North 4. Bromyard and Ledbury 5. Ross on Wye 6. South Wye and Golden Valley.
11. In addition to these areas The Youth Service has countywide provision that includes: Youth Involvement team (1.5 fte), Student Information Service (1.5 fte), outdoor education and off site visits coordination (4 fte), Duke of Edinburgh Award (1 fte), management posts (3 fte) and admin and cleaning (5 fte).
12. Staff vacancy rates have and continue to be the biggest risk to the Youth Service provision, in 2005-6 vacancy rates were as high as 25% this was reduced to less than 12% for periods of 2007 but it has drifted up again after a number of resignations. Most areas work at minimum staffing levels and when vacancies arise there is limited ability to provide cover and sessions are sometimes cancelled as a result.
13. An 'average' area annual budget is shown below all areas have a 'core' budget which means that a fulltime worker, forty hours of part time staffing, building costs for youth work delivery but we work on actual costs. Staffing is our biggest cost and different rates of pay due to qualifications etc can make a significant difference. In addition building costs vary between £6,000 per annum for Bromyard Centre to £19,500 for Leominster. These costs do not include any additional funding that may be applied for from external sources.

Average Youth Service Area Budget	
Staffing and on costs	£46,533
Project funds	£3,000
Travel	£1,100

Telephones	£750
Sundries (photocopying, Printing, stationary etc)	£625
Building cost (rent, rates, cleaning etc)	£10,787
Total per area	£73,582

14. The government as part of the ECM agenda for teenagers, has announced two new policy initiatives **Targeted Youth Support (TYS)** (appendix 1) and **Positive Activities – Aiming High** a ten year strategy, that directly affect the work of youth services as well as other service providers. These initiatives are part of the wider integration agenda for all children's services which is more broadly termed **Integrated Youth Support Services (IYSS)** which aims to increase the co-ordination of all youth support activities to enable agencies to work together better, reduce duplication and avoid gaps in provision. To allow this to happen there must be greater sharing of information and data, a willingness of agencies to work together and in some cases commit resources.
15. **Targeted Youth Support (TYS)** - The government wishes to ensure that the needs of vulnerable teenagers are identified early and met by agencies working together effectively, in ways that are shaped by the views and experiences of young people themselves. There are seven key elements of TYS.
- a. **Identifying vulnerable young people early** in the context of their everyday lives
 - b. **Strengthening the influence of vulnerable young people** and their families
 - c. Building a clear picture of individual needs, shared with young people and the agencies working with them using the **Common Assessment Framework (CAF)**
 - d. Enabling vulnerable teenagers to receive **early support in universal settings**
 - e. Ensuring vulnerable teenagers receive a personalised package of support, information, advice and guidance, learning and development opportunities. Co-ordinated by a trusted Lead Professional – the **Team Around the Child (TAC)**
 - f. Providing support for vulnerable teenagers across **transitions** – eg school to college, leaving care etc.
 - g. Making service more **accessible, attractive and relevant** for young people.
16. The nature of vulnerable teenagers means that they absorb a disproportionate amount of time and resources per head. It will therefore be very challenging for the Youth Service to increase work with this group whilst maintaining its broader provision. It is estimated that early identification, better co-ordination and efficiencies of service delivery will possible reduce the long term overall costs of the social exclusion of this group but no firm figures are available to support this.
17. A small steering group has been established from the large multi agency Vulnerable Young Peoples Group (VYPG), with partners from the Primary Care Trust (PCT), the Youth Offending Team (YOT), Connexions, the CAF–TAC development team and the Youth Service to oversee the development of the TYS. It is envisaged that this will not be a separate 'service' or 'system' but part of the integrated approach of the CAF–TAC to

young people who are identified as needing additional support (beyond universal services).

18. **Positive Activities** – The government wishes to ensure that all teenagers have 'things to do and places to go' including a wide range of sporting, cultural and recreational activities and experiences as well as opportunities for volunteering, provided that all these are structured and support the ECM outcomes.
19. Whilst there is strong drive to ensure that all young people take part in positive activities there is also a similar if not stronger drive to ensure that vulnerable young people are engaged in these positive activities and particularly that their voice is heard in the design and delivery of the activities. Vulnerable young people are statistically more likely **not** be engaged, increasing the likelihood and length of their exclusion from the mainstream education, employment or training.
20. The government is currently consulting on the definitions and reporting mechanisms for the take up of positive activities, particularly by vulnerable individuals. It is likely that there will be a requirement to increase information returns by all those providing positive activities to 13 – 19 years olds. This could include Halo, The Courtyard Theatre, voluntary and third sector organisations, sports societies and clubs. This requirement will need to be built into all contracts and service level agreements in the future if enacted.
21. In summary the Youth Service is being asked to increase both its targeted work with vulnerable young people and increase the provision of positive activities for all young people. It is envisaged that this will be done by a reduction in duplication by all agencies working together through either multi agency or integrated teams, by greater co-ordination of resources and finally by early intervention and prevention reducing the long term exclusion (and therefore more costly interventions) of young people.
22. The Youth Service and its key partners are planning this within the changing environment of Children's Services and the emerging new structures. These requirements will be very challenging to deliver within the current resource allocation and with the expected period of change over the next year as the Children's Trust comes into place, the commissioning framework is established, area based models of delivery around the CAF – TAC are implemented and a new Social care IT system is implemented.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Members note the report.

Appended Papers

- Appendix 1: Targeted Youth Support Guide. (DFES) (5 page extract)
- Appendix 2: A simple guide to Youth Support (GOWM)
- Appendix 3: Community Youth Service Plan 2007-8

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- None identified.