

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 progress of the Youth Service in adapting to the 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 2008/9 revenue budget allocation for the Youth Service is £1,109,230 (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 (e.g. village halls, locations inside schools and colleges).
3. New 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 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 is part of the Annual Performance Assessment (APA) submission and contributes to the overall score of the local authority.
7. The Youth Service is the lead on the **Youth Involvement** agenda for the Children's Trust and it supports the:- Children's Trust Shadow Board, The Herefordshire Youth Council, The Youth Funding Panel and is establishing a new group commissioned by

the Herefordshire Safeguarding Children Board for young people within their remit. As part of this work an action plan has been developed by young people and senior officers using best practice from the **Hear By Right (HBR)** - Local Government Association (LGA) and National Youth Agency (NYA) - endorsed standards.

8. The government as part of the ECM agenda for teenagers, has announced two new policy initiatives **Targeted Youth Support (TYS)** 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, willingness of agencies to work together and in some cases commit resources.
9. **Positive Activities for Young People (PAYP)** – 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.
10. **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.
11. A TYS 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, West Mercia Police 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).

PROGRESS TO DATE

12. Members will be aware of the restructuring programme of Children's Services Directorate and the timeline for implementation for integrated teams by April 2009. The Youth Service is part of that change program and will become part of locality based provision however final detailed decisions have not yet been made on the new structures for both localities and central services. The final arrangements will have an impact how the Youth Service delivers its work and targets with young people, particularly the areas and staff make up of the new area teams more will be known as the new Heads of Service come into post in September 2008.
13. The **TYS Steering Group** has been expanded recently to include members of West Mercia Police and have closer links with extended schools. At a local level it is preparing staff in localities for greater integrated working through the development of locality meetings for all staff across agencies who are working in the area to share issues and areas of work re young people. The Ledbury area is being developed as an early adopter of the TYS model and two meetings have taken place with local agencies and staff to create both closer working arrangements and a new operating model. These developments are in the early stages but as the new integrated teams come into operation in April and the CAF training and processes are implemented. The intention is not to supplant a new structure but to enhance the current good practice in place and develop a model that works for the locality.
14. Staff from the Youth Service are part of the training team for the **CAF** training team that have both developed and will deliver the training program for all staff across the Children's Trust, including all youth workers. This will further support the development of integrated teams as common language and process are developed. It will also provide the mechanism for identifying vulnerable young people early so that services can be targeted before it becomes an entrenched issue.
15. The Youth Service is increasing its **Targeted Youth Work** with vulnerable young people through greater links with extended schools and Local Drug and Community Safety Partnerships. In Ross on Wye at John Kyrle High School youth workers and extended school staff are jointly running diversionary programmes and extended curriculum activities for young people identified by the school as vulnerable or at risk of exclusion. Community Safety Officers (CSO) are also part of the Ross on Wye group and are both helping to identify young people causing issues in the town and putting in place measures to address these with the other partners where appropriate.
16. The Youth Service continues to work with a wide range of young people to ensure their **voice and influence** is heard at both strategic and personal levels. The continuing development of the Children's Trust Shadow Board, the Youth Funding Panel and Youth Council are possible the most visible examples as they have impacts on the work of the Children's Trust. The Herefordshire Safeguarding Children Board has also just commissioned the Youth Service to develop a new group to specifically work with young people who are part of the safeguarding agenda. The Youth Funding Panel will allocate £450,000 over the next three years to youth led projects that provide more positive activities and locations for young people. Young people from a number of these projects and activities have come together after the 'You Talk We Listen' conference in October 2007, and are now

organising their own conference in October 2008 with the theme of anti-bullying which was one of their priorities in 2007.

17. The Youth Service is a member of the **Prevent and Deter (P&D)** Strategy and operational groups that leads on the 'Catch and Convict' policy for crime reduction. The P&D identifies and works with both: - prolific and persistent offenders (PPO's) as well as young people at the cusp of committing crime. The Youth Offending Service (YOS) is the lead for Prevent and Deter, and has representation on the TYS Steering Group, and is reviewing its structures in light of the locality based model that is being developed by Children's Services.
18. **MyPlace** is new government funding for 'world class youth facilities' of between £1 - £5 million, a consultation event has taken place for all interested partners that was led by the Youth Service, from which a Management Group has been agreed to lead on potentially developing an application for this funding. This is not local authority allocation but an open bidding process managed by the Big Lottery but funded by DCSF. The Management Group includes corporate representation from Resources Directorate, Children's Services as well representatives from ESG development and voluntary sector partners. This work may be hampered by the lack of an agreed accommodation strategy for youth facilities in light of the proposed new arrangements; this will need to be developed in the context of the new closer working with the PCT and the overall review of accommodation.
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 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. Through the **ECM Positive Contribution Outcome Group** work has started to review the requirements of the Aiming High Strategy and to develop priorities for commissioning for positive activities for 2009 /10 when new funding under **PAYP** comes on stream. The current PAYP scheme is contracted through Connexions and currently works with a small number of young people who do not have identified education, employment or training (EET) post 16. In 2008-9 and 2009 -10 there is a substantial increase in funding for PAYP. The ECM Positive Contribution Group will review this funding and make recommendations for priorities for commissioning to the Children's Trust and this will include more work with targeted groups and individuals.
20. The Youth Service has also developed the Youth Zone section of the partnership www.myherefordshire.com website as part of the positive activities developments to ensure that young people and their parents are aware of all the activities available to young people in Herefordshire. The website is searchable so young people can search by location, activity or dates, it requires more development to be fully young people 'friendly' in its look and feel and currently market testing is happening with a range of young people. This has thrown up a number of issues regarding the interactivity of the site (e.g. online polls, reviews of activities) which may require significant redevelopment to address.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Members note the report

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- Appendix 1: Community Youth Service Plan 2008 -9