

MEETING:	CHILDRENS SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
DATE:	19TH MARCH 2010
TITLE OF REPORT:	YOUTH SERVICE PROVISION
PORTFOLIO AREA:	CHILDREN'S SERVICES

CLASSIFICATION: Open

Wards Affected

County-wide

Purpose

To update members on the remit of the Youth Service and the range of provision across the county

Recommendation

THAT subject to any comment the Committee may wish to make the report be noted.

Key Points Summary

- The Youth Service is charged with working with young people aged 13-19 to provide Positive Activities, Targeted Youth Support for young people identified as having additional needs as well as providing opportunities for young people to influence decisions and volunteer. (See Appendix 1 for more details)
- The Youth Service Budget for 2009-10 is £1,202,061.00 including contracts with external partners but excluding Youth Opportunity and Capital Fund Grants.
- The Service spends just over 70% of its budget employing 32.7 FTE staff
- Between April 2009 to the end of January 2010 the local authority Youth Service has worked with 2,855 individual young people aged 13 – 19 years (3,472 aged 11 - 25 years) not including external contracts.
- Between April 2009 to the end of January 2010 the local authority Youth Service has delivered Targeted Youth Support (TYS) interventions with 357 individual young people aged 13 – 19 years (471 aged 11 – 25 years)
- The Youth Service delivers Youth Work from ten buildings, including six local authority owned and two rented youth centres, two outdoor education centres 1 mobile, in seven secondary schools and on college campus sites.

Further information on the subject of this report is available from
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- The Youth Service provides a Student Information Service (SIS) for Hereford 6th Form College, Hereford College of Technology (including the Holme Lacy campus) and The Hereford Art College.
- The Youth Service supports all Duke of Edinburgh Award activity in the county, as well as providing the statutory advice to schools and all Children's Services for all off site and adventurous activities
- The Youth Service has contracts valued at £141,751.00 (12% of total Youth Service Budget) with five local voluntary sector providers that support the key targets of the Youth Service and Children and Young People's Directorate.
- The directory of all Youth Service provision which includes: weekly diary of events, case studies and a summary of Herefordshire Council for Voluntary Youth Services work has been supplied separately to committee members. Copies are available to the public on request by contacting the Youth Service Manager.

Introduction and Background

- 1 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.
- 2 The Youth Service is charged with working directly with young people to achieve a range of key targets in the following strategy areas these include: - **Targeted Youth Support (TYS)**, **Positive Activities**, the early identification of vulnerable young people through the **Common Assessment Framework (CAF)**, strengthening the voice of young people through **Youth Involvement**, and increasing the opportunities for young people to **Volunteer**.
- 3 **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 services more **accessible, attractive and relevant** for young people.
- 4 **Positive Activities** – The government and local communities want teenagers to have 'things

to do and places to go' this includes a wide range of structured sporting, cultural and recreational activities and experiences as well as opportunities for volunteering that should all contribute to achieving the ECM outcomes.

- 5 The Government introduced section 507B of the Education Act 1996 (which was inserted by section 6 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006¹). Section 507B ensures for the first time that a single body – working within the context of the children's trust -is responsible for securing young people's access to positive activities. The legislation also creates new requirements that place young people at the heart of decision making on the positive activity provision available to them.
- 6 Section 507B requires that every local authority in England must, 'so far as reasonably practicable, secure for qualifying young persons in the authority's area access to:
 - i. Sufficient educational leisure-time activities which are for the improvement of their well-being, and sufficient facilities for such activities; and
 - ii. Sufficient recreational leisure-time activities which are for the improvement of their well-being, and sufficient facilities for such activities.
- 7 'Educational' and 'recreational' activities are referred to in the legislation as 'positive leisure-time activities' or in short positive activities. The Youth Service is particularly charged with delivering **educational** leisure-time activities as opposed to solely leisure activities eg sports clubs. Performance in this area is measured through the annual 'TellUs' survey carried out in schools, we have supplemented this data by our own research through the ECM Survey.
- 8 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 has just secured funding for a new Youth Inspectors Team. This work is key to the future engagement of young people in the local, national and international governance and decision making bodies. It has both targeted and universal provision to ensure young people have opportunities to get their voice heard. Members will have seen some examples at the Youth Seminar on 28th January 2010.

Key Considerations

- 9 Members will be aware of the restructuring programme of Children's Services Directorate (No Wrong Door) and the timeline for implementation for integrated teams by September 2010. The Youth Service is part of that change programme 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.
- 10 In response to the priorities of the Children's Trust the Youth Service is increasing its **Targeted Youth Work** with vulnerable young people through greater links with schools and other agencies. We are delivering TYS programmes in partnership with six secondary schools or colleges as well as providing programmes and activities within mainstream youth centre provision. We have delivered TYS interventions (up to Jan 2010) with 357 individual young people, these interventions normally take place every week for at least one term but are only counted as one person (not repeats).
- 11 The government has set a national aspiration target that all young people aged 13 - 19 should engage in **Positive Activities** at least once every four weeks. A new national indicator was

¹ The Education and Inspections Act 2006 received Royal Assent on 8 November 2006. Section 6 was commenced on 8 January 2007.

created in 2009 to measure this (NI 110) which is collected through the school based TellUs surveys. The table below shows the results from this survey however it should be noted that the TellUs3 survey had a poor response rate (just over 100 young people) and there was concern that it is not statistically viable, therefore the same question was asked in the ECM Survey which had a very high response rate (6,500) and is therefore more statistically viable although will not be the governments measure for assessing performance or setting targets. The TellUs3 result put Herefordshire in the top 5 local authorities in the country; the ECM survey is broadly in line for the west Midlands average. We are currently awaiting the results of the TellUs4 (2009) survey.

Survey name	Result	Target for 2009 - 10
TellUs3 2008	86%	91%
ECM Survey 2009	63%	N/A

- 12 Whilst there is a 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 positive activities and particularly that their voice is heard in the design and delivery of activities. Vulnerable young people are statistically more likely **not** to be engaged, increasing the likelihood and length of their exclusion from the mainstream education, employment or training. The Youth Service through its TYS work in schools and in Youth Clubs leads on this work of supporting vulnerable young people to take part in positive activities and is further supported by its contract with Connexions to provide holiday period activities with young people referred from the Prevent and Deter Group for those who have entered the juvenile justice system.
- 13 The DCSF have commissioned an audit of all positive activity provision available for young people during the week 1st – 7th February 2010, including all local authority, community, voluntary and private sector provision available. The local authority is leading on the collection of this data. There is a particular focus on Friday and Saturday night provision following on from recommendations from the Youth Taskforce after examination of the national increase in crime rates on these nights. Further the Connexions CCIS (client monitoring system) will be used to ask similar questions about young people's uptake of positive activities.
- 14 The Youth Service has developed with the 14-19 Team a 'what's on guide' called 'Youth Zone' on the partnership www.myherefordshire.com website 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 date, it requires more development and regular inputting and updating of information and data. We are using the data collected from the February audit to populate the Youth Zone.
- 15 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 possibly the most visible examples as they have impacts on the work of the Children's Trust. The Youth Funding Panel allocate over £160,000 each year to youth led projects to provide more positive activities and locations for young people. Young people from a number of these projects and activities regularly come together for joint conferences and events the first was called 'You Talk We Listen' conference in October 2007, and they have since organised two annual conferences: - in 2008 the Anti-bullying Conference (ABC) and in 2009 Sexual Health and Guidance (SHAG) conference. More recently we have been successful in receiving external funding to set up our first of a series of teams of **Youth Inspectors** who will be

trained and supported to go out and inspect a wide range of services in Herefordshire.

16 The Youth Service was last formally inspected by Ofsted in 2005 as part of the Joint Area Review (JAR) at which time we were graded adequate. Since this time Ofsted inspection of Youth Services have been incorporated into the Comprehensive Area Assessments (CAA) and will only receive an inspection if there are indications of concern. The Youth Service has a quality assurance framework that includes, quality standards, observations and feedback of delivering, benchmarking and trend analysis, performance data collection, good practice sharing events and activities and a training programme for all levels of staff.

17 The quality of Youth Service buildings are summarised below and in more detail in Appendix 2

Summary of Local authority maintained centres	Summary of other locations (leased, hired, other)
Good 4	Good 0
Adequate 1	Adequate 2
Poor 1	Poor 1
Very Poor 1	Very Poor 1
Total 7	Total 4

Community Impact

18 The Youth Service makes a significant contribution to the local community particularly teenagers as it is in contact with over 3,700 individual young people each year some of whom receive significant and ongoing services. Through our wider partnerships and contracts with third sector organisation we support the work of a much wider range and number of services and organisations that work with young people; these include Herefordshire Council for Voluntary Youth Services (HCVYS), Herefordshire Federation of Young Farmers Clubs (HFYFC) and others.

Financial Implications

19 There are no financial implications to this report. The Youth Service is on track to achieve its under spend target of £40,000 as requested in order to contribute to the percentage savings for the directorate.

Legal Implications

20 Failure to provide sufficient Positive Activities (educational and leisure) as described under section 507B of the Education Act 1996 (which was inserted by section 6 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006²) could result in secretary of state intervention.

21 The local authority has a statutory responsibility to provide advice and guidance to schools on the management of all off site and adventurous activities. Failure to do so would expose both

² The Education and Inspections Act 2006 received Royal Assent on 8 November 2006. Section 6 was commenced on 8 January 2007.

schools and the local authority to the risk of challenge particularly if an incident or accident were to occur had we not fulfilled this duty.

Risk Management

- 22 All Youth Service staff have current enhanced CRB status and are provided with regular training on child protection and safeguarding issues. The Youth Services also provides a county wide training programme (levels 1-3) for all youth workers (local authority and voluntary sector) to ensure the quality of provision. The Local authority further supports staff to gain national level 5 qualifications in youth work through day release schemes. There are currently three youth workers on this training in different years of this 3 or 4 year course.
- 23 Youth Service provision is largely provided outside of normal office hours as most youth club run between 7 - 9.30pm as well as weekends and particularly for residential trips. These activities require additional support to be available in case of a serious incident; the service therefore has measures in place for on call cover and home base coordinators for residential. Residential trips can include multiple days and in some cases multiple weeks overseas doing adventurous activities. All adventurous activities as described by the Adventurous Activity licensing Authority (AALA) that are run by the youth service operate under the ALAA licenses that we hold for these activities, as part of these licenses our centres and provision are inspected every two years.

Appendices

Appendix 1 Community Youth Service Business Plan 2009 -10

Appendix 2 Community Youth Service Asset Summary Feb 2010

Copies of the Youth Service Provision are available on request from the Youth Service Manager.

Background Papers

- None identified.