

Appendix 1 to the Youth Review Cabinet Paper

Review Vision & Guiding Principles

Policy Position

1. It is proposed that the Council clarifies its policy position in relation to Youth Work. In underpinning the vision for young people, it is proposed the Council makes the following policy statement with underpinning guiding principles.
2. The vision in Herefordshire is for:
 - children and young people to grow up healthy, happy and safe with supportive families and carers, and to make sure they have the best education and opportunities.
 - To achieve this vision young people should have opportunities to be active in their communities, to be engaged in positive activities and to be supported by the community and wider support services when required. Communities should be involved in bringing up young people.
3. We want to facilitate a greater involvement of community organisations in doing this. We want to see a vibrant set of universal, open access services available to young people provided by the community, including by young people themselves, with support services being targeted to those young people who need extra help to succeed as they move to adulthood.
4. Guiding principles:
 - Universal services are valued and will be delivered as a result of a partnership between Herefordshire Public Services (HPS), local communities, including young people and community/3rd Sector organisations.
 - The role of HPS is to be a community leader and funder of activities, not necessarily a provider. In providing funding, HPS has the responsibility for ensuring high quality, cost effective provision that maximises the use of public and community assets; ensuring that activities operate within the funding available and encouraging organisations to provide added value by way of their own funding streams and expertise, to contracts.
 - There will be an increased focus on the most vulnerable young people and those that need targeted support with the intention of targeting responses to those most in need of support.
 - An increase in focus on vulnerable young people will result in decreased HPS funding for universal, open access services. Overall this will lead to an increased proportion of the total spend on youth activities to be on targeted support.
 - There will be a mix of providers delivering youth services, including HPS, existing trusts and non profit making organisations, along with independent and third sector organisations. Decisions will be made according to who the best provider is, with emphasis on the right skills, experience and track record in providing the services, and cost effectiveness. Over time, communities (including the young people) and third sector organisations will be engaged more than is the case now, in the decisions made about which services are delivered locally, and in running those services.

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- Contestability will be built into the commissioning and procurement processes to provide transparency and to act in accordance with the spirit and legislation of the Localism Bill
- All organisations and activities involved in the welfare of young people will engage with the multi agency group processes that take place in the HPS localities.
- Youth work will be delivered in new and innovative ways which should facilitate the reduction of capital assets in line with the Corporate Asset Plan or ensure that community and corporate use of assets is maximised.

Outcomes

[NB: these will be developed in line with national changes and expectations for outcomes for young people].

- The outcome of this work will be measured through an:
 - a decrease in those who are NEET (Not in Education, Employment and Training),
 - a decrease in the numbers of teenage pregnancies,
 - a decrease in substance misuse users or
 - a decrease in first time entrants to the youth justice system; and
 - an increase in attainment in schools and colleges
 - an increase in apprenticeships
 - 100% participation in education or training up to the age of 18 years

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