

YOUTH SERVICE

Report By: Community Youth Service Manager

Wards Affected

1. Countywide

Purpose

2. To update members on the role of the Community Youth Service, its contribution to the priorities of the Council and the challenges it will face in 2005-6.

Considerations

3. Local authority Youth Services are charged with making a positive impact on young peoples lives through the provision of educational programmes and activities that support personal and social development. Ofsted set quality standards and a framework for Youth Services and the DfES stipulate the range and level of provision that should be provided by a local authority. Solely leisure or sports based provision will not meet the required standards.
4. The Children Act 2004 requires local authorities to clearly demonstrate how they are achieving the five outcomes identified in Every Child Matters (ECM) (Being Healthy, Staying Safe, Enjoying and Achieving, Making a Positive Contribution, and Economic Well Being). Members will be aware of changes currently being made to the Council's constitution, Cabinet Members roles and the senior officer restructuring. The Youth Service has been awaiting a Green Paper first proposed in the autumn 2004 on the future of youth services after the introduction of the Children Act 2004, this will inform the change management process for Children's Services on the future direction and location of the Youth Service.
5. The Community Youth Services will receive an 'enhanced inspection' as part of the Joint Area Review (JAR) and will be inspected on the impact it makes against the ECM five outcomes.
6. The Youth Service has made improvements in the quality and balance of its work across the four key performance indicators set by DfES particularly towards the more resource intensive recorded and accredited outcomes. However due to a resource and staffing allocation in the bottom quartile for the country and combined with vacancy rates of 25%, the Community Youth Service has not achieved local targets set for 2004-5. Recruitment has been addressed through the employment of more trainees and minor reorganisation. Going into 2004-5 the service had no vacancies. The service has set challenging local targets for 2005-6 that are still below national standards.

Financial Implications

7. In 2002 the DfES set the standard of expenditure for youth services per heads of the youth population aged 13-19 as £100. In 2004-5 Herefordshire spent £76.78 (awaiting confirmation on closure of accounts) putting the service in the bottom quartile of spending for all local authorities.

Further information on the subject of this report is available from
Jon Ralph, Community Youth Service Manager on 01432 383377

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the report be noted.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- None

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