

## **YOUTH MATTERS – GREEN PAPER**

**Report By: Community Youth Service Manager**

### **Wards Affected**

Countywide

### **Purpose**

1. To inform Members of the Youth Matters – Green Paper consultation on the future of the Youth Services and the Connexions Service and invite comments.

### **Financial Implications**

2. Nationally £40 million has been made available over 2 years to develop new approaches to strategic development in youth facilities.
3. All other proposals are to be met from within existing budgets.

### **Considerations**

4. The 'Youth Matters' Green Paper was published on 18<sup>th</sup> July 2005. It invites views on how to reform services for teenagers specifically Connexions and Youth Services; to ensure a modern, coordinated youth support service is created in line with Every Child Matters and the Children Act 2004. Copies of the Youth Matters – Green Paper have been sent to Members separately and are available to members of the public on request.
5. Youth Matters proposes a reformed system with Children's Trust's taking the strategic lead for all services for children including commissioning youth work and the information, advice and guidance through the Children and Young Peoples Strategic Partnership.
6. Key themes of the proposals are:
  - a. more things to do and places to go, more opportunities to volunteer and make a contribution, access to information, advice and guidance and a reform of targeted support for those most at risk.
  - b. New legislation to clarify local authorities responsibility to secure services including new standards to ensure positive activities for young people.
7. National and local consultations will be taking place during September and October 2005 with young people and partners. The Consultation ends on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2005, however, Cabinet will finalise the Council's response at its meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2005.

## RECOMMENDATION

**THAT Members consider the proposals put forward in the Youth Matters Green paper and whether there are any comments they wish to request Cabinet to take into account in preparing its response.**

## BACKGROUND PAPERS

- None identified