

## Scrutiny Board (Children's Services)

### Youth Services Inquiry – responses to recommendations

<u>Recommendation</u>	<u>Response</u>
<p>1 The youth offer for Leeds needs to address the following key findings:</p> <p>1 (a) The need for a more equal distribution of universal youth services on offer across the city.</p> <p>1 (b) That the youth offer in Leeds should extend beyond the statutory 13-19 age group, at least to cover 11 and 12 year olds, but preferably to cover the 8-12 age group.</p>	<p>1 (a) The youth offer is an integral element of the universal offer to all children, young people and families in the city. The youth offer's entitlement statements cover a very wide range of service provision and are designed to ensure universal access to opportunities and support.</p> <p>1 (b) The statutory requirements need to govern what is published as a youth offer. Funding streams associated with the Integrated Youth Support Service also prescribe a 13-19 beneficiary age group.</p> <p>In practice, Leeds can choose to continue making services available to a younger age range provided all 13-19 targets and required outcomes are met. The best example is that the Youth Service can continue to deploy approximately 20% of its resources on work with 11 and 12 year olds.</p> <p>The fundamental concerns about resources and services for the 8-13 age group remain on the table both locally and nationally. In Leeds some robust arrangements for commissioning services across the 0-19 age range are being formulated and will be helpful.</p> <p>A new Scrutiny Board inquiry is about to explore in greater depth this particular issue.</p>

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<p>1 (c) The need to include advice and signposting within universal provision.</p> <p>1 (d) The need to recognise that some groups of young people (for example carers, looked after children and young people with disabilities) may need a different approach or extra assistance to access the types of opportunities included in the universal youth offer.</p> <p>1 (e) The need to recognise young people’s expressed desires for venues and spaces to undertake their own (unstructured) activity.</p> <p>1 (f) The important role of inter-generational and all age activities as well as specific young people’s activities.</p>	<p>1 (c) This recommendation is being taken on board fully as part of establishing an Integrated Youth Support Service which aligns Connexions and Youth Service as from April 2008. The youth offer will reinforce universal access to information, advice and guidance services and will seek to ensure entitlement to a Connexions Personal Adviser.</p> <p>1 (d) Subsequent to the Scrutiny Board inquiry, the Department of Children, Schools and Families has published a “Targeted Youth Support Strategy”. Leeds is embracing this strategy and has swiftly brought together appropriate agency representatives to decide ways forward. The aim is very much to pursue this recommendation in the coming months and years.</p> <p>1 (e) The Youth Opportunity and Youth Capital Funds have been used to channel funds into venues and spaces identified by groups of young people. This has provided a good starting point for implementing this recommendation over and above many previous examples which were already taking place. The Government’s Ten Year Youth Strategy sets some interesting and challenging targets for the percentage of provision which should be run directly by young people so further development work will be taking place in Leeds.</p> <p>1 (f) There are plenty of examples of this type of work but it has not previously been collated into a summary document. This could be done as a one-off exercise for Scrutiny Board if required.</p>

<u>Recommendation</u>	<u>Response</u>
2 The Executive Board reviews the allocation of Youth Service funding to Area Committees.	2 Considerable work has been carried out to address the fundamental concern that some wards are believed to have a level of allocation insufficient to deliver the necessary level of provision. A wide range of options has been explored. The outcome is that a new minimum ward allocation is being introduced as from 1/10/07.
3 The Director of Children's Services ensures that arrangements for funding and commissioning youth services through the voluntary, community and faith sector includes provision for the strategic capacity of the sector to be an effective partner in service delivery and development.	3 A number of arrangements have been made to commission organisations to provide this type of support to the voluntary, community and faith sector:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Archway supporting organisations regarding Connexions</li> <li>- West Yorkshire Youth Association supporting Leeds Youth Work Partnership organisations</li> <li>- Learning Partnerships supporting Engage funded organisations</li> </ul> It is intended to continue these types of arrangements as part of the Integrated Youth Support Service from April 2008 onwards.
4 The Director of Children's Services promotes the development of local networks to help smaller organisations to play an effective part in the youth offer and to qualify for funding.	4 Leeds Youth Work Partnership has recently established wedge based networks which are including a wider range of organisations at local level. This development is in addition to the operation of local networks run in conjunction with Area Management.
5 The Director of Children's Services prioritises resources to support the work of the Youth Inclusion Projects (YIPs) and Junior YIPs.	5 Youth Service resources are now being used in all five wedges of the city to address this recommendation.

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6 The Director of Children's Services finds ways of promoting positive relationships between the police and youth services more widely, building on the good examples that exist in some parts of the city.	6 The position remains that there are good local examples but no strategic discussions have as yet taken place. This would be a useful starting point and will be followed up.
7 The Director of Children's Services ensures that, in addition to existing consultation with service users, specific efforts are made to consult with non service users about their views on the Youth Service.	7 The Youth Service will be conducting its second annual user survey in October 2007. This is specifically designed to assess customer feedback and satisfaction ratings. Extensive public consultation with young people about the youth offer has been taking place during the summer as part of Breeze on Tour.
8 The Director of Children's Services considers how the examples of young people's involvement in the management and governance of services can be more widely applied across children's services.	8 West Yorkshire Youth Association has operated the "Particip 8" initiative on behalf of Children's Services. It has delivered 42 programmes of work and worked with 30 agencies. 96% of schools had an active school council as at December 2006. A Participation Evaluation Toolkit (PET) has been piloted with youth agencies and is now being rolled out across Children Leeds Partnership. Work is under way to adopt and implement the "Hear By Right" national standards across all Children's Services. Both PET and Hear By Right are key elements of a participation strategy which is due out this autumn and which is involving children and young people in its development.