



## Report of the Director of Children's Services

### Executive Board

Date: 8<sup>th</sup> February 2008

Subject: Integrated Capital Strategy for Youth Centres

#### Electoral Wards Affected:

Ward Members consulted  
(referred to in report)

#### Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

Eligible for Call In

Not Eligible for Call In

(Details contained in the report)

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. This report seek approval for an integrated capital strategy designed to enable quality integrated youth centres to be established in Leeds. It sets out this proposal within the context of national and local considerations that include:
  - The Education and Inspections Act
  - The government's ten year Youth Strategy
  - The development of an integrated Youth Support Strategy in Leeds
  - The need to build on the existing Youth Hub Centre Strategy and develop as part of the wider Children's Services Asset Management Plan.
2. The report sets out that the approach to be taken in developing an integrated capital strategy will be in line with the wider approach to children's services being advocated across the city – working in partnership across the relevant services and ensuring that wherever possible young people can participate in the design and development of the services provided for them.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

To approve the establishment of an integrated capital strategy for youth centres, as described in this report.

To note that proposals will be progressed for the establishment of quality youth hub centres in pursuance of the ambitions of this report.

To agree that this strategy is progressed by the emerging Integrated Youth Support Service and as part of the wider Children's Services Asset Management Plan

## **1.0 Purpose Of This Report**

- 1.1 To present information about national and local drivers which guide the development and operation of integrated youth centres.
- 1.2 To seek approval for an integrated capital strategy designed to enable quality integrated youth centres to be established in Leeds.

## **2.0 Background Information**

- 2.1 In June 2007 Executive Board approved the establishment in Leeds of an Integrated Youth Support Service, bringing together the following components:-
  - coordination of the youth offer (Breeze Youth Promise)
  - youth work
  - information, advice and guidance services including Connexions
  - youth volunteering initiatives
  - Positive Activities for Young People
  - coordination of processes for young people to have voice and influence and to make decisions about use of resources
  - links to Breeze Card
  - coordination of targeted youth support strategies
- 2.2 Establishment of the Integrated Youth Support Service is on track for April 2008 and is in pursuance of the statutory duties set out in Section 6 of the 2006 Education and Inspections Act.
- 2.3 The Government launched a 10 Year Youth Strategy called “Aiming High for Young People” in July 2007. This strategy includes reference to integrated capital strategies. It calls on Local Authorities to take the lead role in coordinating the use of available capital to provide good quality integrated youth centres.
- 2.4 Aiming High for Young People says:

“The Government expects to see this programme (of capital investment in youth facilities) supported by the development of integrated capital strategies in every area, setting out plans for maximising the potential of existing assets and available new investment to improve local youth facilities. This should be within the broader context of integrated capital strategies which local authorities and their partners should be developing”.
- 2.5 The Government has also announced its intention to set up a new capital fund, supplemented by the use of unclaimed bank assets, for investment in integrated youth centres. Full details are awaited but an April 2008 commencement is intended. Local areas are much more likely to benefit from these new funds if a local integrated capital strategy is in place.
- 2.6 Leeds has an allocation of £429,000 in 2007/08 for the Youth Capital Fund. This is for the improvement or establishment of youth facilities. Applications have to come from groups of young people. Decisions are made by a panel consisting of members of Leeds Youth Council and of Reach Out and Reconnect (ROAR). The Department for Children, Schools and Families has confirmed the same Leeds allocation for the next three financial years.

### **3.0 A Strategy for Leeds**

- 3.1 Coordination of the strategy would best be located within the Integrated Youth Support Service (IYSS).
- 3.2 The strategy should build on the existing “Youth Hub Centre Strategy” which has been agreed by Youth Services in 2006 and which was included in the Learning and Leisure Asset Management Plan at that time.
- 3.3 The youth hub centre approach is to establish good quality centres which bring together a wide range of services for young people and which provide a focal point for wider provision in local settings. As such, hub centres aim to include, as a minimum, the IYSS components detailed in 2.1 above. In addition, the concept is to include opportunities, depending on the space and design of the centre, for sports, arts, environmental work, etc.
- 3.4 The proposal for Leeds is to aim for:-
- at least one youth hub centre in each of the five wedges
  - a residential centre (already in existence at Herd Farm)
  - a centre for alternative curriculum youth work (already in existence at LAZER Centre)
  - a city centre base from which support for vulnerable young people can be offered
- 3.5 Development of wedge based youth hub centres is at various stages but would be enhanced by the operation of an integrated capital strategy. Establishment of the city centre base will be achieved later in 2008 as a result of joint commissioning of a voluntary organisation, The Market Place.
- 3.6 IYSS can take responsibility for the youth hub centres. Additional youth work provision will be delivered through:-
- the Youth Service hiring and/or using community centres and other buildings on a needs basis in local settings
  - increasing the use of mobile provision to reach out to communities and situations where a need has been identified
  - commissioning or grant aiding voluntary organisations to provide programmes
  - detached youth work
- 3.7 Young people should be fully engaged in the design and planning of youth hub centres. They should also be involved, wherever possible, in deciding how funding is used for youth hub centres. This essential component of an integrated capital strategy is also set out in the Aiming High For Young People Ten Year Youth Strategy. Operation by young people of the existing Youth Capital Fund provides a good foundation.
- 3.8 Partnership work should also be an aspect of the strategy. This can easily be achieved in Leeds through existing arrangements such as Leeds Youth Work Partnership, IYSS Project Board, and Children Leeds Partnership.
- 3.9 The strategy should be underpinned by a quality improvement scheme, setting out standards, development processes, and monitoring arrangements. Leeds has been selected by 4Children as the national trailblazer for its quality improvement scheme for integrated youth centres. This results from previous pilot work with 4Children and from Leeds having a reputation nationally for being in the vanguard of developing IYSS.

- 3.10 The Strategy should also be prioritised within the Children Services Asset Management Plan, in line with the government's expectation that capital investment in youth services should be within the broader context of integrated capital strategies (see paragraph 2.4 above).
- 3.11 At the heart of the strategy is a required commitment and willingness from Leeds City Council and its partner organisations to invest jointly in youth hub centres. This could involve:-
- Section 106 monies
  - Town and District Regeneration funding
  - applications by young people to the Youth Capital Fund
  - partnership applications to the new national Capital Fund
  - contributions from NHS, especially via CAMHS Capital
  - charitable trust contributions through voluntary sector partners
  - private sector
- 3.12 By progressing the above components of an integrated capital strategy for youth centres, there is an excellent chance in Leeds to make a significant improvement to the quality and range of centres available to young people.

#### **4.0 Implications For Council Policy And Governance**

- 4.1 This report is in pursuance of elements of the "Aiming High for Young People" Ten Year Youth Strategy.
- 4.2 The principles and aims underpinning this report have been agreed in November 2007 by Asset Management Group.

#### **5.0 Legal And Resource Implications**

- 5.1 The proposals enhance the ability of Leeds City Council to meet duties specified in Section 6 of the Education and Inspections Act, especially in terms of providing positive activities for young people.
- 5.2 Revenue implications for youth hub centres will always be addressed, through a combination of partner contributions, prior to going ahead with the development of any particular youth hub centre.

#### **6.0 Recommendations**

- 6.1 To approve the establishment of an integrated capital strategy for youth centres, as described in this report.
- 6.2 To note that proposals will be progressed for the establishment of quality youth hub centres in pursuance of the ambitions of this report.
- 6.3 To agree that this strategy is progressed by the emerging Integrated Youth Support Service and as part of the wider Children's Services Asset Management Plan.