

Local Youth Network – Morley

- 1.0 Purpose of the report  
The Purpose of the report is to inform the Scrutiny Inquiry regarding the Local Network Morley.
- 2.0 Background  
The Local Youth Network in Morley was established some 18 months ago as part of the Area Development Plan. In September 05 a strategic decision was made to increase involvement of Voluntary Sector groups and develop partnerships with groups that work with young people.
- 2.1 The main aim of the Local Youth Work Network in Morley was to bring together people who work with young people regardless of the activities they provided.
- 2.2 Based on local Knowledge and in consultation with Ward members, 5 small organisations were identified for funding purposes. As these were pilot schemes, no specification was set up other than delivery of work with young people. Organisations were made aware of the 5 Every Child Matters outcomes and the performance indicators.
- 3.0 Issues
- 3.1 There are a number of key issues that require addressing within the Local Youth Network. Terms of reference, roles and responsibilities, chairing of meeting etc and service support of such groups? Whilst the Youth Service Staff currently are helping with this, it takes a member of staff away from developing youth work programmes.
- 3.2 There are organisation difficulties such as Child Protection policies and procedures, CRB checks for all working with young people, Quality Assurance including Accreditation and Reach Figures, Youth Work Principles, Equality Policies, Financial Accountability, Health and Safety e.g. Procedures for Trips, Visits, and Risk Assessments.
- 3.3 In the near future Children's Trust Arrangements, the Local Area Agreements, District Partnerships, Extended Services and Area Management and Local Youth Network are all too cumbersome bureaucratic systems of accountability.
- 3.4 The Local Youth Work Network model whilst working well within the locality in bringing many groups together to publicise there services, would be best served through linking to Leeds Youth Work Partnerships.
- 3.5 The local organisations play a key role with young people in their locality with training, information and finance. However they have to implement and maintain a structure that will help them to deliver work young people long term, within partnership and Local Area Agreements in the future.