

Scrutiny Board (Children's Services) Inquiry

Youth Services

Terms of reference

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 At the first meeting of the Scrutiny Board (Children's Services) in June 2006, members agreed that they wished to look at youth services across Leeds as one of their major inquiries for the coming year.
- 1.2 In order to decide on an appropriate and manageable focus for the inquiry, the board commissioned a small working group from amongst its membership to scope the inquiry. The working group met with the council's Head of Youth Service on 27th July.
- 1.3 The group had a wide ranging discussion which included an overview of developments in the council's own youth services over the past few years; the range and variation in services on offer to young people across the city; the many different providers; and the balance between targeted and universal service provision.
- 1.4 As background to their deliberations the working group considered the government publication Youth Matters: The Next Steps.
- 1.5 In order to provide a clear focus for the board's work, the working group decided to recommend that the inquiry took as its end point the question 'What should Leeds City Council include in the youth offer that it will have to publish next year?'
- 1.6 In order to answer that question it was felt that the inquiry should look at current provision and how it varies across the city, in order to build a vision for the future. This would include different service providers and partners as well as different types of targeted and universal provision. The inquiry also needs to consider what young people want and expect from youth services as fundamental to mapping future provision.
- 1.7 The board hopes that this inquiry will assist the council in responding successfully to the Youth Matters agenda and ensuring that the 5 outcomes for children and young people are embedded in the youth offer.

2.0 Scope of the inquiry

- 2.1 The purpose of the inquiry is to make an assessment of, and where appropriate make recommendations on, the following areas:
- What should Leeds City Council include in the youth offer that it will have to publish next year?
 - What can be learnt from the existing patterns of provision across the city?
 - What do young people want and expect from youth services in Leeds?

3.0 Comments of the relevant director and executive member

- 3.1 In line with scrutiny board procedure rule 11.4 the views of the relevant director and executive member have been sought and have been incorporated where appropriate into these terms of reference. Full details are available on request from the scrutiny support unit.

4.0 Timetable for the inquiry

- 4.1 It is envisaged that the inquiry will take place over four sessions. The inquiry will conclude with the publication of a formal report setting out the board's conclusions and recommendations.
- 4.2 It is planned that the inquiry will include a range of additional activities such as visits and opportunities to meet directly with young people and obtain their views.
- 4.3 The length of the inquiry is subject to change in the light of emerging evidence.

5.0 Submission of evidence

5.1 Session One – 2nd November 2006

To consider general background information on:

- Mapping of existing youth provision across Leeds
- Analysis of the differences in provision between areas
- The balance of targeted and universal services
- The availability of facilities for non-organised activities
- Update on implementing the Youth Service Post Inspection Action Plan
- How young people are consulted and how they influence service development
- Details of the requirement to produce a 'youth offer'
- The Youth Capital Fund and Youth Opportunities Fund

5.2 **Session Two – 2nd November 2006**

To consider information on existing models of partnership including

- The Leeds Youth Work Partnership
- Local youth networks including the one operating in Morley

To consider information on the influence of area management on patterns of youth provision

5.3 **Working Group activities**

Exact activities to be confirmed. Will include discussions with young people (Youth Council, ROAR), visits to activities and possible visit(s) with young people to facilities in other areas.

5.4 **Session Three – 14th December 2006**

To consider the perspective of other agencies involved in delivering youth services, including input from

- Voluntary, community and faith sector providers
- Community Safety
- Extended school services
- Connexions

To consider further examples of partnership working

- The Local Area Agreement Year 9 project

To consider any issues arising from sessions one and two

5.5 **Session Four – 14th December 2006**

To consider members' findings from the working group activities

To discuss the issues arising from the working group activities with officers

To consider the board's emerging conclusions and recommendations in response to the question 'What should Leeds City Council include in the youth offer that it will have to publish next year?'

6.0 Witnesses

6.1 The following witnesses have been identified as possible contributors to the Inquiry:

- City Council Youth Service staff
- Leeds Youth Work Partnership (LYWP) representatives
- Voluntary, community and faith sector organisations involved in youth provision (to be coordinated through LYWP and Leeds Voice Forum)
- School representatives
- Connexions
- Leeds Youth Offending Service
- Young people (including Youth Council and ROAR)
- Area Committee / Management representation