

AGENDA ITEM NO:

Originator:
Telephone:



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| REPORT OF THE SCRUTINY BOARD (CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE) | |
| REPORT OF: | DIRECTOR OF LEARNING AND LEISURE |
| DATE: | |
| SUBJECT: Youth Service Work with Young People with disabilities. | |
| Electoral Wards Affected: All. | Specific implications For: |
| | Ethnic Minorities <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Women <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Disabled People <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Executive Board Decision <input type="checkbox"/> | Eligible for Call In <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Not Eligible For Call In (Details contained in the report) <input type="checkbox"/> |

1.0 PURPOSES OF THE REPORT

1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise Scrutiny Board in respect of Youth Service work with young people with disabilities.

2.0 BACKGROUND

2.1 All the youth provision in the city should be accessible to all teenagers. This is a legal requirement under the Disability Discrimination Act (D.D.A) of 1995 (c.50).

2.2 Prior to September 2006 work with young people with disabilities was undertaken via the Leeds Equality Action Programme (LEAP). The main thrust of that work was to continue the process of "integrating" young people with disabilities into general youth provision offered by the Service and to support specific work aimed at such young people.

2.3 The work, since September 2006, came under the remit of the Professional Development Team, leading to the creation of a small section called Youth and Disability.

2.4 Youth & Disability's strap line is "see the teenager not the disability".

2.5 Similarly the brief of Youth & Disability is to work city-wide to increase the quantity and quality of work with disabled young people and to promote and support the inclusion of disabled young people into open programme work. The current Senior Worker for Youth & Disability has a varied background, including work with the Gateway club in Middleton running a band there every Friday night for eight years, all of whom had learning disabilities.

3.0 Current Situation

- 3.1 Currently, the Youth & Disability team deliver a programme at John Jamieson Special School on a Thursday afternoon with the Over16 unit. The provision uses music as a theme, enabling young people, utilising computer programmes to create their own music.
- 3.2 The Team support provision at the Prince Philip Centre PHAB (Physically Handicapped Able Bodied) club on Friday nights. This provision is supported by three workers from the Service, offering a varied programme of activities, including, computing, music, etc. The Youth Service, in partnership with Leeds United Football in the Community, will be offering the young people attending the provision access to football coaching sessions from January 2007. Currently, some 55 young people are registered (young people being under 25 in this context) to attend this provision.
- 3.3 In addition to this work the Youth & Disability team, in partnership with the Services' East Area Team, delivers an Inclusive club provision for young men at Halton Moor. This piece of work targets young men suffering varying degrees of social exclusion, working alongside and supporting young people with disabilities.
- 3.4 In addition to this the Team also seeks to support general area based provision in order to ensure that all open Youth Service provision is accessible to young people with disabilities. The Team supports the Service in general through the provision of advice, information, in-service training, etc, in relation to this area of work. The two key issues here are supporting Youth Workers who lack confidence in working with young people who have disabilities, and support, advice, etc in relation to buildings and DDA requirements, wherever possible.
- 3.5 One of the key issues identified by young people with disabilities themselves relates to the issue of "integrated" provision. Whilst young people with disabilities understand and appreciate the need for such provision, they have also indicated their desire to see provision that specifically meets their needs as young people who have disabilities, feeling that "integrated" provision does not always meet those specific needs. It would be fair to say that demand for such provision is currently beyond the resourcing abilities of the Service.

4.0 Future Activities

- 4.1 The Youth & Disability team are looking into and seeking funding for a series of city wide activity days, involving arts and sports, aimed at disabled young people in the 13 to 25 age group. The aim here is to run one such provision in each wedge, and one in the city centre.
- 4.2 The development of a disabled friendly track and nature trail from the Prince Philip Centre to Meanwood Valley Urban farm which would have revenue generating capacity, by taking groups from Leeds schools during the week.
- 4.3 They have looked for and secured funding for a half-time youth worker for the Leeds Deaf/Blind society who will restart their Wednesday evening youth club (c £3,000), with ongoing support from the Senior Worker, Youth & Disability.
- 4.4 A Young Adult Trust (YAT) citizenship challenge scheme to run in July 2007 (c£60,000), involving young people with and without disabilities.
- 4.5 Ongoing provision of advice, information and support relating to integrated work.

5.0 Other Provision

5.1 There are other clubs throughout the city that cater for special needs such as,

(i) The Beehive Group at Crossgreen Youth Centre 11-18 every Thursday – mainly for teenagers with learning disabilities,

(ii) The Freewheelers run every other Wednesday at Prince Phillip – a small wheelchair group run by Leeds Youth Service in partnership with Scope,

(iii) The Tuesday Group run at Barleyfields Youth Club, Wetherby. A voluntary group run for young people with learning disabilities, which also feeds the other nights at Barleyfields, by getting their young people to have dual membership of all clubs.

5.2 There are 12 Gateway clubs in the city now run by “People in Action”, plus one at Rothwell run by volunteers. These clubs now have an active policy of discouraging under 18s from attending and will actively recommend the younger person with learning disabilities to attend other provision, some of which may be provided by “People in Action” themselves. This may be a variation on the contracting arrangements agreed only a few years ago, when the youth service had a good record of getting teenagers into Gateway Clubs, which included the transfer of funding from the Youth Service to People in Action to support the provision.

5.3 The following holiday schemes received funding from the authority for 2006.

(i) PHAB Residential and Chillout Week, Ann Hart

(ii) Boston Spa Seniors, Mr J Chapman, West Oaks School

(iii) WOSPS, Mr M Robertshaw, West Oaks School

(iv) Milestone Playscheme, Susan Thompson, Bramley

(v) Headingley Holiday Activities, Peter Kirk,

(vi) John Jamieson ,Janet Simpson, John Jamieson School

(vii) WOOSH, Jenny Clarke, West Oaks School

(vii) Leeds Mencap 8+,

(viii) Leeds Mencap 2-8, Jenny Hill, Leeds Mencap

(ix) Aireborough Summer, Jo Galasso, Otley

(x) Play Pals, Jeannette Morris- Boam

(xi) SKIN, Joan Needham, Halton Moor

(xii) Leeds Deaf, Clare Heaton, Leeds Centre for Deaf People

6.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 Scrutiny Board is requested to note the contents of the report.